



**#41 Pinchas Numbers 25:10 to 30:1  
Torah Teaching  
By Moshe Schwab**

**Names**

Kefa – Peter  
Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ  
in the Greek means to be smudged  
Mishkan – Tent of Meeting in the desert  
Moshe – Moses  
Shaul – Paul  
Yeshua – Jesus' real name  
Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)  
Yochanan – John

**Terms**

Haftarah – reading from the prophets  
Menorah – 7 candle Israelite lamp  
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible  
Mishkan – tent of meeting in the desert  
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible  
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the  
Torah

Pinchas is the name "Phinehas" in English. Because Pinchas was zealous for God, God gave Pinchas a covenant of shalom (peace) and his descendants would hold the priestly office forever. The example of Pinchas teaches us to be zealous for God. I would like to begin by talking about controlling our thoughts.

This is a very important topic because we need to understand how to control our thoughts. We need to think what is true and "right." Shaul talks about this in Philippians. The basis for what he says is in Genesis where God created mankind in His likeness with special abilities. We have the ability to be creative, to be kind, to be caring, to work, to think things through, to develop our abilities, to change, to remember, to speculate, and so much more. Genesis 1:26 NKJV says, "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.'" Let's look at and examine what Shaul says in Philippians.

Philippians 4:6-9 NKJV says:

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

So how do we maintain the correct ideals, motivations, change our thoughts and behaviors, learn to care properly about the things of life, and other important concepts? Some people like to constantly entertain various ideas and thoughts and come up with ideas. It is sometimes called brainstorming by those who use it for problem solving. Some do mental exercises to

entertain themselves, or others educate themselves with lots of natural knowledge. People have lots of different ideas on how to use our minds. Some of these ideas can consume our life with nonessential thinking, some are a product of pride, some are useful, but we should never engage our minds in evil thoughts. The most profitable way to use our minds is to think right thoughts and have those on hand ready to apply. That is the how we can be most satisfied in life and have a peaceful life.

The first step is to learn and keep God's commandments from the Old Testament portion. The concept of God's provision for mankind is important to understand. As we have talked about before:

God created the world and all that is to provide us with a way to sustain ourselves.

God created us in His likeness with many special abilities.

God gave us instructions in the form of commandments to help us. God created all and He knows the best way for us to live.

God also gave us the Holy Spirit in this Messianic era to help us and inform us.

Philippians perhaps gives us a picture of what the knowledgeable believer needs to do in life. When we have cares and concerns, we need to talk to God about it. Perhaps we need help financially or we need healing, or we have other concerns. We are to pray and ask God for help. Kefa puts it another way.

1 Peter 5:6-10 NKJV says,

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

Kefa says we should not be proud. We should not think that we are so extremely special than others, after all, we are all created in God's likeness. Yes, we are created as special beings, we are not to think we are entitled and better than others. Also, we are not God, and we need to keep God's commandments over our own thinking. We are to cast, to place our cares and anxieties on God who cares about us. Yeshua said that God even knows how many hairs we have, see Luke 12:7. We are to be sober or calm and be watchful because the devil is against us. So, we must resist doing what is wrong and resist the temptations from the devil. We are not alone in our struggles, it says. God has favor (grace) on His people so keep God's good ways, be established in God's commandments and be strong. There is so much that can be understood from these scriptures. Kefa uses a number of concepts from the Old Testament portion to teach us these concepts (see Zephaniah 2:3, Proverbs 29:23, Isaiah 14:12, Jeremiah 29:12, Genesis 6:8, Joshua 1:6-7).

Going back to what Shaul said. Philippians 4:8-9 NKJV says, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received

and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you." What is true, namely truth? We are not talking about natural knowledge that anyone can develop by application, observation, and learning. We are talking about truths and commandments from the creator God who knows what is best for mankind. Psalms 119:160 NKJV says, "The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever." God's commandments are right and apply forever because they come from the creator God.

Shaul then says that we are to think on good things and to follow his example. Having a negative attitude can destroy your life and the lives of others. Often, people who have negative attitudes cause pain and anguish to others, and it has been proven that negative attitudes can be detrimental to a person's health. So, we need to not only control our actions, but our thoughts. Proverbs 4:23 NKJV says, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." We are to keep our hearts settled on keeping God's truths in the Bible. Without those, our hearts can be filled with evil. Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." Worldly people follow their own heart, but God's people are to follow God's heart. Proverbs 3:5-7 NKJV says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil.

Live a kingdom life. Allow God to rule your life.

We believe that God is the creator and that He is ruler of all that is. Nehemiah 9:6 NKJV says, "You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You."

