



#20 Tetzaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10

Torah Teaching and Teaching, Be an Encourager 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

Cohen – Priest
Haftarah – reading from the prophets
House – refers to a school or the Temple
Menorah – 7 candle Israelite lamp
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the
Torah
Tetzaveh – the 20th Torah portion

The Torah portion for today is Tetzaveh and means, "you shall command." Before we begin the Torah teaching, I would like to talk about a few spiritual things. There is a spiritual dividing; we could think of it as a particular frequency of light. A light wave can give off a color. White light is a combination of all colors of light. God tells us to be lights; we are interested in being a light the way God tells us.

I have a radio license and there are specific frequencies that I am allowed to use based on my license. If I deviate from my assigned frequencies, I am in violation of the law. So we want to make sure we are giving off the true light. God's word is often called a light to us. Numbers 23:19 tells us that God does not lie. So when God's word says that God's commandments are "right and good" (Deuteronomy 6:18), then they are right and good.

Are we obeying the truth or living a lie? Think about what the Bible says. Are we tuned into the light of God's word? Are we living with the wisdom and understanding that the Bible says we have through God's commandments (Deuteronomy 4:6).¹

We are not playing make believe religion or for that matter, a made up belief system. We get our doctrine from the Bible which is God's word. Psalm 119 has some great scriptures in it and contains a lot of wisdom.

Psalm 119:9-16 NKJV:

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

¹ Talking about God's commandments in the Old Testament portion, "Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV.

Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes.
 With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth.
 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches.
 I will meditate on Your precepts and contemplate Your ways.
 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

Let's talk about this section. First, Psalm 119 is an acrostic song, and this section begins with the Hebrew letter Bet, which is the second letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Believers both men and women need to make their ways clean and good. Has your conscience ever made you feel dirty because of what you did? Clean up your life and listen to God's word.

He says that he sought God with his whole heart; may we also be a people who seek God completely and never wander from His commands. He retained God's word in his innermost being so that he wouldn't sin. Even though he knows God's commands, he wants to remain open to what God can teach him. He is thankful for God's word as much as all riches. He continues to think about God's commands and is delighted by them. He will not forget them. This is truly a wonderful and encouraging song.

Make the right connection to God using the right means and knowledgeable truth. Do you want to be connected to the true God? Then believe the truths of the Bible. There are people who are interested in telling us that we don't need to do what God says and they make it a point to tell anyone that asks them that they are telling the truth.

They say they believe in God and His word, but they obviously don't believe in His word. They don't really believe in God either. These unbelievers say they have an important message. Shaul had an important message for us in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

Shaul said nobody who does these things will inherit the kingdom of God. So don't be deceived. I don't want anyone to miss out on what God has for us in the future glorious kingdom. Jehovah is the God of the universe. so it is going to be absolutely awesome in the future kingdom! He can do that because He is God. Don't miss out.

Are we living a sustainable, true, and light filled way? Why do I say sustainable? For example, there are some who keep many man-made commandments and commandments that micromanage life. The Bible says we are not to add and subtract from God's commandments, Deuteronomy 4:2. Having thousands of man-made commands added to our spiritual life is not a sustainable way to live. No one can live like that and most admit that keeping thousands of extra commandments can't be done.

Are we letting our faults overcome us? Instead form habits from God's commandments. God will forgive, but we also have to make an all out effort to do what is right. You can't fool God so get with it. Psalms 103:12-13 NKJV says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He

removed our transgressions from us. As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him." Have respect for God.

Living with guilt is not a sustainable way to live. Don't live in worry, that is not a sustainable way to live. Trust in God. Isaiah 26:3-4 NKJV says, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength." Perhaps you can think of something that keeps you from being the believer you should be.

Are we following truth or man-made Doctrine? For example, the Bible says to keep God's feasts, Leviticus 23:2. **THEY ARE GOD'S FEASTS.** Are we going to do it or follow false teachers who say just the opposite of what the Bible says? The Bible is God's word. Will we follow God or some man-made idea?

