



**#37 Shelach Lekha Numbers 13:1-15:41**  
**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  
(There are also transliterations from Hebrew)

Shelach Lekha means, "send for yourself." This parashah talks about the scouts or spies who were sent into Canaan to scout the land. After forty days, the spies returned and 10 negative spies said that although the land was plentiful, the people there were well fortified. Some of the Israelites responded by being filled with fear.

I would like to begin by talking about, we are people of light. Live as people of light for our own good.

When the Bible uses the word light to describe what kind of people we are to be, it uses the term light to mean understanding. We get this light, this understanding through God's commandments. Proverbs 6:23 NKJV says, "For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light." Therefore, God's light, God's commandments help us in life and give us understanding. Deuteronomy 4:6 NKJV says, "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.'"

God's ways are the best ways for life and are truth. Psalms 43:3 NKJV says, "Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me." We need this light, this understanding so that we do not stumble in life. Psalms 119:105 NKJV says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Some people talk about being enlightened in the sense that they have figured things out on their own and act according to what they believe and not what God says is true. They are doing what they think is right in their own eyes. Proverbs 12:15 NKJV says, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes." These people do not understand what is best in life. They may come up with some good ideas, but often not the best ideas on how to live. They often lead to hurtful and evil results. God stretched out His hand to help us, but often people want to do things their own way instead of God's good ways. Isaiah 65:2 NKJV says, "I have stretched out My hands all day

long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts."

Doing what God says and being a truly enlightened person through the creator God is doing what is true, right, and good. God gave us His commandments for our own good. God's commandments are like a fountain that can give us an endless supply water. Psalms 36:9 NKJV says, "For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light." Jeremiah 2:13 NKJV says, "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water." Instead of choosing the endless supply of God's goodness through His commandments, people make up broken ways for life.

Psalms 112:4 NKJV says, "Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous." God's light in His commandments are a demonstration of God's grace towards mankind and His compassion for us. God's light gives us clarity on how to live best. Psalms 18:28 NKJV says, "For You will light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness."

Try a different way to be renewed. Be refreshed through God.

People will try all kinds of different things in life to refresh their life and to be satisfied in life. Exodus 34:6-7 NKJV says, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin." Some say that the God of the Old Testament portion is a harsh God. Have they read the Bible!

Psalms 145:5-13 NKJV says,

I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness. They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, and shall sing of Your righteousness. The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, and Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

God was good, is good and will be good forever. So, refresh yourself in God's ways. Guard your thoughts and keep your thoughts. Deuteronomy 5:29 NKJV says, "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!" Don't we want what is best for our children? Teach them God's good commandments. God gave us His commandments for our own good. Deuteronomy 10:13 NKJV says, "Keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good."

Stay in the sure ways of life. Watch your step and do not be sidetracked.

When we trust in God and His commandments, they will help us in life. We have something to be thankful for, so be faithful. 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." Seek the true God and what he has to offer us. 1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore!" Do not let sin rule your life. Decide you will be faithful to God. Psalms 119:133 NKJV says, "Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me."

Do not listen to those who would see you fail. They have no idea the goodness that can be had by following God.

Psalms 1:1-3 NKJV says,

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

Get to know God's commandments and be ready to apply them. You will see the results of a godly life as you follow God.

Look to what is right and good. Do not be focused on worldly things.

We have to take care of ourselves and our family. There is a lot to learn from Genesis 1:26 where it says, we are created in the image of God and His likeness. God gave us the ability to care for ourselves and others, the ability to do good work, to be caring and kind, to organize, to clean and be cleanly, to give and provide, to provide shelter, food, and order, to have fun, have joy, and so much more. God gave us the ability to be satisfied and at peace, but the basis for life begins with God's good commandments.

This scripture in Deuteronomy is a foundational scripture for life. We may pursue a lot of things in life, but God's commandments should be at the root in life because they give us wisdom and understanding on how to live. 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." We could say that we are to diligently keep and guard God's commandments according to the Hebrew.

Cast aside your own ideas on life in favor of what God says to do. Proverbs 3:7 NKJV says, "Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil." Since God knows what is best, not keeping God's commandments produces evil. That is why religious Communism, religious Atheism, and religious Humanism caused the murders of nearly 100 million people in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Guard your thoughts from the negative attitudes of these religions. Not all communists are religious, but if they react strongly against the beliefs of those who believe in God, they are being religious about their communist faith. Christianity teaches to love others and Judaism teaches to help the stranger and to love others. Religious Communism teaches hate.

Doing what you think is good may be okay but not always. The only way to know what is truly right and good from what the creator God says is "right and good."

Deuteronomy 12:8 NKJV says, "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today – every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes." The Bible tells us not follow what we think is right or our own heart. Unless our heart lines up with God's commandments, we may end up doing evil and not good. The Bible contains God's instructions for life. The word Torah refers to the first 5 books of the Bible and means instruction.