God continues to rule over His creation and preserves His creation it says and therefore continues to rule over His creation and will always be the creator and ruler of creation. Psalms 47:7 NKJV says, "For God is the King of all the earth." We should never think of ourselves as being created more special than others. As believers we understand the idea of being a humble people because everyone is accountable to God and will be judged by him someday. This concept is the great equalizer in life. God is ruler over His creation, He is ruler of kings, ruler of authorities, our boss, our parents, our spouse, and so forth.

Those who recognize that God is king should live like the creator King tells us to live. We live as a people who understand that we are part of His kingdom. We have come to recognize God for who He is and understand that He is a good creator and king who knows what is best for us.

As God's people, we should live as His kingdom people.

Deuteronomy 10:12-14 says,

What does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.

Yehovah is God our creator and king and we are therefore to have a deep respect for God. He is our ruler and is ruler of the earth. We should understand that God has His best intentions for us, and we should keep His commandments and live as the subjects of our good King.

Do what is "right and good" in life. Do not allow things in life that may change our thinking and head us in the wrong direction.

Why would we change directions in life when we know that we have the good commandments of our God and creator?

Anxiety	Inordinate focus	Selfishness
Being overwhelmed	Lack of trust	Taking the easy way
Catastrophizing	Negative thinking	Unbelief in God
Extremism	Overdoing things	Wrong attitudes
False religion	Pressures	Wrong ideas
Fear	Pride and egotism	Wrong concepts
Ignorance	Rebellion	

There are a lot of things that can interfere with our walk in life. We need to watch our step and always keep moving forward spiritually and not be tripped up. Proverbs 4:11-13 NKJV says, "I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble. Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; keep her, for she is your life." When it talks about wisdom, it is referring to God's commandments (see Deuteronomy 4:6). We are to take hold of God's instructions, God's commandments, and walk and run strong spiritually in life. And if we falter, get up and do not stay down and ask God for forgiveness. Psalms 103:11-12 NKJV says, "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

Enjoy what is true, right, and good.

Perhaps the beginning of having joy in life is to be a person who is thankful for all we have no matter what. Be thankful for what we have, what we can look forward to, and for life in the future kingdom.

Psalms 79:13 NKJV says, "We, Your people and sheep of Your pasture, will give You thanks forever; we will show forth Your praise to all generations." In a number of places in the Bible we are described as sheep, but of course God is using this analogy for His people because they can be led by God and His commandments. There are figures of speech in the Bible. They are not up for personal interpretation but have an intended meaning. We perhaps get a picture of a people who are cared for by the creator God and are willing to follow Him. We follow God and demonstrate His goodness, so we will praise God forever.

God is good and is merciful towards us. Psalms 106:1 NKJV says, "Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." Give thanks to God. He is a good God. Psalms 107:15 NKJV says, "Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness." Remember to always be thankful, day and night. God has given us good things, good commandments, and the good Messianic gift of the Holy Spirit. Psalms 119:62 NKJV says,

"At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, because of Your righteous judgments." Those who do what is right and are upright have reason to be thankful for all God has given us. We recognize His goodness in our life. Psalms 140:13 NKJV says, "Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; the upright shall dwell in Your presence." The Bible even says we should be shouting for joy. Psalms 32:11 NKJV says, "Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!" Psalms 35:27 NKJV says, "Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, 'Let the LORD be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.'"

Those who keep God's commandments and receive the Messianic gift of the Holy Spirit in this age will be in God's future eternal kingdom. We will shine like the stars the Bible says. These scriptures in Daniel also tell us that people will be held accountable to God for what they have done. Those who live in sin will be destined to everlasting contempt (also see Revelation 21:8). Daniel 12:2-3 NKJV says, "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever."

Have a glad heart because we have hope in this life and in the eternal future kingdom of God. Psalms 16:9 NKJV says, "Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will rest in hope." We will live in hope, we will have hope, and we will focus on our hope in God. Make the effort to be happy and joyful in life. It will keep us and strengthen us. Nehemiah 8:10 NKJV says, "Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." Every day is another chance in life to have joy. Psalms 118:24 NKJV says, "This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." We are commanded to have joy. Deuteronomy 16:14 NKJV says, "You shall rejoice in your feast."

### Summary

We need to control our thoughts so that we think right and do what is right. Maintain correct ideals, motivations, thoughts, and behaviors. Live a kingdom life. Allow God to rule your life. Our God is the good creator and king of all that exists. He sustains all that is and has given us good commandments to live by. God has also given us His good Holy Spirit in this Messianic age (see Luke 11:11-13). If you falter, get up, do not stay down. Do what is "right and good" in life. Do not allow things in life that may change our thinking and head us in the wrong direction. There are a lot of things that can distract us and cause us to falter, but do not stay down. Take hold of God's instructions, God's commandments, and walk strong spiritually. Enjoy what is true, right, and good. We have a lot to be thankful for. Be happy for our relationship with God. Have a glad heart because we have hope in this life and in the eternal future kingdom of God.