The Bible says that God's word is a light for us. God gave us commandments for our own good and they give us wisdom and understanding Deuteronomy 4:6. What will we Do with our lives? I remember this person flaunting his lawless attitudes at me or towards me you could say. Yeshua said go away from me you lawless. Matthew 7:23 NKJV says, "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" Do you want to be banished from God's future glorious kingdom? Is that what you want? That is your choice, but you will be suffering for all eternity for your disobedience to God. So follow God's commandments.

Remember to apply the scriptures across all of life. It is not hard; just start putting God in your life and keep His commandments. Have spiritual direction in life instead of a worldly focus. Everyone in the body of the Messiah is to work together. God's word is good, and He is a loving God. Therefore, applying His word is an accomplishment and joy every time we keep His commands.

Some take the scriptures out of their Jewish context. Anything taken out of context can be misinterpreted. Why are people mislead? They may believe what they are taught. They could have been taught lies; some people have an agenda; people can be influenced by the devil; some think they are wise and teach their own beliefs or teach to impress. Sometimes people can be talked out of the truth. Either we have a humble heart for God's truth, or we do not.

Torah Teaching

Tetzaveh means, "you shall command." The portion begins by saying that they were to make pure olive oil for the menorah and to keep it burning continually in the tent of meeting. In order to do this, they would use only the first few drops from the olive. It would be clear and pure. It is a spiritual picture that we are to be pure lights to others. Yeshua said in Matthew 5:16 NKJV, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works** and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 NKJV. The rituals that Israel did often taught principles they were to follow. When Yeshua says good works, He means doing what is "right and good." 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** in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you."

Aharon and his sons and descendants were to be special consecrated priests for the Lord. Specific instructions for the priestly garments and how they are to anoint Aaron and his sons were given. Special garments were to be made for them which includes a breastplate, vest, a blue robe, tunic, turban, and a sash. Only the descendants of Aaron were to wear the priestly garments. They were to put the urim and the tumim in the breastplate for making decisions. The stones were said to light up and spell a message supernaturally. They were to serve barefoot as a sign of humility. Serving others should not be conducted as an act of pride. Yeshua washed His disciples feet and told them they should serve others (John 13:15-16).

We are to be humble servants of God.

There would be bells on the bottom of the robe Cohen Gadol to let the people know the High Priest was at work and they should pay attention; it is not true that it has to do with the priest dying. Also, the priests were to wear linen undergarments. Then the process of consecration is given with their dress, sacrifices, and rituals and the priests' consecration is to take 7 days. The altar is especially holy and whatever touches it will be holy. Through all their generations they will have burnt offerings and God would speak to them at the Mishkan (Tent of Meeting). Aharon and his sons were to be consecrated by God's glory. God will then live with His people. They were to build an altar to bring incense every morning and also burn incense when Aharon lights the lamps at dusk. They were not to make any unauthorized offering or incense at the Mishkan. We see in this portion specific instructions about the menorah, the Cohens' (priest's) apparel, and the consecration of the Cohens. It should again remind us that we are to worship God in the way He chooses.

The High Priest was to wear special clothes while serving and so were his sons. Again, no one was to wear the high priest's clothes, but the High Priest. His clothes were special and glorious and included a turban on his head and a crown on the turban ("You shall put the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban;" Exodus 29:6 NKJV). Aaron's sons also wore a turban with a round hat made of linen under them; Exodus 39:27-29. They covered their heads twice while serving at the Mishkan (Tent of Meeting) and later at the Temple.

There is a misunderstanding in most circles of Christianity concerning 1 Corinthians 11:4 NKJV that actually is saying men should not wear a veil on their heads: "Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you. But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head." The head covering and Greek words here refers to a veil, an article of woman's clothing. Shaul is merely telling them to keep the Torah which says that we are not to wear clothing that is solely for the opposite sex. Deuteronomy 22:5 NKJV says, "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God."

Shaul later says he is referring to customs and not God's commandments, but it always stands that if anything is explicitly an article of clothing for the opposite sex, it is forbidden. 1 Corinthians 11:16 NKJV says, "But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom,

nor do the churches of God." What is the contention? It is not about the Torah; **it is about custom it says** except where he is talking about obeying the Torah.