Be wise and accept God's instructions for life.

Proverbs 9:8-12 NKJV says,

Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scoff, you will bear it alone.

Do not be a mocker of God like some are. They do not like you. Be willing to accept the correction of the Bible and be wise. A wise person can become wiser through God and His commandments. God wants to help mankind, but if you mock God and His good ways, you will have to bear what you believe if not in this world, most assuredly at the time of judgement.

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 at life, but people have the choice to do so. 2 Peter 3:8-9 NKJV says, "But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." So, respect God and His wisdom that has provided mankind with the "right and good" ways for life.

We are people of light. Live as people of light for our own good. Be enlightened through God's best ways and truths for life. Be renewed and refreshed through God. He is the good creator God who wants to help mankind. Guard your thoughts for your own good. Stay in the sure ways of life. Watch your step and do not be sidetracked. God's commandments can help us in life. We truly have something to be thankful for. Look to what is right and good from God. Do not be focused on worldly things. May our thoughts and hearts contain the good thoughts and ideals of our patient and caring God. Although we have a lot to do in life do not forget God's good commandments and make them the basis for your life. Our good God has stretched out His hand to help us through His commandments and the Messianic gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **Torah Study**

Shelach Lekha means, "send for yourself." This parashah talks about the scouts who were sent into Canaan to scout the land. Of particular interest for us is Caleb who represented the tribe of Judah. He was not Jewish according to modern Jewish standards, but he was assimilated into

the tribe of Judah. His genealogy is in the Bible. The Bible says the Israelites were a mixed group (Exodus 12:38) so they assimilated into different tribes. It was always God's intention that the Gentiles be assimilated into the Jewish community. Moshe changed Hoshea's name to Yehoshua (Joshua). Hoshea means God saved; Yehoshua means God saves. Joshua could have felt that he was on a mission for God when Moshe did this. Caleb and Joshua were the only scouts to give positive reports.

Perhaps the scouts left for Canaan at the end of the month of Sivan because it is said that the sin of the spies took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av (see Mishna Taanit 4:6-7). The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Temples are said to have been destroyed on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av. After forty days, the spies returned and the 10 negative spies said that although the land was plentiful, the people there were well fortified. Some of the Israelites responded by being filled with fear. The people were about to stone Moshe, but the presence of the Lord appeared, and the Lord threatens to disown them. Moshe pleads for the people and reiterates the mercy that God had revealed to Moshe previously and the Lord relents.

Watch out for negative ideals that can run your life, they can produce negative consequences if they are not based on the truths of the Bible. Because of the Israelites negative attitude, sin, and unbelief, the people of that generation, those 20 and over except for those who didn't commit the sin of the ten spies, would die in the wilderness. Israel would spend forty years (38 more years) in the wilderness. Don't forget though that some 2 million people still made it to the promised land, isn't that wonderful! Believers are not perfect in our era either. Be a person who will make it into the future kingdom of God.

Those that spread the negative rumors would die. Satur the son of Michael who was one of the negative scouts, whose name adds up to 666, was perhaps the instigator of the unbelief among Israel. Perhaps the number used by Yochanan (John) in the book of Revelation, 666, has more to do with a people who lack faith in God and are negatively focused. One of the tenets of Communism is to create dissatisfaction and discontent. It seems more and more in this age, people are denying the existence of God.

Psalms 14:1-2 NKJV says, "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God." Sometimes we try to assess what is going on in the world and it looks like everyone has become fools. Just go to YouTube sometime and listen to some of the junk that's on there. There are as many opinions as there are people. If you want truth, you need to go to the Creator God who knows all and wants us to have the wisdom He has given us in the Bible.

Some of the Israelites among the camp decided to go into Canaan after they were told not to, and they were defeated because they were no longer supposed to go into the land at that time. This teaches us that we need to listen to how God leads us. If He says no, then the answer is no.

Then information is presented about the giving of offerings after they enter the land. They stoned a man who was not keeping Shabbat. They all had different jobs. He was probably doing

his job which he wasn't supposed to do on Shabbat. Also, it says they were to make fringes on the corners of their garments (called tzitzit) with a blue cord as a reminder to keep God's commandments and be a holy people. The Jews can't agree on the color blue, so they use all white cords. So, they don't keep the commandment because of their micromanagement and man-made doctrines. Anything man-made can become an idol.

It doesn't seem to occur to them that any shade of blue would provide for keeping this command. Instead of arguing about God's commandments, they need to do them. Deuteronomy 4:2 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." God said keep the Sabbath (Friday night and Saturday during the day), but Gentile theology says it is okay to change that. They are also changing God's commandments.

We repeatedly see that God expects His people to be a holy and believing people and be willing to follow God's leading. Israel kept moving forward even after failure and we also need to keep moving forward spiritually. Also, the effect of the negative talk of the spies results is a lack of trust in God and is a deterrent to receiving God's promises. So, stay positive about our good and caring God who gave us good commandments.

