



**#21 Ki Tissa Exodus 30:11-34:35**  
**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  
Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible  
Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the  
Torah  
Ki Tissa – the 21st Torah portion  
(We also use transliterations from Hebrew)

Ki Tissa means "when you take." This portion begins by God telling Moshe to take up a census of everyone over 20; everyone was to give a half shekel as an atonement which was to be used in the service of the Mishkan. It was intended to be a memorial for the Mishkan. The word atonement is the Hebrew word which means to cover as in make reconciliation. So, it was a memorial ritual they would do for what the Mishkan provided for them; namely, the opportunity to make reconciliation and also other offerings. We need reconciliation to God so that we can be in the future eternal kingdom of God.

In this present Messianic age, reconciliation has been provided for by the Messiah Yeshua through His death and resurrection. Hebrews 9:22 NKJV says, "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission." Without a blood sacrifice there is no remission of sin, also see Leviticus 17:11. He was not a human sacrifice. He was God who came as a man to bring a 1<sup>st</sup> Messianic era. Yeshua says in a prayer to God in John 17:5 NKJV, "Glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." Hebrews 9:28 NKJV says, "To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time."

I would like to begin by talking about the need for direction in life. We live in a world with walls and barriers to truth. So, we need direction in life to help us follow truth. Perhaps we wonder why it is so difficult to find truth. Life seems to be a maze of truths and part truths and in the case of God, outright lies that hide the truth and are intended to lead us to believe in the Atheist religion instead of God.

There is a whole system of lies that contradicts even the existence of God and that hides the truth from our eyes. Shaul says that the devil, the god of this world, blinds the minds of mankind. 1 Corinthians 4:3-4 NKJV says, "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe." Whatever the reason that devil spirits are in the world, they are nevertheless in the world.

There are some who teach that Adam and Eve transferred control of the world over to the devil, and therefore the devil is the god of this world. Perhaps the devil is the god of this world because the prevailing beliefs and actions of mankind are so readily influenced by the devil instead of following God and His truths for life.

Since devil spirits are in the world, we should understand that the Bible teaches us that the devil can influence people if they allow the devil to do so. Believers are instructed to resist the suggestions of the devil that contradict what God commands us. James 4:7-8 NKJV says, "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded." If the devil could not influence us or put thoughts in our minds, there would be no need for this scripture. Some people believe they are immune to the devil trying to trick us. We need to learn God's commandments and then resist the temptation to disobey God whether they are our own thoughts or from the devil.

In Ephesians, it says that Yeshua is over all, but that does not mean that we cannot give into temptation and false thinking. It means that because Yeshua is over all, we do not have to give into false ideas or sin. We have the power to keep God's commandments and resist sin. Note that the word church in the following scriptures in Ephesians is the Greek word for an assembly of people. Church is often meant to refer to Christianity, but in reality, it just means an assembly of people. In Acts 19:41, the Greek word that is often translated church refers to a pagan assembly.

Ephesians 1:19-23 NKJV says,

And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Yeshua is the head of the assembly of every believer and no one else. Also, Yeshua is "far above" the devil, and we have power over the devil through Yeshua's name. For example, a friend of mine used Yeshua's name to tell the devil to leave when he was 10 years old, and the devil spirit left. We must also resist temptations to sin.

Ya'akov explains in James that people do not obey God because they make the choice to disobey God's commandments. James 1:14-15 NKJV says, "Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." The death he is talking about is eternal death and separation from God in the lake of fire (see Revelation 21:8 and Daniel 12:2-3). When we sin, we need to repent of our sin, change, and commit ourselves to not do that again. Then our good God will forgive us. Psalms 103:11-12 NKJV says, "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." Not obeying God is like saying we

know better than God and demonstrates that we do not respect God and fear God properly for who He is.

There is a Jewish teaching about the way the devil deceives people. Adam and Eve were perfect beings before they were drawn away by their own desires and failed to keep what God told them to do. We should understand that the serpent was perhaps taken over by a devil spirit. The Bible says there are devil spirits. The Jewish people who lived at the time of Yeshua understood Yeshua was casting out devil spirits and they were amazed. They said in Mark 1:27 NKJV, "For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him."

Devil spirits were at one time good beings but rebelled against God. Isaiah 14:12-13 NKJV says, "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." He wanted to be God and define what he thought to be true and therefore, the devil and the devil spirits that sinned with him disrupt the world and weaken the nations perhaps because they think they can get away with it or like some believe, the devil spirits are angry with God and trying to destroy God's creation and destroy the lives of mankind as an act of defiance. The fact that many modern Jews do not believe in a devil does not go along with what the Bible says.

In Genesis, we should understand that the devil through a serpent influenced Eve and then Adam to destroy their relationship with God. The devil thinks that he is god and says to Eve that she will be god. It is the same lie that the devil believes about himself. Genesis 3:4-5 NKJV says, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God." The devil is still trying to destroy our relationships with God, but we can resist the suggestions that the devil speaks into our minds because we have the power to do so. Some people have given themselves over to spirits and cannot resist the devil spirits as they should. They can be delivered if they resist the devil and since Yeshua is over all, they can resist devil spirits through His name.

The story of Adam and Eve sinning is thought to be a fable, but it is a real account of how Adam and Eve sinned. People just do not understand what the story is meant to convey. The devil works behind the scenes to trick us. How did Eve get so tricked by the devil? First, the devil questions God's command and then the woman changed what God said.

