



Names

Cohanim - priests

Kefa – Peter

Moshe – Moses

Shaul – Paul

Shavuot – Pentecost, a spring feast of God

Tamuz – the name of an ancient pagan god

Yeshua – Jesus (in Hebrew it means "Salvation")

Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)

Yochanan – John

Terms

#48 – the 48th portion

Haftarah – the weekly reading from the prophets

High Holy Days – Yom Teruah, Yom Kippur, & Sukkot

Parashah – (portion) one of 54 portions of the Torah

Shabbat – the 7th day of the week; we are to rest

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Shoftim means, "judges." This portion occurs in the Jewish month of Elul, just before the High Holy Days, the Fall feasts of God. It is a good time to think about doing better in life and following God and keeping God's commandments.

Stay on the righteous path. Learn and apply God's commandments.

The Bible says that judges were not to distort justice; we need to stay on course in life too. In previous portions, we talked about using the scriptures to help us in areas of our life. We want to be a "clean" people who do not live in sin. For example, we are to have faith. Deuteronomy 9:23 NKJV says, "You rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God, and you did not believe Him nor obey His voice." We see that having faith in God means we are to keep God's commandments.

Ya'akov said that we need more than just faith, but also the works of the law. James 2:17-19 NKJV says, "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" Shaul (Paul) basically says the same thing. Romans 3:31 NKJV says, "Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." He says the law is established. It is not done away with as some say.

Ya'akov said that the demons believe. Where are the demons going for eternity? Revelation 20:10 NKJV says, "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone." It should be evident that just having faith is a false doctrine. Even Kefa says that those who do not keep the law will be punished forever (see context). 2 Peter 2:17 NKJV says, "These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."

There are similar words for faith in English with different "shades" of meaning. Believing means, we have faith and trust. When we do not trust in God, we do not obey God and vice versa. I

sometimes replace the word faith or believe with the word "trust" in my mind in order to make it a more active idea. Websters Dictionary online says that believing is similar to accepting, understanding, and concluding. It is dissimilar to suspecting, doubting, and disputing. Therefore, when we are not accepting God's commandments, we are actually disputing with God! James 2:24 NKJV says, "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." Those who say it is by faith alone are lying.

Which part of understanding faith applies to you? What helps you to understand this better? Perhaps you've been doubting (you have lacked faith) that God made the 7th day holy. Genesis 2:3 NKJV says, "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." To sanctify means to set it apart. Should we keep the Shabbat the Bible tells us to keep? Rome changed the day of worship and not God. "On March 7, 321, however, Roman Emperor Constantine I issued a civil decree making Sunday a day of rest from labor, stating: All judges and city people and the craftsmen shall rest upon the venerable day of the sun." See the Sabbath in Christianity on Wiki. It was changed by a man to honor the pagan sun god, not Yeshua. Are we going to trust God or what some man did? The Bible says in Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." So, changing Shabbat to Sunday is wrong.

That is how we can use the scriptures to help us do what is right. Deuteronomy 4:2 helps us to understand that Sunday is the wrong day because it was changed by man. Have you ever gone to the doctor on the wrong day, I have. They tell you to come back on the right day. What about worshipping God?

We are made in the image of God; God has given us the blessing of having some of His characteristics. If someone wrongs us, we need to forgive after we make up and not carry grudges. Deuteronomy 13:17-18 NKJV says, "That the LORD may turn from the fierceness of His anger and show you mercy, have compassion on you and multiply you, just as He swore to your fathers, because you have listened to the voice of the LORD your God, to keep all His commandments." God forgives us after we repent and do what is right; He even blesses us; so, we also need to forgive others and not keep a record of offenses. Leviticus 19:18 NKJV says, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people."

This also could teach us that God expects us to trust Him; so whatever sin we are being tempted with, we need to devote our attention to correct that behavior. We do not want the fierce anger of God; that is for sure. Revelation 3:5 NKJV says, "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life." I want to be an over-comer. What resonated with you more? The fierce anger of God might be enough; you most certainly do not want to be blotted out from the book of life and lose your eternal life!