### **What can we learn from the sin of the spies?**

\*The lack of faith and negative attitudes in this era has resulted in several things. Some are afraid of the Holy Spirit even though Yeshua commands us not to be afraid of the Holy Spirit in Luke 11:13 NKJV, "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." People think negative things about people who speak in tongues; there is nothing wrong with God's gifts; sometimes people can act a little weird; that's not God's fault. Shaul tells us to desire God's gifts. 1 Corinthians 14:1 NKJV says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts;"

\*Speaking in tongues and desiring God's spiritual gifts are God's commandments in this Messianic age, so not pursuing those are sin. Shaul said in 1 Corinthians 14:37 NKJV, "The things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord." Wasn't Canaan a gift from God to Israel? God removed the perverted people and child murderers and gave the land to Israel. It is a picture of the future kingdom of God, perverted people will be in the lake of fire. 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." We all have a choice how we will live and where we will go for eternity. God wants you to do what is right and be in His future kingdom.

\*Unbelief and negative attitudes can affect many areas of our life. We work to provide for our family; our work represents who we are; we provide services for others; our job also provides for those who work with us. A negative attitude about work can be a detriment to our life and the lives of others.

\*A negative attitude about people can affect how we treat them. Being negative can cause us to make others stumble. Lashon harah (do not commit evil speaking) is a properly applied command from the Old Testament portion. Stay positive, it's the best defense against the devil. God values people: we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26); we are valuable; others are valuable. Treat others with respect and dignity. Shaul said in Galatians 6:10 NKJV, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all." That's what we teach; not the hate that God haters teach. If people became conscientious understanding believers, this world would be a better place.

\*Doing some things without God's permission can result in calamity. Some of those who went back to fight after God said not to ended up dying.

\*We should always think about doing what is right. This portion ends by telling the people to wear fringes to remind them to keep God's commands. The Hebrew word "to look" at the fringes is the word "to see" (ra-ah). It then says we are not to use our eyes for lust. It is a Hebrew word play in two ways. First, we are to see the fringes to remind us to keep God's commandments and also, so our eyes won't cause us to sin. Also, the sin of the 10 spies is in this portion. Perhaps we could say that we are to spy on keeping God's commandments and do not to spy on sinful ways. Be careful how you "spy" things. In the present it is appropriate to wear tzitzit at times to keep the command to wear tzitzit.

We also now have the Holy Spirit to help us in life and to remind us to keep God's commands. We are commanded to receive the Holy Spirit through the Messiah Yeshua (see Acts 2:38-39), and we are to be clothed with the Holy Spirit the Bible says. Luke 24:49 NKJV, "I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." The word endued is the word to be clothed. Just as we are to wear tzitzit to remind us to keep God's commandments, we are to be clothed with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is another helper. John 14:15-17 NKJV says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth." The Messiah gave us the commandments at Mount Sinai and the Holy Spirit in this Messianic age. Do not reject what He has given us. Also, Shaul tells us that those who follow a sinful life will not be in God's future kingdom. He says, "Do not be deceived." (See 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and Galatians 5:19-21). Be thankful to God that He has been so gracious to us.

The Haftarah for Shelach Lekha is Joshua 2:1-24. Joshua sends in two spies to check out Jericho. Rahab hides the spies and tells them that their God is the true God and asks them to spare her family. In contrast to the spies that gave the negative report, the spies reported to Joshua that the Lord will deliver the land into Israel's hands. Israel goes on to succeed. Archeologists have found the ruins and conquest of Jericho for an earlier time period than what was originally thought.

When we apply a more recent understanding, it was actually around 1447 BC that Israel left Egypt; the conquest of Jericho and other conquests found in Canaan fall right into place with this recent find. Then, both the timing and archeology then line up for the time period Israel would have actually entered Canaan. Because people are stuck in old thought, many don't see the how archeology proves Israel entered and conquered Canaan. Perhaps they just don't want it to fit together because they don't want to actually believe in God and be held accountable to God. We should be a people who care about the things of God and want to be accountable to the God of the universe; He cares for us so move forward and be strong in our God and King.

**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.)**

**When Israel comes into the land, they were to set aside a portion of bread as a gift to Yěhōváh. Numbers 15:18-21.**

**Believers are to wear fringes with a blue thread on the corners of their garments as a remembrance to keep God's commandments. It is a remembrance ceremony. Numbers 15:38-39. The Holy Spirit from the Messiah Yeshua helps us in life and also reminds us to keep God's commandments. Just like we can wear tzitzit to remember to keep God's commandments, we are to clothe ourselves with the Holy Spirit. Luke 24:49 NKJV says, "I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." The word "endued" is the word clothed. The Holy Spirit is another helper for life, the first are God's commandments (see John 14:15-17).**

### **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, וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ  
יְאֵר יְהוָה פְּנֵיו אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ  
יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵיו 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.