Genesis 3:1-5 NKJV says,

Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God."

God's command was:

Genesis 2:16-17 NKJV says,

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Eve omitted the words "freely eat," and added the words "touch it," and then changed the consequences to a maybe. The devil said there were no consequences for sin. She then considered the sin instead of resisting it. Genesis 3:6 NKJV says, "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate." What happened is just like what it said in James 1:14 NKJV which says, "Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed." We all have the choice in life to either obey God or suffer the consequences for their wrongdoing. Adam and Eve brought death on themselves. Before that since they were perfect beings and would not die, but because they sinned, they would now experience death. "In the day" probably refers to their future death that their sin caused. There are other ideas on this, but that is the simplest answer for what the text says.

The same thing is happening today. People think they can be god of their life instead of following God's good ways for life. The devil can also tempt us and speak to our minds. For example, the devil could say, "Is there a God." Then the devil will say, "No there isn't because I cannot see God." Watch out that you do not succumb to his temptations as Eve did.

God knows what is best for us, so His commandments are intended to help us in life. Deuteronomy 10:13-14 NKJV says, "Keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it." God gave us His commandments for our own good it says! So, God gave us good commandments that will help us in life. They are not a burden as some say. Some commandments are for men, some are for women, some are for farmers, some are for the priests, etcetera. In some countries like those who practice religious Communism, they believe it is okay to murder its people if a person does not go along with their government control. God says that murder is wrong. God's commandments help the individual as well as society.

I should mention there are more commandments than the 10 Commandments. For example, loving God and loving others are two of the other commandments. Some will say that they are a good person, but they base their behavior on what they think being good is and not on what God says. This one person I know thinks they are a kind and caring person but if you say something they do not like, they get mean. She even tried to hurt an old lady that offended her.

There are also commandments on what is best to eat, on making retribution for one's wrong actions, and to compensate others for damages that a person causes. It makes sense. If someone damages something, they should compensate the person for the damage they caused them. There are many more pertinent commandments. The 10 Commandments in themselves are a testimony to the wisdom of God. For example, just the commandments not to murder and not to covet what others have will prevent many wars.

Although there are a few hundred commandments, they are not a burden because they help us through life. We do not have to jump through an endless barrage of nonsensical commands. In order to avoid this pitfall, 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." There are over 400 laws concerning driving a vehicle in the United States. Most people are fine with learning them and keeping them because they want to drive. God's commandments are good and are intended to help mankind. We should want to keep them.

It is good to accept the commandments that God gives us. We not only accept what is best for life, but also keeping God's commandments means we accept our good creator and God. Psalms 86:15 NKJV says, "But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth." God is for us and wants us to follow His commandments, His truths for life.

When people reject who God is and His good ways, they also reject God. God wants to give people eternal life, but those who reject God and His commandments also reject His wonderful and amazing eternal life that he promises to those who listen to Him. Because God's commandments are good, they are truths for life. Psalms 119:151 NKJV says, "You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are truth." Also, Psalms 26:3 NKJV says, "For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth." God's commandments are His lovingkindness towards mankind. Many of us want to have a good life and an abundant life. God's commandments are the truths we need for life.

Joshua 1:7-8 NKJV says,

Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. **For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**

Sometimes it takes courage to be a believer in God and His truths for life. So, be strong. Stay in God's good truths for life and do not allow the ways of this world to form you. And do not allow the devil to defeat you spiritually. We are in a spiritual battle so to speak. That is how Rabbi Shaul frames it.

Ephesians 6:10-12 NKJV says,

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

We can either win or end up losers because we do not fight to do what is right. Lately, we have been sharing this scripture a lot.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV says,

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.

Learn, know, and keep God's commandments. Be temperate, fight spiritually, and be disciplined so you do not disqualify yourself from God's future kingdom. Some say there are no consequences in life and all will be in God's future kingdom. Rabbi Shaul says in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NKJV, "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." This is just a list of some of the more grievous sins. He says, do not be deceived. Here is a different list. Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV says, "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." Those who live in sin will not be in God's future kingdom.

The idea of a true God is not some frill that is added to life like a father figure or imaginary friend. God gives us something that is useful and necessary. God has given us His good truths for life that have spanned the ages of human history and help mankind in life. We will not be ashamed in life for keeping God's commandments. Psalms 119:4-6 NKJV says, "You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed, when I look into all Your commandments." Because God's commandments are good, we will delight by walking in them. Psalms 119:35 NKJV says, "Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it." We need good judgement and knowledge on how to live. God's commandments give us good judgement and knowledge to live by. Psalms 119:66 NKJV says, "Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments."

The God of all eternity knows what is best. Why wouldn't he know what is best? God's name in the Hebrew is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion and is pronounced as Yě-hō-váh. It is pointed that way in over 2,000 manuscripts. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist.

God promises eternal life to those who keep His commandments, and He wants all to come to a full knowledge of His truths and also receive the Messianic gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39 commands us to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit). Deuteronomy 12:28 NKJV says, "Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God." God's commandments are good, and they are good forever. Psalms 111:7-8 NKJV says, "All His precepts are sure. They stand fast forever and ever."

