

**Names**

Kefa – Peter
Moshe – Moses
Pesach – Passover, Yeshua is our Pesach lamb
Shaul – Paul
Shavuot – Pentecost, a spring feast of God
Sukkot – God's Feast of Tabernacles in the Fall
Yeshua – Jesus
Yĕhōvâh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)

Yochanan – John

Terms

#47 – the 47th portion
Haftarah – the weekly reading from the prophets
Parashah – (portion) one of 54 portions of the Torah
Rosh-Hodesh – the 1st day of the Jewish month
Shabbat – the 7th day of commanded rest by God
Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

The Torah portion for this week is Re'eh and means, "behold" or "see." What do we see? Do we only see the world, or do we also see things spiritually? What are the most important things to us? Is this world all there is? People need to know that there is a good God and He must punish those who do evil. 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." Obviously, there is something more important than our own views and ideas.

God gives us good things.

It is important that we talk about God and repeat what we have learned for our encouragement. God is our provider. When we understand that God created all and therefore has made the world so that we have what we need, we know that God has incredible wisdom, does what is right, and is a kind and good God. Psalms 145:15-17 NKJV says, "The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works." It does not stop there though.

God could have just left us on our own, but He gave His commandments to the ancient fathers of mankind. Genesis 6:9 NKJV says, "Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God." Also, Abraham kept God's commandments. Genesis 26:5 NKJV says, "Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." The word "laws" there is the word Torah which refers to God's instructions.

God gave mankind His written commandments, His good Torah to the Israelites. Psalms 119:46-48 NKJV says, "I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love. My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on Your statutes." It says in Deuteronomy 4:6 that God's commandments give us wisdom and understanding and in

Deuteronomy 6:17-18 it says that God's commandments are "right and good." Most people want wisdom for life. God is our provider. This is a key scripture to remember.

Psalms 19:7-11 NKJV says,

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever. The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

It says that the law is perfect, makes people wise, are right, enlightening, are forever, are true, very worthwhile, it warns us, and is rewarding. Notice that it says that the law is God's law. Some say they are Jewish laws. From the beginning, God provided everything that mankind needed to live including how we best should live life. Eventually, God also provided written laws.

God also gave us His good Holy Spirit in this messianic age to all those who believe in the Messiah Yeshua. Luke 11:11-13 NKJV says, "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 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!" Shaul (Paul) tells us to desire the associated gifts of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."

We need more than a singular message, a more complete message than some teach.

Some says all we need is faith, but that has no substance to help us live right. Some say all we need to do is to love, but how do we do that? We are to develop an understanding of God's goodness through His word and keep His commandments as an acknowledgment that we believe who He is and that we trust in God. Deuteronomy 11:1-2 NKJV says, "You shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always." So, we love God by trusting in Him and His directions for life. How do we then love others? It makes sense that loving others is to do things how our loving God tells us to live. Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes."

Some say all we need are God's commandments, but what about God's provision for life through the Messianic gift of the Holy Spirit? Some say all we need is the Holy Spirit, but what about God's commandments that He gave us out of the goodness of His heart. Some say we need the made-up commandments of our denomination or the made-up rituals of the rabbis. Do we really need to help God with His commandments by adding inappropriate extra commandments to His word? Do we need to change God's commandments to help God? God does not seem to think so. Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV says, "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." Do we need to add pagan ritual to our beliefs like some do? Are you kidding me! Deuteronomy 12:31 NKJV says, "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."

I was reading an article warning us not to get trapped into doing good for others instead of believing in the power of God. Aren't we supposed to believe in the power of God and be good to others? 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?" God even requires that we be good to the stranger. Exodus 22:21 NKJV says, "You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." Some say just follow your heart. Sometimes that will be okay, but not always. Jeremiah 17:9 NKJV says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." So, those who say that they believe in God and do things their own way can even be wicked or those who follow their heart can be doing evil instead of good. God knowing your heart is not enough. We must also follow God by doing what He tells us to do. Our hearts need to be trained.

Although we live in this world, we are to be a spiritual people.

We are to walk in this world as a man or women of God. Psalms 56:13 NKJV says, "For You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?" When we walk in the light, we understand who God is and know the best way to live because we follow God's commandments.

Do not follow your own heart but keep God's commandments. Psalms 81:12 NKJV says, "So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, to walk in their own counsels." Psalms 82:5 NKJV says, "They do not know, nor do they understand; they walk about in darkness." Those who do not follow God's commandments are blind to the truth and to understanding what is best. Unfortunately, there are a lot of people like that. God leaves them alone. They willingly live without some of what God provides for mankind, perhaps the most important thing to have is to be connected to truth and to God.