Always remember that the word church is the Greek word for assembly and doesn't refer to a denomination or building. Acts 20:20 NKJV says, "I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house." Why house to house? Because for the most part, people met in the home. 1 Corinthians 16:19-20 NKJV says, "The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house." People who meet in buildings would have you believe that Shaul was teaching leadership from house to house. Their man-made theology aims to make people believe that they are legitimate because they have a building or denomination. Many denominations are still passing on the religion of the pagan Greco-Roman Empire. For example, Easter is the pagan goddess of fertility. Yeshua rose on resurrection weekend and it is a disgrace to refer to His resurrection as a pagan god. Think about it.

The colors in the Bible also have meanings (for your interest):

From online at: <https://www.color-meanings.com/biblical-meaning-colors/>

- Amber – Glory of God, judgment upon sin, endurance
- Orange – Fire of God, deliverance, passionate praise
- Pink/Fuchsia – Right relationship with God
- Scarlet – Royalty, fine linen for tabernacle
- Red – Blood of Jesus, love of God, blood of lamb, atonement, salvation
- Blue – Heaven, the Holy Spirit, authority
- Purple – Priesthood, kingship, royalty, mediator, wealth
- Gold – Glory, divinity, kingship, eternal deity, foundation, altar, beauty, precious, holiness, majesty, righteousness
- Wine – New birth, multiply, overflow
- Sapphire – Law, commandments, grace, the Holy Spirit, divine revelation
- Turquoise – River of God, sanctification, healing, New Jerusalem
- Green – Praise, growth, prosperity, new beginning, flourishing, restoration
- Silver – Word of God, purity, divinity, salvation, truth, atonement, redemption
- White – Bride of Christ, surrender, harvest, light, righteousness, conquest, victory, blessedness, joy, angels, saints, peace, completion, triumph
- Brown – End of season, rags, people, pride, weary, faint
- Yellow – Faith and Glory of God, anointing, joy
- Black – Darkness, sin, Earth, affliction, humiliation, calamity, death, mourning

Atonement for sin would be made once a year on the altar. Since the Messiah Yeshua came, that has changed. Hebrews 10:12-14 NKJV says, "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified." It was always understood that a Messiah would come and give Himself for our sins; He also helps us to be holy (by helping us to not sin) through the Holy Spirit (John 14:26).

Isaiah 53:5-6 NKJV says:

But He was wounded for our transgressions,

He was bruised for our iniquities;
 The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
 And by His stripes we are healed.
 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.

God chose the line of Aharon to be priests. This points us to accepting who God chose as the Messiah, namely Yeshua. Just as Aharon was picked to be the father of all priests, Yeshua is God's chosen Messiah and our priest who has atoned for our sins. One of the major duties of the high priest was to offer a sacrifice for sin on Yom Kippur. Yeshua came as God and offered Himself for our sins. The specific priestly apparel is a shadow picture of the glorious (Exodus 28:2) position of Yeshua who came as our glorious High Priest and Messiah. Also, Yeshua revealed His true glorious nature when He was transfigured before Kefa, Yochanan, and James the brother of Yochanan. As Yeshua prayed, "The appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening;" Luke 9:29 NKJV.

Just as God's presence was there in the Mishkan as the priests ministered, Yeshua was the presence of God on earth when He came to minister to mankind. Yochanan said that Yeshua "tabernacled" or "tented" among us. Yochanan is probably thinking of the Mishkan in the desert where the presence of God was; there was a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. Just as the presence of God was among Israel at the Mishkan, Yeshua was the presence of God when He came as a man. Yeshua came as God in the form of a man; He did not become God. All the patriarchs encountered God as a man. Jeremiah 23:5-6 says that the Messiah would come from the line of David and be God, Yě-hō-váh (יהוה!).

The Haftarah for Tetzaveh is Ezekiel 43:20-27. Before this portion in Ezekiel, Ezekiel is having a vision of the House, namely the future Temple. We read in detail about the future Temple. A man is standing by him and He says that this is the place for My throne where the soles of his feet will be with the children of Israel forever.

God's throne will be with Israel forever.