God sends out His abundant blessings and goodness to mankind. It is for us and there if we choose to accept it. We do not automatically receive God's blessings, but we must secure them by following God, keeping His commandments, and also receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit in this Messianic age. We get paid for the work we do and not for the work we do not do. You would probably think that is without doubt an easy to understand concept. Perhaps this does not need to be mentioned, but there are people who believe they are entitled to be in God's kingdom based on mere mental accent. They will say it is, just about faith, or a good God would not reject anyone from heaven, or some other ridiculous nonsense. Like Shaul said in 1 Corinthians 6:9 and Galatians 5:21, "Do not be deceived" and, "Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

**We have a special teaching on the Messianic gift  
of the Holy Spirit following the Torah Study and Commandments section.**

God has always wanted mankind to receive His blessings, but some people will follow their own ways and ideas instead of God. Isaiah 59:2 NKJV says, "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you." Many people do not understand the urgency of keeping God's commandments.

Most people want to do what is right, but they often do not understand the obvious. Namely, that God designed us and knows what is best for mankind and wants what is best for us. It should be easy to understand that doing what is best through God's commandments is the right way to live. Not doing what is right brings evil and pain into the world.

Just like hitting your fingers with a hammer is the wrong way to drive in a nail, not doing what God says to do may incur consequences. I heard a story once about someone who kept getting his hand hit by a hammer while holding something for someone else to hit. Finally, someone told them to make something that went between the hammer and what was being fastened so they did not keep getting hurt. It was an easy fix for unbroken fingers. Perhaps they were driving in stakes, I cannot remember. Following God is a better way to live because God's commandments are intended to help us with life. It keeps us from living a broken life in the here and now, and from breaking off our relationship with God through sin. Sin, not keeping God's commandments separates us from God.

Eventually we must all stand before God for how we lived. God will judge everyone because He is a just God and those who bring evil into the world and do not change and do what is right will face God's wrath.

Hebrews 10:29-31 NKJV says,

Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and

insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

It will be beyond terrible for those who decide to live in sin. I do not think that anyone wants to face those consequences. Some though are callous and just want to do what they want to do. They hold onto their false reasoning and ignore the truth of the matter. For a few moments of doing things their way, they give up the blessings for doing what is right and eternal life in what will be an amazing future kingdom.

We live in a world with walls and barriers to truth. So, we need direction in this world for life. Perhaps we wonder why it is so difficult to find truth. Life seems to be a maze of truths and part truths and in the case of God, outright lies that hide the truth. There is a whole system of lies that contradicts even the existence of God that hides the truth from our eyes. The devil is real and works behind the scenes but actually has no power to deceive us if we do not let him. We can resist the devil and even command him to leave. Stay in God's good truths for life and do not allow the world to form you or the devil to deceive you. God is not some unnecessary frill that is added to life. God has given us His good truths for life that have spanned the ages of human history and help us in life. God sends out His abundant blessings and goodness to mankind. It is there for us if we will choose to accept it.

### **Torah Study.**

We do not always understand why God does what He does. In this portion both rich and poor give the same amount for atonement. It was to be used for the work on the Mishkan, the Tent of Meeting. Perhaps this means that God accepts all believers equally. Everyone could give, so perhaps it was to make sure that everyone knew that the Mishkan was for the benefit of everyone.

Some things that God does are obvious while others are not. That does not mean they do not have a purpose or an effect. There is a tendency for people to value the extraordinary and also people or things that are extraordinary. God can help us so much more than just what natural knowledge or one's ability has to offer. Spiritual wisdom is over and above natural wisdom and is unfathomable in its work and effect.

Ki Tissa means "when you take." This portion begins by God telling Moshe to take up a census of everyone over 20; everyone was to give a half shekel as an atonement which was to be used in the service of the Mishkan. It was intended to be a memorial for the Mishkan. The word atonement here is the Hebrew word which means to cover as in make reconciliation. So, it was a memorial ritual they did for what the Mishkan provided for them; namely, the opportunity to make reconciliation to God. Then it says they were to make a copper laver for the priests to wash their hands and feet at the Mishkan. They would take water from the laver to wash their hands and feet. They were to make a specific anointing oil that was to only be used for the High Priest and later also for the king. They were to make a special incense which was only to be used at the Mishkan. Bezalel and Oholiab were given special spiritual wisdom for the work of



the Mishkan and the others working on the Mishkan would also receive wisdom from God to do the work.

It says in Exodus 20:11 NKJV that they were to keep Shabbat for, "In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it." This is quoting Genesis 2:3 from the time of creation; Shabbat was meant for all believers for all of time.

Shabbat is not just an agreement between Israel and God. Since the creation, mankind knew that God rested on the seventh day (which is our Friday night and Saturday during the day) and they observed Shabbat; for example, Abraham kept God's laws, see Genesis 26:5. Also, the Bible says we are to imitate God. Leviticus 20:26 NKJV says, "And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine." Yeshua said in Matthew 5:48 NKJV, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day and made it holy. We are to keep God's holy days.

The 7th day is not Sunday; the day of rest was changed by a **pagan to honor the s-u-n 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**." I found this at wikipedia.org under, "Sabbath\_in\_Christianity."

Then God gave Moshe the stone tablets made by the "finger of God." The tablets were inscribed by the finger of God in stone both times (see Exodus 31:18 and 34:1); it shows God's immense power as stone is one of the hardest materials to work with. For example, concrete is used in all our buildings and most of our roads because of its rock hardness.

*God can do what no person can do.*

Meanwhile, while Moshe is on the mountain, the people become impatient and make a golden calf to worship. Moshe intercedes for the people and God then decides not to punish Israel. We should remember that God is merciful. We should repent, decide to do things right, and ask God for forgiveness. We commit sin against God by not trusting in Him and by not keeping His commandments. Therefore, we must seek God's forgiveness. We may need to make reparation and seek others forgiveness as well. Not everyone will be amenable to our efforts to make amends, or it may not be possible at times because of circumstances; at that point we can only ask God for forgiveness. God is merciful towards us if we truly repent.