Stand strong no matter where you go. Whether that is at home or away, we need to walk in a way that pleases God.

We need to set our lives in order to stay on course. We do not want to live a life of sin, and we want eternal life with an all good and powerful God. Getting off course can be a painful experience. For example, this one time after driving for several hours, I took the wrong exit onto the wrong freeway, and it took me a half an hour to get back on track. That is what

happens when we sin, we go off course. We do not want the added pain of circumstances or wrong habits to keep us from living out the purposes that God's wants for us.

We are not working our way to God, but we are choosing to live as His people. Deuteronomy 7:6 NKJV says, "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth." God wants you to follow Him and chooses you to follow Him. Will you be God's treasured person and live a holy life or do things your own way? If you are not following God's commandments, you are not following God.

Sometimes the Bible refers to us being part of a family of believers. Jeremiah 3:14 NKJV says, "Return, O backsliding children," says the LORD." Those who follow God's commandments are acting like they are part of God's family. When you are part of a family, we behave like we are part of our family. It is a simple of describing how our lives in the natural are supposed to be similar to our spiritual life. Some people say that Christians need a father figure. It seems that they do not understand simple communication idioms. That is not why we call God our father. It is because we have decided to be part of His family.

God told Israel to go into Canaan and when they did not go, they ended up wandering in the desert for 40 years! They eventually got there. Stay the course so you do not end up wandering. Proverbs 14:12 NKJV says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." A lot of the time, getting off the path doesn't affect us a lot, but just that one time can really mess us up. Why take a chance with your life. My one missionary friend tells the story of hearing this loud crash while looking for a jungle town. They found a panther in a pit the next path over. They were probably glad they were on the right path, or they could have ended up in a pit with a panther.

Keep focused on continuing to do what is "right and good."

Do we ever wonder if what we are doing is making a difference. Do not let yourself think for one minute that what you do does not matter. All the good we do matters. Shaul said in Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." Engage with how the Holy Spirit wants to work in us. The Holy Spirit helps us to love our neighbor (see Leviticus 19:18-19). There is nothing wrong with those things there in Galatians. Make keeping God's commandments your aim every day. They are what is "right and good," and not doing things our own way. Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And **you shall do what is right and good.**"

Shaul says in Philippians 3:14-15 NKJV, "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind." Engaging spiritually is a worthwhile thing to do. We often try to be good at academics, sports, or work, but there is nothing better to do than being productive spiritually. We honor great achievement, but don't forget to honor the greatest achievement of all, living right, engaging with the things of God, and living for the purposes of God. When Abraham was 99 years old, God still expected him to live right. Genesis 17:1 NKJV says, "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD

appeared to Abram and said to him, 'I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.'" Just like Abraham, we also need to stay engaged spiritually; even at 99 or 109.

Be aware of what you are doing so that you do not find yourself in sinful situations.

Years ago, I used to participate in sports. Sometimes I would play baseball all day long; the days seemed to go by so fast even though I exerted myself all day. I used to enjoy running. I remember this one time I went to run with my friends; I ran about three miles to see them, ran another 12 miles with them, and then ran home. I managed to win some races because of my dedication. Shaul told us to be dedicated believers.

He said in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."

When you are in training in sports or in any area you wish to succeed, you are thinking about what you need to do to be successful. I sometimes talk about this one college basketball player practicing for 6 hours a day; plus, he had to go to classes and study. We can be dedicated to all sorts of things, but do not forget to be dedicated to God. Shaul says that he fights to bring his body into subjection. Do not live in sin. Keep God's commandments. Stay in the fight; push yourself.