In these passages, the Lord (יהוה) is speaking to Ezekiel in the form of a man. This is probably a vision of Yeshua. No will ever again defile My holy name again He says. As our portion begins in verse 10, Ezekiel is told to describe, sketch, and give the sacrificial law for the House so that Israel will be ashamed of their crimes. The mountain top for the future Temple will be especially holy. This portion describes the consecration of this future Temple which is to cover the whole mountain.

After this portion it talks about the East Gate being closed because that is the gate that Yě-hō-váh has gone through. It is blocked off now, but someday the Messiah will come and open it with power and the entire mountain top will be God's holy Temple.

Both all the people of Israel (Exodus 19:6) and all believers in Messiah (1 Peter 2:9) are to be priests and serve each other. Exodus 19:6 NKJV says, "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of

priests and a holy nation." 1 Peter 2:9 NKJV says, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people."

We often think that we as individuals only have the responsibility to care for ourselves, but no one is an island, and we all rely on others to survive. Without the farmer, there would be no food at the grocery store. We should not take people for granted but be a humble servant of God. Micah 6:8 NKJV says, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" Be humble towards God, live right, and be considerate and merciful.

Be an Encourager (A teaching to accompany the Torah teaching Tetzaveh)

We need to rely on each other to be faithful and strong; we should be able to carry others spiritually.

The Bible says we need each other. Ecclesiastes 4:10 NKJV says, "For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up." I am not talking about enabling. We are all responsible to God and we all need to be strong and faithful to God.

How can we help others to be strong?

- * We are supposed to build each other up spiritually.

"Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing;" 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NKJV.

- * We are to get together for teaching and encouraging each other.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord;" Colossians 3:16 NKJV.

- * We are to encourage each other to do right.

"Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called " Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end;" Hebrews 3:12-14 NKJV.

Yeshua said, "Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another;" Mark 9:50 NKJV. Salt can be used to preserve; salt represented honor in relationship. A salt covenant during mealtime in ancient times meant that you would trust each other. Be a person who preserves others; be a person of honor and trust; be someone who can be relied on.

We need to have times where we can relax and be confident and be at peace.

Getting encouragement from others goes a long way to get us in that place. Let's read Colossians 3:12-17 NKJV:

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is

the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

We need to be tender, kind, humble, patient, and forgiving toward each other. We are to allow God's peace to rule our lives and not the world's ways of doing things which are often the opposite. Being thankful can change our attitude on so many issues. We have so much to be thankful for and I am thankful for you, my dear fellow believers. We need each other.

Spend time with God and learn how to do what is right; it is important to seek and know His wisdom.

1 Chronicles 22:19 NKJV says, "Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God." Jeremiah 29:13 NKJV says, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." Yeshua said, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness;" Matthew 6:33 NKJV. Righteousness means to do what is right.

Yeshua also said, "He who seeks finds;" Luke 11:10 NKJV. It is with this in mind, Yeshua tells us to seek the work of the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13 NKJV says, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

There are many ways the Holy Spirit works

It was God's intention that we should use His gifts (gifts – is *charisma* in Romans 12:6). We need to be familiar with these scriptures in Romans.

Romans 12:1-9 NKJV:

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

- 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;
- 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Yeshua gave Himself so that we could have a new life through the Holy Spirit. Give yourself to God, be holy; do not live like the worldly do; have humility, do your part with your spiritual gifting in the body; be diligent; serve God; rejoice, have hope, be patient, pray much, help others, and be hospitable. There is so much more in these verses. Transform your lives to be in line with God and His commandments. Live holy lives with the help of the Holy Spirit.

God had specific instructions on how the Mishkan was to be built. Just like Israel was to do what God told them to do in building the Mishkan, we are to also do what God says and build up our faith and be strong believers in the Messiah Yeshua and our God Yě-hō-váh. God draws us together as a people to help one another. Just like Israel worked together to do what God wanted them to do, we need the help and encouragement of other believers working together and helping one another to be strong. Have peace and joy. Seek God; Yeshua has given Himself for us so we can have a changed life.

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.

The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. Over 2,363 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, וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ
 יְאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיְחַנְּנֶךָ
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיִּשְׂם 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.