Moshe then comes down the mountain and is angry and throws the tablets down and destroys the golden calf. The Bible suggests Moshe should not have broken the tablets. What he did though shows us his devotion and the zealous feelings that he had for Yĕhōvāh. Moshe had the golden calf ground down into powder and threw it into the water and made the people drink it. Aharon blames Israel for the idolatry. God was displeased with the idolatry of the golden calf and also because Israel did not trust in His power. Most pagan gods were depicted at times as riding on an animal. There was no god riding the calf. It is possible that Aaron has this in mind,

but we do not know for sure. At least some of the Israelites worshipped the calf, and any form of idolatry is wrong.

God is especially displeased with idolatry; He is the one true God, and we should be careful not to give credit to any other god or power. Right after the sin of golden calf, God has Moshe tell them to keep Shabbat. That is the day that God rested after He created everything. Honoring Shabbat says that we believe that God is the creator. The commandment about keeping the 7<sup>th</sup> day is associated with God resting on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. Those that keep the day of rest on the pagan day of the sun god think they are honoring God. Deuteronomy 18:9,12 "You shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. Verse 12 says, "For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD." I am just quoting what the Bible says. Read your Bible.

There is another important issue to consider. Exodus 31:14 NKJV says about Shabbat, "Whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people." This could be the reason that people were to be put to death for not keeping the Sabbath, or since being put to death is already mentioned, this scripture could refer to being "cut off" for eternity. Genesis 35:29 NKJV says, "So Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people." A dead person cannot be gathered to their people if they are dead. So, this must be an idiom for joining those who would live again in God's eternal kingdom. Moshe, Aaron, Jacob, Ishmael, Isaac, and Abraham were gathered to their people when they died. So, they will be in the future eternal kingdom along with all true and faithful believers from all of time.

Those who are "cut off" from their people then would suggest that these people will not have eternal life in God's future kingdom. In the case of the person who works on Shabbat, they will not be in God's future kingdom. While God is an all-knowing and just God, this scripture should be a serious warning to consider. If this is the right way to interpret this scripture, those who are keeping the day of rest on the day of the pagan sun god will not be in God's future kingdom. I am committed to doing all that God commands us to do and this is not an issue for me because I keep God's weekly 7<sup>th</sup> day of rest, but it is an issue for the many people who continue to keep Sunday as a day of rest, the day of the pagan god Mithras. If you are being hard hearted towards which day is God's day of rest which commemorates creation, I hope you will reconsider and be more open to following what God says to do and to His commandments.

Moshe asks for those who are for Yĕhōvāh to support him and the Levites that support him put to death 3,000. At the real Mount Sinai, there is an ancient graveyard. Again, Moshe intercedes for Israel. Some end up dying from a plague as result of the idolatry that was committed. The Lord tells the Israelites to take the land of Canaan and drive out the inhabitants, but the people instead mourn. God is displeased with Israel and tells them to remove their extra adornments (ornaments). Before the Mishkan was built, Moshe would go outside the camp to meet with God in his (former) tent. The cloud would descend at the entrance to the tent when Moshe entered; God would then speak to Moshe. The people would watch Moshe go out to the tent and the cloud would then descend at the entrance. Joshua would also stay at the tent. After the Mishkan was built, the new tent of meeting was located within the camp.

Moshe asks that the Lord go before them, and the Lord says that He will. When Moshe goes up the mountain again, this time with the two tablets that he had made because he broke the first

ones, the Lord passes before Moshe and proclaims His goodness. From Exodus 34:6-7 the Jews have put together the 13 attributes of God's mercy. 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, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." Moshe comes down the mountain and his face is shining from when Yĕhōváh passed before him.

We learn of a good God in this portion, that He is a God of mercy and that His people can count on Him. We should also remember that we can count on Yĕhōváh and our Messiah Yeshua. Messiah refers to the Hebrew word HaMashiach which means the anointed one. Yeshua is our anointed King who died for our sins so we could be forgiven. He rose from the dead and will someday return as our ruler and King. Like Moshe was gone away for a short time, Yeshua has gone away until the restoration of the future kingdom. Will you remain faithful?

*Yeshua the Messiah is our anointed King who will return someday.*

*Jeremiah 23:5-6 NKJV says,*

*Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

Finally, in this portion, God is to be their "banner" in all they do. God promises the land to Israel and He says that He will drive out the inhabitants. Israel was not to make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and Israel was to destroy their idols. They are to observe the three main feasts and not come empty handed to them; the firstborn of everything belongs to the Lord; they were to redeem their firstborn sons. Moshe is again on the mountain for forty days and God inscribes the tablets. When he came down his face shined and it scared the Israelites, so he put a veil over his face. There are two accounts of God writing the 10 commandments with His finger; Moshe went up the mountain several times and not just twice.

The Haftarah for Ki Tissa is 1 Kings 18:1-39. In these verses Elijah challenges 450 prophets of Baal and the first one whose god responds with fire is the true God. The prophets of Baal fail even though they are very zealous for Baal. Elijah taunts the prophets of Baal and when it comes to his turn, God burns up the sacrifice and even the stones and water that surrounded it.