Believers could say that we are on a pilgrimage in life. When the Jews would go to the feasts in Jerusalem, they would go along in almost procession with their provisions and sing to God as they traveled. That is a picture for our lives. We should joyfully walk with God in life as His people. Nehemiah 8:10 NKJV says, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." Psalms 28:7 NKJV says, "The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him." Some say the God of the Old Testament portion was a harsh God. It doesn't look that does it. God is good God and is the same God today. Malachi 3:6 NKJV says, "For I am the LORD, I do not change." His commandments were good in ancient times, and they are still good. His Holy Spirit is still good too.

The world has a message. We have a message from the God of the universe.

The world tells us that learning facts is the way to a good life. Does that really make sense? Facts can be important, but that does not tell us what the best way to live. Some say we can just make up our own ways to live. That's what Hitler and other evil people thought. Hitler

and those who went along with his lies murdered 11 million people. Stalin and those who supported communism murdered some 20 million people in Russia and there are still evil murderous societies around today.

The true God has given mankind so much, yet it seems that mankind is stubborn and will never learn that God's ways will bring peace, blessing, and prosperity. Peace and satisfaction in life are often the most valued things in life. Psalms 119:165-167 NKJV says, "Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble. LORD, I hope for Your salvation, and I do Your commandments. My soul keeps Your testimonies, and I love them exceedingly." God has given mankind provision and blessings over the ages, and He wants to give us eternal life in an amazing future kingdom, but you have to want what He wants to give us and that includes wanting His help through His word. Those that reject God's good ways have rejected God and live in sin. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you."

Those who reject God will end up in the lake of fire (see Revelation 21:8). Those who change and do what is "right and good," accept the Messiah, and walk humbly with God will be in the future kingdom. Isaiah 1:18-19 NKJV says, "'Come now, and let us reason together,' Says the LORD, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient.'" God will have mercy on those who repent, change, and follow His words. Lamentations 3:22-24 NKJV says, "Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I hope in Him!'" God is faithful and good. We can trust in Him, and we have hope in our good God.

Torah Study.

The Torah portion for this week is Re'eh and means, "behold" or "see." What do we see? Do we only see the world, or do we also see things spiritually? What are the most important things to us? Is this world all there is? 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." Obviously, there is something more important than our own views and ideas. If we do not tell people, they will blithely go along with the crowd and end up in the lake of fire. Matthew 7:13 NKJV says, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it." Prophets are supposed to encourage people to stay faithful to God. Those who do not tell the truth are false prophets. It talks about false prophets in this portion.

In this portion, Moshe (Moses) begins by telling Israel that if they obey God's commands they will be blessed and if they don't, they will be cursed. Psalm 34:8 NKJV says, "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" Notice how it says "see." That is from the same verb as "re'eh," namely the verb ra'ah. The psalmist said that we will see the goodness of God if we trust in Him and His commandments. I have experienced this supernatural work of God; it is not by chance. If you obey God's commandments, you will

"see" too.

We've talked about the good eye and the evil eye some. The good eye looks at things from a positive perspective and that includes, trusting in God. The evil eye is filled with cynicism in life and distrust in God. Yeshua tells us that in order to help others, we need to see right. Matthew 7:5 says, "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." It is true isn't it. People have all kinds of opinions, so they don't see right; they do not want to follow the truth of God's word. They are hypocrites; they could have truth, but instead they trust in themselves. True believers are not hypocrites because they are in the process of trying to live right. In this portion it says that God tests us to "see" if we will trust in Him (see Deuteronomy 13:4). Stay faithful always and pass our tests.

They were to destroy all the idols and places of idolatry after they enter the land of Canaan. They were to go to the place that God would put His name and rejoice in His presence with their offerings. They were not to do what is right in their own opinion. They were not to make up their own commands and misapply God's commands.

We should understand that God's commandments can be misapplied. Some 1,500 years later in Yeshua's time they had thousands of misapplied commandments. Many of these commandments micromanaged life or added unneeded ritual. The ancient rabbis substituted their own ideas instead of listening to God. They made it so that only what the rabbis said was to be followed and kept. They weren't following God the way they were supposed to.