This Torah portion begins by talking about appointing judges. Judges were not to subvert justice. We also should do what is right and therefore make this world a better place to live. Stay in faith and keep God's commandments. We demonstrate that we believe in God when we keep His commandments. Just imagine how much better the world would be if we all kept just the 10 commandments. There would be no more murder or coveting what others have. Therefore, we would have a lot less war, death, and destruction if people followed what God said. Accept what God teaches us and trust in Him. Find ways that help you to keep God's commandments. Do not live in sin. Set your course spiritually. What we do matters. Do not get sidetracked.

Also, remember that there are more than 10 commandments, and we also need to learn to apply God's commandments (see Hebrews 5:14). John said that God's commandments are not a burden so those who say otherwise are misleading you. Yeshua said His commandments were not a burden and it says the same thing in the Old Testament portion in Deuteronomy 30:10-11 NIV, "Obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach."

Finally, stay engaged and fight spiritually so you will receive the prize of eternal life.

1 John 5:3-4 NKJV says, "Keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world." We overcome the sinful ways of the world and doing things our own way so that someday, we will be in the wonderful and amazing future kingdom of God. We give up this imperfect kingdom for a better kingdom. Isaiah

64:3 NKJV says, "No one has ever heard, no ear perceived, no eye seen, any God but you." God is the creator and will do amazing things for us in the future kingdom. Shaul quotes Isaiah and applies this to the future kingdom for those who keep God's commandments. 1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV says, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." Do not be disqualified through sin. Stay in the fight spiritually.

Torah Study

Shoftim means, "judges." This portion occurs in the Jewish month of Elul, just before the High Holy Days, the Fall feasts of God. It is a good time to think about doing better in life by following God and keeping God's commandments. The Jews have a prayer book for this time of year. It would be good to do something in preparation for Yom Kippur (the day of forgiveness of sins – the Day of Atonement). According to the Jewish writings, Moshe came down the mountain with the second set of tablets on Yom Kippur. He went up the mountain several times, but only two times to bring down the tablets of God's commands with him. The first time Moshe came down with the tablets, some in Israel were committing idolatry and he threw the tablets down. The second time, the people were not sinning.

People can be stubborn, but in the second case they repented. Many people get accustomed to the way they live. Those that say they follow the Torah often follow extra misapplied laws and do not follow the Torah the way they should. Christians do the same thing. They are accustomed to following the pagan practices passed down by the Roman Empire. Those that follow the extra misapplied man-made laws and those who follow the pagan practices for the most part do not want to change.

Yeshua said in Matthew 5:20 NKJV, "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." What did the Pharisees do in Yeshua's time? They kept these extra misapplied laws religiously instead of focusing on the Torah. The same is true about Christianity. Many do not follow the teachings of Yeshua (Jesus), but instead the teachings of their denomination. What are we supposed to do? Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NKJV 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."

We are to fear God and love God by keeping His commandments. We are also to have loving affection towards God. After all, He first loved us by providing His good and caring commandments. I have found that by understanding the magnitude of God's love for us and being thankful that I can deeply love God.

The same is true with loving our neighbor as ourselves. We first love others by keeping God's commandments. Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes." But we should also be kind and care about others and give them the respect that is due them. That is part of loving you neighbor as yourself. The Torah portion begins with Moshe (Moses) telling Israel they were to appoint judges in their cities who would not distort justice or take bribes. Bribes subvert justice. Our elected officials

should look out for the best interests of our countries. If they are not following what the Bible says, they are not looking out for our best interests because what God says is "right and good." Also, some politicians are looking to get votes just to stay in office instead of considering the outcome of bribing the people to vote for them. They are to be held accountable to the people. Their bad decisions can subvert justice. Are we holding these people accountable for their ungodly decisions. Are we supporting ungodly people?

They were not to plant a sacred tree or set up a stone (to pray to). What about putting up an evergreen tree in our homes? Evergreen trees were considered sacred because the pagan god Tamuz died by an evergreen tree. So, setting up an evergreen tree in homes has its roots in pagan practice. What about Christmas, December 25th? Rome celebrated the birth of the Sun god (natalis solis invicti) on December 25th. Not only are the evergreens pagan, but the day chosen by Rome to celebrate Yeshua's birth is pagan. We are not to do the things the pagans do (see Deuteronomy 12:30-31). God says they are disgusting to Him.