In this Torah portion, we see God demanding the respect He deserves and that He is a merciful and good God. In the Haftarah, God evens burns up the stones at the sacrifice. The stones that burned up perhaps remind us of the commandments that God inscribed in stone with His finger. God has power over the elements. We should know that our God is the true God and there is no other God, but Him. Israel was to be faithful and trust in Him and we should be faithful to Him and trust in Him too.

1 Kings 18:38-39 NKJV says, "Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God!

The LORD, He is God!" They declared that 'Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is Elohim, Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is Elohim.' They used God's true name and said that Yě-hō-váh is the true God. It says in Exodus 3:15 that Yě-hō-váh will be God's name forever. The word LORD or ADONAI in all capital letters (depending on the translation you are using) is Yě-hō-váh in the Hebrew.

**We have a special teaching on the Messianic gift  
of the Holy Spirit following the Torah Study and Commandments section.**

**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.)**

God tells Moshe to take up a census of everyone over 20; everyone was to give a half shekel as an atonement which was to be used in the service of the Mishkan. A half shekel in modern terms is a little less than a half dollar. They were not to give more or less so the rich were to give the same as the poor. Perhaps this was to demonstrate that each person is valuable. It was intended to be a memorial for the Mishkan. The word atonement is the Hebrew word which means to cover as in make reconciliation. So, it was a memorial ritual they would do for what the Mishkan provided for them; namely, the opportunity to make reconciliation. We need reconciliation to God so that we can be in the future eternal kingdom of God. Exodus 30:11-12. Yeshua the Messiah makes restitution for us in this Messianic era, and we are to do a remembrance ceremony whenever we do kiddush (see Luke 22:17-19).

Hebrews 7:24-28 NKJV referring to Yeshua it says,

But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

They were to wash their hands and feet when serving at the Sanctuary. Perhaps the washing of hands can be applied to anyone who handles food because the Cohen and people were to eat from the sacrifices. Exodus 30:19-20.

They were to make a special holy anointing oil for the High priest and the King. Another anointing oil should be used on other occasions and for other things. Exodus 30:25.

The anointing oil for the High Priest is not for anyone else. Exodus 30:32-33.

The incense for the Mishkan is not to be copied and used for anything else. Flowers and sweet fragrances are enjoyable, but we should not incorporate anything pagan like the use pagan incense holders or containers. Pagans use incense in their worship so we should not use incense

at our meetings. Exodus 30:37-38. We are commanded not to do what the pagans do. Leviticus 18:24-25 NKJV says, "Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants." Also in Jeremiah 10:2-4 NKJV it says, "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are futile; for one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple."

They were not to worship another god or make any other god. Exodus 34:14, 17.

They are not to eat anything that was offered to an idol and not eat with idolators. Exodus 34:15-16. In Yeshua's time, they ostracized believing Gentiles who were not idolators which was wrong. Believing Gentiles would not have eaten any meat that was offered to idols. It was an extra misapplied man-made law made up by Torah breakers. 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." This was the issue in Galatians Chapter 2 when Kefa and others got up from eating with Gentile believers when the Torah breakers showed up. They were Torah breakers because they added extra misapplied laws. The Gentiles in Galatians Chapter 2 were believers and not idolators, they would not have eaten meat that was sacrificed to idols and it should have been okay to eat with them.

They were to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread for 7 days, every male that opens the womb of man and animal belong to God, but may be redeemed, the 7<sup>th</sup> day is a day of rest, they are to keep the Feast of Weeks, three times they were to appear before Yēhōvāh. Exodus 34:18-23.

No sacrifices are to contain leaven, they were not to do the fertility god practice of boiling a goat in its mother's milk, and they were to bring their first fruits to the house of God. Exodus 34:25-26. The extra law of not having dairy with meat is a misapplied law. God gave them the law to not boil a goat in its mother's milk to make sure they did not observe the Canaanite fertility ritual. The rabbis say that since God repeated the command there must be a reason, so they made up the law of not having dairy with meat. Repetition is a form of encouragement and not a license to make up doctrine.

## **Special Teaching on the Messianic Gift of the Holy Spirit.**

### **The Messianic Gift of the Holy Spirit Teaching**

God gave believers in the Messiah the Holy Spirit. It is part of the spiritual heritage of those who believe in the Messiah Yeshua. So, seek the Holy Spirit and the associated gifts. The following are some things we need to learn about the Holy Spirit. Also, see our Devine Healing Prayer class that is available online. Learn and grow spiritually both by keeping God's commandments and by using God's gift of the Holy Spirit. This special section on the Holy Spirit is intended to help you with your Messianic spiritual walk.

In Romans, it tells us that we have gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:6-8 CJB says,

We have gifts that differ and which are meant to be used according to the grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, use it to the extent of your trust; if it is serving, use it to serve; if you are a teacher, use your gift in teaching; if you are a counselor, use your gift to comfort and exhort; if you are someone who gives, do it simply and generously; if you are in a position of leadership, lead with diligence and zeal; if you are one who does acts of mercy, do them cheerfully.

The gifts (charisma in the Greek) here are prophecy, serving, teaching, counseling (for comfort or encouragement), financial support, leading, and acts of mercy. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 lists other gifts and so does Ephesians 4:11.

All the gifts are important, but prophecy is especially important according to Shaul. Shaul (Paul) says it is **for edification**. 1 Corinthians 14:1,3 NKJV says, "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. But he who prophesies speaks **edification and exhortation and comfort** to men."