### **Torah Study**

Pinchas is the name "Phinehas" in English. Because Pinchas was zealous for God, God gave Pinchas a covenant of shalom (peace) and his descendants would hold the priestly office forever. He turns back God's anger for the peoples' sin. The example of Pinchas teaches us to be zealous for God. Also, it teaches us that one person can make a difference. In the end our zeal will result in eternal life just like Pinchas was given a priestly office forever.

Some say we no longer have to keep God's commandments. We need to poke some holes into false doctrine at times to protect our families and other believers in the Messiah Yeshua.

New Testament doctrine teaches us to keep God's Old Testament commandments.

Romans 3:31 NKJV says, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."

1 John 3:4 and verse 8 NKJV says, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness." Verse 8 says, "He who sins is of the devil."

James 2:22 NKJV says, "Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?"

Matthew 7:23 NKJV says, "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

God expects us to keep His commandments. Those who teach and keep God's commandments will be rewarded by God. It says in Hebrews 6:10-12 NKJV: "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Teaching people to keep God's commandments is one of the ways we love others. We are to be 'diligent' to keep God's commands until the end (see Deuteronomy 6:17-18); we are not to become lazy or get tired of doing what is "right." We are to live like we believe and keep God's commandments so that we inherit God's promises.

Perhaps Pinchas' spearing of these sinful people in this portion is a picture of the eternal punishment of those who don't keep God's commands. Revelation 21:8 NKJV says, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone." God does not want anyone to fail and neither do we (see 2 Peter 3:9). God is just; He will reward those who do "good." Because God is just, He must also punish those who do wrong and do not keep God's commandments. God knows what is best for us and looks out for our best interest. So, not doing what God says produces evil.

One of the people who Pinchas speared was a leader from the tribe of Shim'on (Simon). The other was a daughter of one of the leaders of the Midyan (Midianite) clans. God told Moshe to attack Midyan because they had tricked them into idolatry and treated Israel as enemies. Sometimes it is necessary to go to war against evil leaders. For example, the United States went to war against the evil dictator Hitler in order to put an end to his evil. War is justified in some cases. War is justifiable against evil aggressors, and we are permitted to defend ourselves against would be murderers.

Then God tells Moshe to take a census of those 20 and over for military service and there were 601,730 men. God said the promised land was to be given by the numbers counted. Those with more people would be given more land and the land was to be decided by lot. There were 23,000 male Levites one month or older. They would not get a land inheritance. All those that who originally entered the desert died there except for Joshua and Caleb, the two spies that had made a positive report.

Some daughters had no brothers, and they were to get their father's inheritance. This was different than what the culture at that time dictated. There is a change in the original ruling which suggests that it is okay to seek God's direction on how to follow His commandments. Commandments could be updated to make appropriate rulings. We should be reminded that **only appropriate laws should be applied**. Instead, some think this is a license to add their own ideas to God's commandments which is wrong. I won't even empty my waste basket on Shabbat, but that is how I follow the commandment to rest on Shabbat. I try to be careful to rest on Shabbat. God has given it to us as a day of rest so enjoy it. It is a holy day and to be separate. Rest most likely refers to common chores that are not always necessary and our regular work. Talk to God about it.

Here is an example of how to properly apply the Torah. Shaul uses the Torah to say leaders should be supported if they need it. He quotes this from the Old Testament. Deuteronomy 25:4 NKJV says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Shaul said in 1 Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV, "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer is worthy of his wages.'" We should understand that the commandments in the New Testament portion are proper applications from the Old Testament portion.

Some rules for inheritance are then given in this portion. God instructs Moshe to climb a mountain in the Avarim range (namely, Mount Nebo, see Deuteronomy 34:1) where he will die and also where he will be able to see the land given to Israel. He will not be able to enter the land because of his disobedience when he spoke to the people and then struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock.

God instructs Moshe to delegate authority to Y'hoshua (Joshua) and the community laid hands on Y'hoshua and commissions him. Moshe seems to take this well and is concerned that the people have a shepherd to lead them. Joshua will now lead the people in the Torah. Perhaps think about the qualities that Moshe and Joshua had and how we can be like them. God would speak to Israel through the Urim. The Urim were the stones on the priestly garment. Each stone represented a tribe of Israel. It is thought that the stones would supernaturally light up to give Israel an answer from the letters derived from the different names of the tribes. Of course, there were also prophets in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament portion.