They made up whatever they wanted to. Does that sound like Christianity today? The Bible says we are not to live by man-made opinion and are not to change or misapply God's commandments. Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV says, "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."

The portion continues; they could eat meat, but not the blood. They were not to inquire about how the pagans worshiped; the pagans even sacrificed their children. This teaches us that we must be careful not to engage or associate with anything that has to do with a false religion or idol worship. We should not look into pagan religions like Buddhism, Islam (which is a false religion that teaches murder and stealing), Hinduism, Catholicism (which teaches idolatry), Kabbalah Judaism (which teaches spiritualism; and is not to be confused with being spiritual. Spiritualism includes false prophecy, witchcraft, various arts like palm reading and so forth.) The Bible teaches that spiritualism is wrong. Spiritualism is backed by the demonic.

And there are other groups that teach false doctrine. For example, those who do not believe Yeshua (Jesus) is the Messiah and God (see Jeremiah 23:5-6), and those who do not believe in keeping God's commandments in the Old Testament. It says in Deuteronomy that they were not to listen to anyone who told them to worship another God even if they were their family or they produced signs (see Deuteronomy 13:2-6). A true prophet teaches God's commands. If they tell you not to keep God's feasts and instead keep the feast of the bare-breasted goddess Ishtar (pronounced easter), it is a false religion. Don't do it. Keep the

resurrection of Yeshua, not the feast of some pagan god.

Shaul said those who don't keep God's commandments will not be in the future kingdom.

There are signs produced by false spiritual powers, and they do not lead people to God. But the miracles and healings and work of the Holy Spirit are intended to help and bless the believer. They are to be an encouragement. They are **not** meant to prove that we have arrived spiritually. Yeshua said in Matthew 11:21-22 NKJV, "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you." There are a lot of people who think they are following Jesus, but they do not listen to His words. If you do not follow Yeshua and God the way you are supposed to, you will be held accountable.

Believers in modern society make excuses not to follow God the way the Bible says. They make themselves as gods to the people and tell them things like there are only two commandments or just follow the Holy Spirit. They then have to make up their own ways to follow God instead of what the Bible says. They change God's commandments into their own rules. Shaul said those who don't keep God's commandments will not be in the future kingdom (see Galatians 5:21). The Israelites were to put to death anyone who would lead them to believe in an idol, even if it was a whole city. Don't listen to those who teach false religious practice or false doctrine; as we can see, God takes this very seriously.

They were not to gash themselves or shave their hair over their foreheads (in other words, they were not to do things associated with idolatry and false religions). The command to not cut your beard is in the same type of context. Leviticus 21:5 NKJV says, "They shall not make any bald place on their heads, nor shall they shave the edges of their beards nor make any cuttings in their flesh." This obviously also refers to **a specific** pagan practice. Since these were specific pagan practices, it is not referring to having a beard. We do not have to have a beard. For example, the pagans would make bald spots on their heads that form a halo. The early believers knew better and would never engage in such pagan practice. It is an insult to depict any of them with a halo over their head. Watch out that you don't emulate pagan practice or for that matter, the crazy practices of the unbelieving community.

They were given food laws. They could eat an animal that has both a divided hoof and also chews the cud. They could eat fish that have fins and scales. They were not to eat certain types of birds or anything that swarms or anything that is dead. Why don't people want to listen to God's advice? There are perhaps hundreds of ideas on how we should eat. What about what God tells us? He knows what's best for us. Eating healthy in reality is eating things God tells us is okay to eat and eating sensibly. I am all for eating sensibly, but I also put God first in this area. It goes without saying we can eat fruits and vegetables, but we don't have to be vegetarians. Some people say that even kosher meat can be bad for you, but these animals don't transmit their disease unless of course they are sick animals. If God said that some foods were not good to eat, why would that change now? People are not trusting in God, that's all.

They could exchange their goods to bring money to buy offerings at the place God chooses. Every 3rd and 6th year they were to provide support for the Levites, widows, and orphans. The other years they brought their support to Jerusalem. Every seven years they were to have a shmittah year (year where they rested the land); also on that year, debts were forgiven, and slaves were set free. The Rabbis had the Israelites giving more than 20%, the Bible actually commands us to give a little over 10%. Deuteronomy 15:10 NKJV says, "You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand."