If you want to find out a more acceptable date for the birth of Yeshua, see my article, [Rosh Hashanah and the Birth of Yeshua](#). He was born on a Jewish holiday and not December 25th. If you want to celebrate His birth, celebrate it on a better day. To see my article, go to this page and scroll down to the article: <https://www.teshuvahsa.org/observing-the-feasts>. Did you know that it was illegal in the United States to celebrate the pagan day of Christmas until around 1830? Pagan practice seems to seep into our faith and the Catholic Church has incorporated pagan practice into its church to draw people into their church.

The adherents then did many of the same pagan things they did before they believed. They say they believe in the God of the Bible. They are not following what the Bible says. Deuteronomy 12:30-31 NKJV says, "Take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.' You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods." The pope even wears a pagan fish hat and the cardinals who wear red clothes got that from a pagan cult that dressed in all red and danced around fires.

The portion continues. Idol worshippers were to be stoned, but there had to be two or three witnesses. Think about it; do you still want to put up a pagan symbol in your home on a pagan day? God takes things associated with pagan practice very seriously.

Difficult cases were to be decided by the Cohanim (priests). This compares to our higher courts in the United States. First the appointed judges made the decisions and if it was a more difficult decision, they were to defer to the Cohanim.

If Israel wanted a king, God must choose him; he cannot be a foreigner; he cannot have many wives and excessive riches. He is to write a copy of the Torah, keep a copy of the Torah, and read it every day. He is not to think of himself as better than others.

A lot of leaders in the United States obtain inside information about how to invest their money and they make money off of their position. Leaders should not accumulate excessive wealth due

to their position. Those in important positions should know God's commandments and read the Bible. They are good lessons and commandments for life that everyone can benefit from. I had an atheist friend that worked in research that once told me that he would trust someone who had values and faith in God before someone who did not. That should reveal something to us about God's good commandments.

The portion says they were to support the Cohanim. They were not to learn the religious practices of the Canaanites. So again, we should stop keeping pagan practices.

It says in Deuteronomy 18:10-11 NKJV that no one was to be a, "Diviner, a soothsayer, an enchanter, a sorcerer, a spell-caster, a consulter of ghosts or spirits, or a necromancer." A person that does these things is using false signs associated with devil spirits. The devil wants to keep us from the true God and is called the destroyer in the Bible (see Isaiah 14:12). Anything associated with spiritualism and the occult, and these false signs is wrong to do.

God will raise up a prophet like Moshe. They were to listen to him and whoever does not will have to give an account for himself. While this also refers to God giving prophets to call people back to Him, the wording suggests that it is also talking about the future Messiah and is quoted in the book of Acts. Acts 3:22-23 NKJV says, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people." Yeshua teaches us to keep the Old Testament law and those who do not listen to Him will be turned away from the future kingdom of God. Matthew 7:22-23 NKJV says, "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" God expects us to keep His Old Testament law.

Some people do not understand why we are to accept the Messiah Yeshua. He brought us peace not how the world perceives peace, but through the gift of the Holy Spirit. John 14:25-27 NKJV says, "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 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." Yeshua went away so we could have the gift of the Holy Spirit when we believe in the Messiah Yeshua (see John 16:7).

Also of particular importance is that Yeshua is our advocate who speaks on our behalf just like Moshe was an advocate for Israel. We need to believe in Yeshua the Messiah as our advocate.

Moshe as an advocate for Israel in Exodus 32:30-33 NKJV which says, Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin – but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written." And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book."

1 John 2:1-2 NKJV says about Yeshua,
And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Yeshua is an advocate for us in this era, so believers need to accept the Messiah Yeshua as their advocate. He died for our sins so that we might have eternal life.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 NKJV says,
Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once.