Often people think that the prophetic is all about foretelling, but that is not what the Bible says. It says that it is for edification, exhortation, and comfort.

Edification – is to build up or establish (it gives us confidence and helps us to follow God).

Exhortation – is to urge strongly or to make an appeal (namely, it is encouragement and urging to follow God).

Comfort – gives us strength or consoles us (it gives us hope and peace).

Prophecy may be either forthtelling or foretelling.

**Forthtelling** – speaking forth (in this case it is a speaking forth to edify, exhort, and comfort).

Foretelling – speaking of future events.

The Bible says that prophecy is mostly to edify, to exhort, or to give comfort. Although God may give people warnings at times, that is not the primary purpose of prophecy. **It is the pagan occult that is mostly concerned with fortune telling** or foretelling. God uses the prophetic to build us up, to encourage us, to give us hope and peace. God wants us to be concerned with living the way He wants us to live and to follow His commandments. The prophetic is to help us do that. Occasionally, there may be a reason for someone to foretell. Don't confuse foretelling with the Holy Spirit leading us. God's commandments and the Holy Spirit are supposed to also help us and lead us in life.

### **God's gifts are for everyone.**

Acts 2:38-39 NKJV says, "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name Jesus Christ' [ Yeshua the Messiah] 'for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.'" As many a God will call; that includes us.

Shaul lists a few of the ways the Holy Spirit works in us in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. Remember, Jewish lists are partial lists. That is why Shaul lists other ways the Holy Spirit works; in Romans 12:4-8, Ephesians 4:11, and Galatians 5:22-23 (the fruit of the Holy Spirit are also obvious ways the Holy Spirit works in us).

1 Corinthians 12:5-7 CJB says,

There are different ways of serving, but it is the same Lord being served. And there are different modes of working, but it is the same God working them all in everyone. Moreover, **to each person** is given the particular manifestation of the Spirit that will be for the common good." It says that God is at work through the Holy Spirit and that "each person" can participate. Shaul refers to them as gifts from God in Ephesians 4:8 CJB, "He gave gifts to mankind.

Since these come from God, **they are not natural abilities**. In other words when it talks about wisdom, it is direction given by God. Shaul lists wisdom (wisdom is action), knowledge (information), faith, gifts of healing, miracles (supernatural events), prophecy, discerning spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues. We do them, but it is wisdom, knowledge, healing, tongues ... from God, not from us. 1 Corinthians 12:11 CJB says, "One and the same Spirit is at work in all these things, distributing to **each person** as he chooses."

It says that Holy Spirit is at work and notice again that God gives these gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit to each person. Shaul describes the believers as a body where each of us can take part. It says in Ephesians 4:16 CJB, "The whole body is being fitted and held together by the support of every joint, with each part working to fulfill its function; this is how the body grows and builds itself up in love."

### **The Spiritual Gifts of 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.**

There are more gifts, but we will just talk about the ones in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 for now. Prophecy and interpretation of tongues are mostly for encouragement. "Prophesying is speaking to people, edifying, encouraging and comforting them;" 1 Corinthians 14:3 CJB. Shaul says that the supernatural interpretation of speaking in tongues is, "so that the congregation can be edified;" 1 Corinthians 14:5 CJB. Speaking in tongues and Interpretation is for edifying so the gift of interpretation is much like the edifying, encouragement, and the comforting of Prophecy.

Speaking in tongues is for prayer, praise, and thanksgiving the Bible says. Shaul talking about speaking in tongues in 1 Corinthians 14:15 CJB, "I will pray with my spirit." The context is about speaking in tongues. Although it is prayer, Shaul says that it is not understood and not appropriate when believers come together unless it is interpreted supernaturally for the edification of others. A person can speak in tongues quietly while praying for others.

A good general rule when praying for others is not to do things that are distracting or for show. Speaking in tongues out loud when praying for someone can be distracting because the Bible says that is not usually understood. Shaul says to speak in our own language (in 1 Corinthians 14:16). On the other hand, Shaul says in 1 Corinthians 14:39 CJB, "Do not forbid speaking in tongues."

The Holy Spirit (the Ruach HaKodesh) and God's gifts are good. Who wouldn't want gifts from the God of the universe?

Luke 11:10-13 CJB says:

For everyone who goes on asking receives; and he who goes on seeking finds; and to him who continues knocking, the door will be opened. Is there any father here who, if his son asked him for a fish, would instead of a fish give him a snake? or if he asked for an egg would give him a scorpion? So if you, even though you are bad, know how to give your children gifts that are good, how much more will the Father keep giving the Ruach HaKodesh from heaven to those who keep asking him!

Supernatural knowledge (is information), wisdom (is action), and the discerning of spirits is the impartation of God given information about the presence of devil spirits or what to do if they are present. The discerning of spirits can tell us whether the Holy Spirit is present, or a devil spirit is present. It also can test the source of the information. Did it come from the Holy Spirit or just godly thinking? Is a devil spirit present or is someone having sinful thoughts? These three gifts of the Holy Spirit are sometimes called revelation gifts.

The Bible says we are in control of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 14:32). The Holy Spirit does not possess us. The Tamidim (the apostles, the sent ones) spoke in tongues; God gave the words, and they did the speaking it says. Acts 2:4 NKJV says, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." God gave them the next word as they spoke, and they did the speaking. We could say that it is inspirational. It is not made up or by possession. When a person speaks in tongues they can start and stop as they like.