God can bless us because He is God and He will bless you for giving. Notice that Shaul quotes from this Old Testament scripture in 2 Corinthians 9:7. He bases his teaching on the Torah. Yeshua said in Matthew 7:23 NKJV, "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" The word lawlessness uses the word that means to not keep the Torah (anomia). Nomia is the word for Torah in the Septuagint. The Septuagint is a Greek translation of the Hebrew scriptures by 70 rabbis in the 2nd century BC. Those who do not keep the Torah practice "anomia," lawlessness, and do not keep the Torah. Yeshua will reject those who don't keep the Torah; they practice lawlessness, "anomia."

If a slave wished to remain a slave, then they could drive an awl through their ear and be a slave to their master forever. For the most part, slavery in Israel was for paying off debt as an indentured servant. Shaul talks about being a slave for God. He chose to be a slave for God in service to God; all believers are also to be slaves for God instead of slaves to the standards of the world. Just as Israel was freed from slavery in pagan Egypt so they could instead serve God, we are freed from serving sin by the Messiah so that we should serve God. They were to help the needy and not withhold their help. There will always be poor people. Nothing defective is to be offered to the Lord. Instructions are given about observing Pesach. They were to observe Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot and appear before God on these three feasts. We too should get together on these feasts.

They were to appear before the Lord for the three feasts. God's feasts not only have something to do with Israel but are relevant for those who believe in Yeshua. The Bible even says they will be celebrated in the eternal future kingdom of God. Isaiah 66:22-23 CJB says, "For just as the new heavens and the new earth that I am making will continue in my presence, 'says ADONAI,' so will your descendants and your name continue. Every month on Rosh-Hodesh and every week on Shabbat, everyone living will come to worship in my presence, 'says ADONAI.'" Rosh-Hodesh refers to when the first day of the biblical month occurs and is related to when the first crescent of the moon reappears after it has gone completely dark. From the Rosh-Hodesh we calculate when God's feasts occur.

The Haftarah for Re'eh is Isaiah 54:11 to 55:5. Isaiah says about a future time; the ravaged city will receive great riches. Your children will have peace, and nothing will prevail against you. He says come to the water come buy food without money; come to me and live. Even the nations will run to you because the Lord glorifies you. God will give Israel great future blessings. God has given His blessings freely if they will come to Him. We also need to come

to God and Yeshua the Messiah and He will freely give us blessings too.

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.)

We are to destroy idols, and all things associated with idol worship. We are not to destroy the things associated with the true God; namely any still useful scroll or Temple implements. Deuteronomy 12:2-4.

They were to bring their offerings to the Temple and nowhere else. They were not to eat the sacrifices in their towns, but in Jerusalem. Deuteronomy 12:5-6, 13-14, 17-18.

They can eat clean animals in their towns. Deuteronomy 12:15.

Giving to the Levites as prescribed is not to be done away with. Deuteronomy 12:19.

If they were too far from Jerusalem, they could eat from their flock. Deuteronomy 12:21.

We are not to eat blood or parts of an animal that are torn from an animal (for example a limb). Deuteronomy 12:23.

The Torah is not to be added to or subtracted from. Deuteronomy 13:1.

We are to pay no attention to pagan prophecy. Deuteronomy 13:4.

We are not to pity, spare, or conceal an idolator in Israel. No idolatry is permitted. Deuteronomy 13:9-12.

Witnesses are to be questioned thoroughly. Deuteronomy 13:15.

Cities in Israel that practice idolatry are to be destroyed and not be rebuilt. Nothing is to be taken for profit from them. Deuteronomy 13:17-18.

We are not to grieve over the dead with pagan ritual. Deuteronomy 14:1.

Do not eat any animal or insect that God says not do. Deuteronomy 14:3, 11, 19, 21-23, 28.

The tithes in the 3rd and 6th year are for the poor, the Levite, and widows. Deuteronomy 14:28.

"At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts. 2 And this is the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent anything to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the LORD's release." Deuteronomy 15:1-2 NKJV.

We are to help the needy. Deuteronomy 15:8.

"Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, 'The seventh year,

the year of release, is at hand,' and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you." Deuteronomy 15:9 NKJV.

Do not send slave empty handed on release in the 7th year. Deuteronomy 15:12-14.

Animals for offerings are not to be worked and not sheared. Deuteronomy 15:19.

No leaven is to be eaten on the feast of Unleavened Bread, no meat is to remain from the Passover meal, and not to go up to Jerusalem and not make an offering. Deuteronomy 16:3, 14, 16.

The Aaronic Blessing.

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, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶכָּ
 יְאָר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנֶּכָּ
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו 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.

Thank you for being with us today.