Isaiah 53:6-7 NKJV says about a future Messiah (note it says "he"),
All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,

If we repent God will forgive us (see 1 John 1:9), but if we continue to live in sin, God will blot us out of the Book of Life. Yeshua says in Revelation 3:5 NKJV, "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life." Those who teach once saved always saved or saved only by faith are in danger of ending up in the lake of fire (see Revelation 21:8, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21). Saul (Paul) says in 1 Corinthians 6:9 NKJV, "Do not be deceived." Do not be deceived by the people who are teaching wrong doctrine. The Old Testament is doctrine. Proverbs 4:2 NKJV says, "For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law."

We can see many similarities between Moshe and Yeshua (Jesus). Here are a few; there are many more than these. Perhaps you would consider other similarities as key points as well.

Similarities Between Moshe and Yeshua

- Yeshua and Moshe came to save Israel.
- They both had to flee for their safety.
- Both spoke to God and God spoke to them (**a Key Point**).
- They were both prophets and teachers.
- Moshe set Israel free from pagan Egypt and Yeshua set believers free from sin.
- They both honored God's real name, Yĕhōvâh; Exodus 3:15; John 17:6.
- They both served God.
- Moshe led God's people, and Yeshua leads us as our "Shepherd;" John 10:11
- Moshe offered his life for the people and Yeshua gave his life for our sins.
- Moshe was an advocate for Israel and Yeshua Messiah is our present advocate; Exodus 32:30-33; 1 John 2:1-2 (**a Key Point**).
- Israel received the Torah from Moshe and from Yeshua (Yeshua is God).
- Moshe's face shined from the presence of God and Yeshua shined with the

presence of God when He was transfigured.

- Moshe lifted up the serpent for the healing of the people and Yeshua was lifted up and gave Himself for our healing (**a Key Point**).
- Both were appointed by God as saviors.
- Moshe gave the people manna and Yeshua created food for thousands.
- Moshe gave the Torah on Shavuot (Pentecost), and Yeshua gave the Holy Spirit on Shavuot (**a Key Point**).

The portion continues. They were not to listen to false prophets. Those who killed another accidentally could flee to a city of refuge so their case could be heard; they do not deserve the death penalty. A person who commits murder is to be put to death. This is to keep murder from occurring. Those that oppose the death penalty are causing people to be murdered. A country that does not have just punishment for crimes is an unjust country. They were to keep honest boundaries, and a false witness was to be punished. Note that people are to work for what they own, and their land does not belong to the government as in communism. Communism is a false religion.

They were not to be afraid of enemy forces because God would fight for them. Under certain conditions a man was to not serve in the army. They could take spoil from their enemies, and they were to completely destroy their enemies; they were not to destroy food bearing trees. The leaders of the nearest town were to do a ritual over an unsolved murder and ask for forgiveness so that innocent blood would not be shed.

The Haftarah is Isaiah 51:12 to 52:12; the Messianic portion should go to Isaiah 53:12. The Haftarah portion asks the question, why are they afraid of man. God says awake for He is your God, be strong, the uncircumcised and unclean will not enter any more. Shake the dust off your feet (leave unbelief behind) and loosen your chains (be set free). Israel will be redeemed again, and **they will know His name** and that He speaks, "Here I am." He is announcing salvation (**Yeshua** just happens to be the Hebrew word for salvation). God will bare His arm, and all the earth will see salvation (**Yeshua**). They literally saw Yeshua (which means salvation), didn't they.

Modern Jews who do not believe in Yeshua stopped reading Isaiah 53. The Messianic portion should continue to Isaiah 53:12. It goes on to say in Isaiah 53 that God's servant will succeed and be honored. **In Isaiah 53 it says:**

People will be appalled at **Him**.

He will be disfigured.

Who will believe; the arm of the Lord has been revealed?

People despised **Him** and did not value **Him**.

He bore our pains, and we thought **He** was being punished.

He was stricken and wounded for our sins.

by **His** bruises we are healed.