We are giving praise and thanksgiving to God (see 1 Corinthians 14:17) and it can be perfect prayer because it comes from God (see 1 Corinthians 14:15). It can edify us, help us spiritually (see 1 Corinthians 14:4), and Isaiah prophecies that God can give us rest through speaking in tongues (see Isaiah 28:11 and 1 Corinthians 14:21). There are other things that speaking in tongues can do for us. It is a good gift and the Holy Spirit, and its associated gifts are good.

There are false prophets the Bible says. Are they leading people to live good and holy lives? Are they encouraging us to follow God? Are they fortune tellers? The Bible says fortune tellers and those who obtain information from various arts like palm reading, clairvoyance, clairaudience, auras, or possession is not from God.<sup>1</sup> We are to test the prophetic words we hear. 1 Thessalonians 5:21 CJB says, "But do test everything - hold onto what is good."

Also, inspiration is a form of supernatural knowledge or wisdom from God and is a moment-by-moment impartation of these spiritual gifts. Revelation can even include a personal encounter with Yeshua as was the case for Shaul on the way to Damascus (Galatians 1). Faith is the impartation of God given faith, miracles are extraordinary works of God, and gifts of healing are imparted healings by God. Notice that healings are gifts and so it is up to God whether or not He will heal.

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<sup>1</sup> These counterfeit manifestations do not lead people to God but distract us and sometimes put wrong thoughts in our minds. There are resources available on spiritual warfare and counterfeit manifestations.



### **How the Holy Spirit may work.**

The prophets in the Old Testament heard from God; see Exodus 12:6; Genesis 15:1

There were even schools of prophets.

The Jewish writing say that Shem had a school of prophets. Shem was also known as Melchizedek, the king of Salem, which is our modern-day Jerusalem.

There is a school of prophets mentioned in 2 Kings 4:38-40. Also, it says in 2 Kings 4:38-40 that when the prophets tasted the soup God told them it was not good to eat. God can use our inner senses to speak to us, in this case taste. The associated gifts of the Holy Spirit are in the Old Testament portion. So, we know how they operate because we have scriptures that talk about them being used.

Only Speaking in tongues is new for the believers of the Messiah Yeshua. Shaul says that Isaiah talks about Speaking in tongues in 1 Corinthians 14:21. Isaiah 28:11 is about the Messianic gift of Speaking in tongues.

Paul tells us that we are threefold people yet one; 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

In the Hebrew, soul refers to life, what makes us alive. Referring to soul as some unembodied essence is a pagan concept. When Yeshua tells the story about the man gaining the world, but losing his soul, Yeshua is talking about the man's life. If you have lots of stuff, but die, it doesn't do you any good. There is a double meaning to this though. If you focus on worldly things and neglect spiritual things, you may be in for a rude awakening when God judges the world.

Shaul talks about the inner man. This unseen part of us is our spirit and it is what makes us who we are. This is probably where the Holy Spirit works, in the spirit of man. The spirit of man is simply what makes a person a person. It's our inside person; Ephesians 3:16 NKJV says, "That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man." It is the Holy Spirit that works in our spirit, our inner man.

We see examples of this in the Bible by God revealing things to people through visions and our other senses; we could say that it is through the "inner person." These visions are in our mind, or we hear God speak in our mind etcetera.

### **We know from the scriptures that we receive words from God (revelation) through:**

Seeing or visions – see Genesis 15:1; there are lots of examples of visions in the Bible.

Hearing – see 1 Samuel 3:10; there are lots of examples of hearing from God in Bible.

Smelling – see In Matt. 10:1, the reference to unclean spirits (namely, devil spirits) probably has to do with a bad smell.

Tasting – In Mark 16:17-18 it talks about food not poisoning us. Before we eat or drink something bad, God can tell us if it is bad. Also see 2 Kings 4:40.

Touch – Sometimes we can feel the pain of the other person.

Feeling – God can tell us how another person is feeling emotionally; do not confuse this with empathy. Do not manufacture empathy either and think it is a word from God. **We don't know what other people are thinking.**

Knowing – God often gives us a knowing so that we understand a vision or word; often God will give us the same visions at different times, and that builds our spiritual (prophetic) vocabulary. For example, perhaps we see a vision of a flower and we associate the vision with glorifying God. If we don't understand what God is telling us, ask God for more revelation to help you understand.

Understanding – God can help us understand situations; He will tell us what to do and even give us understanding in the moment; see Luke 12:11-12.

Physical phenomena – may accompany words. For example, the handwriting on the wall in Daniel.

Inspiration – is God telling us something in the moment and we speak it or do it without thought. (for example, when Kefa (Peter) lifted up lame man up by the hand by inspiration. Miryam (Mary) and Elizabeth both had inspirational prophecy when they met each other. Prayer can be inspirational words from God sometimes and some people pray this way.

\*This knowledge and wisdom that we receive from God we call words from God or revelation because **they are God given information.**

**\*They are not gut feelings or personal insight.**

\*We do not give people good advice and say it was from God – that is **wrong.**

\*We are to test what is said. People can make mistakes about what God is telling them.

1 Thessalonians 5:20-21 NKJV says, "Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good."

\*Often God first expects us to use our heads first (think), gather information, and make good decisions. Also, I often ask God about anything major before I proceed. He may give you some information or He may not. We may ask, but it is always up to God if He will tell us anything. For example, I used to ask God what I should do about someone, and He kept giving me the same answer from Leviticus, the word "love." Leviticus 19:18-19 NKJV says, "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. You shall keep My statutes."

