



## **#20 Tetzaveh Exodus 27:20-30:10**

### **Torah Teaching and Teaching, Be an Encourager By Moshe Schwab**

#### **Names**

Kefa – Peter  
 Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ  
     in the Greek means to be smudged  
 Mishkan – Tent of Meeting in the desert  
 Moshe – Moses  
 Shaul – Paul  
 Yeshua – Jesus' real name  
 Yĕhōvāh – God's real name forever (Ex. 3:15)  
 Yochanan – John

#### **Terms**

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

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

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

Tetzaveh means, "you shall command." The portion begins by saying that they were to make pure olive oil for the menorah and to keep it burning continually in the tent of meeting. In order to do this, they would use only the first few drops from the olive. It would be clear and pure. It is a spiritual picture that we are to be pure lights to others. Yeshua said in Matthew 5:16 NKJV, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works** and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16 NKJV. The rituals that Israel did often taught principles they were to follow. When Yeshua says good works, He means doing what is "right and good." Deuteronomy 6:17-18 NKJV says, "**You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God**, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And **you shall do what is right and good** in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you."

Also, today we are celebrating Purim which reminds us we are in a spiritual battle. Purim was a time of supernatural deliverance for God's people. It is interesting to note that Israel received

supernatural deliverance from God, and the Holy Spirit through the Messiah gives us supernatural deliverance. The Holy Spirit is our helper Yeshua said. Purim according to the sighting of the first sliver of the moon begins tonight. We have fun dressing up in costumes on Purim. It was because Esther took a stand for God's people that they were delivered. She was a secret Jew, so we wear costumes on this day for fun.

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

*We are to be humble servants of God.*

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

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

Isaiah 53:5-6 NKJV says:

But He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities;  
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,  
And by His stripes we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
We have turned, every one, to his own way;  
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

God chose the line of Aharon to be priests. This points us to accepting who God chose as the Messiah, namely Yeshua. Just as Aharon was picked to be the father of all priests, Yeshua is God's chosen Messiah and our priest who has atoned for our sins. One of the major duties of the high priest was to offer a sacrifice for sin on Yom Kippur. Yeshua came as God and offered Himself for our sins. The specific priestly apparel is a shadow picture of the glorious (Exodus 28:2) position of Yeshua who came as our glorious High Priest and Messiah.

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

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

*God's throne will be with Israel forever.*

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

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

Both all the people of Israel (Exodus 19:6) and all believers in Messiah (1 Peter 2:9) are to be priests and serve each other. Exodus 19:6 NKJV says, "And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." 1 Peter 2:9 NKJV says, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people."

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

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

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

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

How can we help others to be strong?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

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

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

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

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

There are many ways the Holy Spirit works

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

Romans 12:1-9 NKJV:

- 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
- 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- 3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.
- 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,
- 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
- 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;
- 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;
- 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.
- 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
- 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
- 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;
- 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

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

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

### **The Aaronic Blessing**

ADONAI or LORD in all caps in our Bibles is the name for God which is pronounced Yě-hō-váh. Yě-hō-váh is used over 6,000 times in the Old Testament portion. Since God's name is used that many times, it is evident that we should be using His real name.

According to Exodus 3:15, Yě-hō-váh is God's true name forever. Of course, we should use His name with respect. Yě-hō-váh is an acronym formed from the Hebrew verb hayah. Yě-hō-váh means, He existed, He exists, and He will exist. I want to honor God's name.

The ancient rabbis say that Yě-hō-váh (יהוה) is God's name. Over 2,363 manuscripts of the Bible point God's name as Yě-hō-váh, once as Yě-hō-věh, never as Yahweh. The church Fathers said God's name is Yě-hō-váh. Yeshua said in Matthew 23:39 NKJV, "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'" Yeshua is quoting Psalm 118:26; the word "LORD" in that verse in Psalms is Yě-hō-váh (יהוה).

Numbers 6:27 says we are to put God's name on His people.

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

יְבָרֶכֶךָ יְהוָה, וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ  
 יְאָר יְהוָה פְּנֵי אֵלֶיךָ, וַיַּחַנְךָ  
 יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פְּנֵי 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.