We are like sheep that have gone astray yet God laid our guilt on **Him**.

He was like a lamb being slaughtered, silent.

He was arrested, sentenced, and died for the sins of our people.

God will accomplish His desire through **Him** and make many righteous.

This is obviously talking about a sole male person, so this is about Yeshua the Messiah giving Himself for our sin and not Israel as some say. Some rabbis make up meanings to the scriptures to detract from the truth. It is evident that the Jewish Messiah Yeshua (Jesus) has reached the entire world. **He** is truly the Messiah.

In this Haftarah portion we clearly see Yeshua. **He is the one that came and said, "I am" ("here I am"); He** is the one bringing good news; **He** is our God and King; and **He** is the one that brought the earth salvation – He is Yeshua (He is salvation, Yeshua is the Hebrew word for salvation.).

The Messiah was to be the descendant of David and is God (Yĕhōvâh according to Jeremiah 23:5-6). Yeshua prays to be glorified with the glory He had before He came to earth. He did not become God; He came as God to help us. Yeshua says in John 17:5 NKJV, "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."

Yeshua makes a number of "I am" statements in the New Testament portion. In Isaiah 52:6, 7, 10 CJB, it says, **"Here I am!" ... "your God is King!" ... "All the ends of the earth will see" Yeshua (salvation). Could it be any plainer!**

Yeshua said (NKJV):

"I am the bread of life" (John 6:35,48,51).

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).

"I am the door of the sheep"(John 10:7,9).

"I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11,14).

"I am the resurrection, and the life" (John 11:25).

"I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

"I am the true vine" (John 15:1,5).

In Deuteronomy 18:18-19 NKJV, Moshe said that those who don't listen to the prophet like him would have to give an account; "I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him."

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.)

"You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment." Deuteronomy 16:18 NKJV.

No trees are to be in the sanctuary. No idol that is a pillar is to be erected. Deuteronomy 16:21-22

**"And you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment."
Deuteronomy 17:10-11 NKJV.**

The appointment of a king and the king's obligations. Deuteronomy 17:14-18.

Levites are not to take booty. Deuteronomy 18:1.

The priests are to receive certain things. Deuteronomy 18:3-4.

All priests will serve at the feasts. Deuteronomy 18:6-8.

Divination, enchanter, soothsaying, sorcery, wizards, using charms, consulting ghosts, familiar spirits, inquiring the dead is prohibited. They are signs produced by devil spirits. Deuteronomy 18:10-11.

**Listen to the righteous prophets (those who teach to do what is "right and good."
Deuteronomy 18:13 and Deuteronomy 6:17-18.**

False prophets are to be put to death. Deuteronomy 18:20, 22.

The cities of refuge. Deuteronomy 19:3-4.

Those who cause harm are to make reparation or endure consequences for their behavior. We are not to pity them. Deuteronomy 19:21.

Maintain proper land boundaries. Deuteronomy 19:14.

More than one witness is required to convict. Deuteronomy 19:15.

A scheming witness is to be prosecuted. Deuteronomy 19:19.

We are not to copy the actions of idol worshippers (or of unbelievers) like baldness, cutting your flesh, or disfiguring the body. Deuteronomy 19:28.

Not to be afraid of Israel's enemies. Deuteronomy 20:1.

Rules for warfare. Deuteronomy 20:3-4, 10-12.

No Canaanites were to remain alive. Deuteronomy 20:16.

Not to destroy trees or any needless destruction. Deuteronomy 20:19

When finding someone who had been killed and what to do. Deuteronomy 21:1-3.

In closing, let us say the Aaronic Blessing from Numbers 6:24-26:

We need to explain why we use God's real name in the Aaronic blessing. Some believe we are not supposed to use God's name, but they are mistaken. 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, וְיִשְׁמְרֶכָּ
 יְאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וְיַחַנְנֶכָּ
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וְיִשָּׂם 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.

Thank you for being with us today.