**Some gifts are occasional.** We can all operate in any of the gifts/manifestations at various times.

**Some are constitutional.** We may have a specific gift that is with us all the time.

**Yeshua had all the gifts in operation any time God led Him to use them.**

Revelation (knowledge etcetera) often takes place internally when we are awake.

In Acts 10:10-20, Kefa (Peter) became hungry (taste). I think God was telling Him that God wanted the Gentiles to receive the Messiah. There were people back then who were making up added laws that kept the Gentiles outside the circle of believers. The Torah teaches us not to make inappropriate relations with idolators. In the case of Acts 10, the Gentiles that came to Kefa were God fearers and were not idolators, but followers of the true God. They were not unclean. God told Kefa to not call unclean what God has called clean. God was using Kefa to correct the problem of the inappropriate added law.<sup>2</sup> He

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<sup>2</sup> In Exodus 34 it is warning Israel not to form close relationships with idolators. The Gentiles in Acts 10 were not idolators and God wanted Gentiles to also believe in the Messiah. That was the issue. Exodus 34:16 CJB says, "Do not make a covenant with

had a vision, and he heard God talk to him. God was not telling Kefa (Peter) that it is okay to eat just anything. God will not tell us to disobey His good commandments.

The revelation gifts can also take place in dreams.

Joseph, the wife of Mary had dreams (see Matthew 1:20) and the Magi had dreams (Matt. 2:12). Acts 2:17 NKJV says, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see **visions**, your old men shall dream **dreams**." We should also test the dreams (see 1 Thessalonians 5:21); are they from God, from our own minds, are we under spiritual attack, or do we have an overactive stomach?

The revelation gifts occur in the inner man, but occasionally may occur physically in an outward vision or voice.

The heavens were opened to Yeshua. Matthew 3:16-17.

Philip saw Yeshua standing at the right hand of God. Acts 7:56.

The people around Yeshua also heard an audible voice. John 12:28.

Elisha prayed for the young man's eyes to be opened and he saw the mountain full of horses and chariots. 2 Kings 6:17.

The writing on the wall in Daniel remained there because the king asked people to interpret what was written. Daniel 5:5.

It says the ten commandments were written by the hand of God. Deuteronomy 33:2.

God leads us and He will use us if we are willing to take the risk. **The gifts are not automatic. We must pursue them.** Sometimes God will have something for us and at other times not. You won't receive anything if you don't ask for or pursue the spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 14:1 CJB says, "Pursue love! However, **keep on eagerly seeking the things of the Spirit; and especially seek to be able to prophesy.**"

Also, what we receive from God will not contradict the Bible. That is also important to understand. Are you hearing from God, are they your own thoughts, or is the devil tempting you?

What we receive for others should be **given in a caring and considerate way**. Help others to save face so they don't fall into condemnation. Galatians 6:1 CJB "Brothers, suppose someone is caught doing something wrong. You who have the Spirit should set him right, but in a spirit of humility, keeping an eye on yourselves so that you won't be tempted too."

Sometimes even the mention of a fault will help a person to self-correct. For example, "Are you having trouble with feeling down at times?" They many say no, but they may realize that they need to start resisting the devil and not keep going over and over those thoughts that are troubling them. **Don't be harsh or accusative.** "

When we pray for someone, we should first ask them what they want prayer for and then pray for that. We can also ask God what to pray for. God can use us to bring about life changing moments and much needed encouragement.

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the people living in the land. It will cause you to go astray after their gods and sacrifice to their gods." Instead, some were inappropriately saying they were not to associate with Gentiles at all.

God can use us to heal others by the power of God. God can do miracles through us, God can give us a gift of faith, and just like in the Old Testament portion He can give us gifts in particular skills or even artistry. God is not limited to the gifts we see in the Bible; after all he is God. Jewish lists were not intended to be complete lists. Shaul (Paul) gives several lists of gifts and that is the reason they are not all the same.

We may give words of revelation (knowledge, wisdom, or discerning of spirits), prophecy, speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues, or a word of inspiration in a meeting. The early believers did this. 1 Corinthians 14:26 CJB says, "Whenever you come together, let everyone be ready with a psalm or a teaching or a revelation, or ready to use his gift of tongues or give an interpretation; but let everything be for edification." The Bible says to let all things be done with order (see 1 Corinthians 14:40) and when giving words just a few people should give this God given information (see 1 Corinthians 14:27-29).

Again, Speaking in Tongues is mostly for prayer, but when we come together, it should be interpreted supernaturally. Shaul says in 1 Corinthians 14:39 CJB, "Do not forbid speaking in tongues." Those who receive the Holy Spirit should seek gifts of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 14:1).

1 Thessalonians 5:21 CJB says, "Test everything - hold onto what is good." Again, what God gives us is good. The Ruach HaKodesh means the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:11-13 CJB says, "Is there any father here who, if his son asked him for a fish, would instead of a fish give him a snake? or if he asked for an egg would give him a scorpion? So if you, even though you are bad, know how to give your children gifts that are good, how much more will the Father keep giving the Ruach HaKodesh from heaven to those who keep asking him!"

### **The Aaronic Blessing**

#### **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 name and use His true name with respect at times. The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. Over 2,000 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. It is a commandment to put God's name on His people and by not using God's name, some are not keeping this commandment. What an honor it is to be a people of the creator and true God.

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

יְבָרֶכֶּךָ יְהוָה, וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ  
 יְאָר 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.

Thank you for being with us today.