The priests were to make offerings at the proper days and times and with the prescribed animals and other types of offerings. They were to use lambs in the first year without defect. They made a fragrant fire with flour. Offerings were made every day, on Shabbat, the first of

the month, and on all of the feasts. What the priests were to do for the feasts is described. The portion ends with it saying that Moshe told the people what God commanded.

The Haftarah is 1 Kings 18:46-19:1. Eliyahu (Elijah) had just put the false prophets of Ba-al to death and Izevel (Jezebel) then threatens Eliyahu. Eliyahu was despondent, but an angel came and gave him food and the food kept him for forty days and nights until he got to Mt. Horev, the mount of God. God asks him why he is there.

He says that Israel has abandoned the covenant and that he is being pursued. Eliyahu stood at the entrance of the cave and waited for God's leading. We now know where the cave is and can go online and see videos of the real Mount Sinai and see the cave. Eliyahu eventually hears a quiet voice and covers himself, and God speaks to him. Eliyahu explains what he is doing, and God tells him to anoint Haza'el to be king of Aram. Also, he is to anoint Yehu the son of Nimshi to be king over Israel and anoint Elisha the son of Shafat of Avel-M'cholah to be prophet after him.

In this portion, Pinchas is another messianic type for his zeal and desire to protect God's people. God gave Pinchas a covenant of shalom and the Messiah Yeshua also gives us peace. Pinchas' descendants would be priests forever because of Pinchas' zeal and this is also a picture of Yeshua's zeal; He is also our High Priest forever.<sup>1</sup> Pinchas made atonement for Israel by his act of killing the idolaters and Yeshua made atonement for us, giving His life for us. Yeshua did not deserve to be executed (Luke 23:13-15) and rose from the dead. Yeshua gave Himself up for us (John 10:18) so that we could be reconciled (brought back) to God.

There is a broken (separated) vav in Numbers 25:12 and it is in the word "shalom" which means peace. It is the word used when God gave Pinchas a covenant of peace. The result of the broken vav looks like a yud and an object shaped like a vav without the top of the letter. First, the bottom part of the broken vav looks like a spear. It probably first of all refers to the Pinchas begin zealous for God and spearing the idolaters.

Also, the yd represents that which is heavenly and vav means hook or nail. Perhaps we could infer from the word "shalom" in Numbers 24:12 that which was heavenly was nailed to a stake for us so that we can have peace with God. So, the broken vav in this verse in Numbers could refer prophetically to what Yeshua did for us when He died for us. Just as Pinchas brought the people back to God. Yeshua the Messiah brings people back to God.

Also, the word shalom with a yud in it instead of a vav is the word Shalim which means full or complete. We have received peace from our Messiah Yeshua, and we are complete in Him though the Holy Spirit. Yeshua said in John 14:26-27 NKJV, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. **Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you;** not as the world gives do I give to you." We are complete through Yeshua. Colossians 2:10

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<sup>1</sup> The order of the real high priests (not the false Roman appointed leaders) of Israel: Beginning with Zacharias (who was voted in as High Priest, Luke 1:5-8), Yochanan the Immerser (who was named by the angel Gabriel, was the son of Zacharias and next High Priest), Yeshua Messiah (anointed and immersed by Yochanan the Immerser. These were all executed by the Romans to maintain their dominance. Yeshua of course rose from the dead.



NKJV says, "You are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power;". Also, referring to the meaning full, Yeshua fills Messianic believers with the Holy Spirit. Shaul says in Ephesians 5:18 NKJV, "Be filled with the Spirit." Remember, some of these insights were intended by God, but we are to actually keep God's words and not just look for insights. Both Yeshua and Shaul (Paul) said that always looking for insights was wrong (see John 5:39; and 2 Timothy 4:3-4).

**Commandments, Implied Commandments, Permissions, and other Concepts.**  
**(We can also understand commandments are being implied from other scriptures in the Bible. There are other possible concepts than what is shared here.)**

**The law regarding the inheritance of a man who has no male heir. Numbers 27:8-11.**

**The law of the daily offering. Numbers 28:2-4.**

**The Shabbat offering. Numbers 28:9.**

**The offering for the beginning of each month. Numbers 28:11.**

**The offering for Shavuot. Numbers 28:26-27.**

**The law for blowing the shofar on Yom Teruah. Numbers 29:1**

### **The Aaronic Blessing.**

ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God which is pronounced Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name. Won't you also honor God's and use His true name with respect at times.

The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. 2,363 different manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yě-hō-váh, once as Yě-hō-věh, never as Yahweh. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh.

Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה). Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people.

Let's say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה, וַיְשַׁמְרֶכָּ  
יְאָר יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ  
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

Yě-hō-váh bless you and keep you.

Yě-hō-váh make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Yě-hō-váh lift up His face upon you, and give to you peace. Amen.