

#47 Re'eh Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

By Moshe Schwab

While Praying:

- * Allow God to inspire you and trust in His leading.
- * God is over all and brings His light to the world. Be part of what God is doing.
- * Be connected to God; we can't do it all, but we can do something. (Moshe and Israel)
- * Let God help you. Stay pure and clean; examine yourself spiritually.

Re'eh means, "behold" or "see." Moshe (Moses) begins by telling Israel that if they obey God's commands they will be blessed and if they don't, they will be cursed. They were to destroy all the idols and places of idolatry after they enter the land of Canaan. They were to go to the place that God would put His name and rejoice in His presence with their offerings. They were not to do what is right in their own opinion (this should include the misapplied opinions of the rabbis). They could eat meat, but not the blood. They were not to inquire about how the pagans worshipped; the pagans even sacrificed their children.

This should teach us that we should not look into pagan religions like Buddhism, Islam (which is a false religion that teaches murder and the Koran instead of the Bible), Hinduism, Catholicism (which teaches idolatry), Kabbalah Judaism (which teaches spiritualism; the Bible says we are not to do that), and others that teach false doctrine (for example, those that don't believe Yeshua (Jesus) is the Messiah and God, and those who don't believe in keeping God's commandments).

They were not to listen to anyone who told them to worship another God even if they were their family or produced signs. The ancient rabbis didn't do well in applying this. Instead of listening to God, they made it so that only what the rabbis said was to be followed and kept. They made up whatever they wanted to. The Bible says not to change or misapply His commandments, "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;" Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV.

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

They were not to gash themselves or shave their hair over their foreheads (Things associated with idolatry and false religions they were not to do.). They could eat an animal that has both a divided hoof and also chews the cud. They could eat fish that have fins and scales. They were not to eat certain types of birds or anything that swarms or anything that is dead. They could exchange their goods to bring money to buy offerings. Every third year they were to provide support for the Levites, widows, and orphans. Every seven years they were to have a shemittah year and debts were forgiven and slaves were set free.

If a slave wished to remain a slave then they could drive an awl through their ear and be a slave forever. Shaul talks about being a slave for God. He chose to be a slave for God; we are also to be slaves for God. Just as Israel was freed so they could serve God, we are freed from sin by the Messiah so that we should serve God. They were to help the needy and not withhold their help. There will always be poor people. Nothing defective is to be offered to the Lord. Instructions are given about observing Pesach. They were to observe Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot and appear before God on these three feasts. We too should get together on these feasts.

In this portion Moshe tells them not to commit idolatry, not to retain any of the idolatrous items or places, and not to learn what the idol worshippers do. This teaches us that we must be careful not to engage or associate with anything that has to do with a false religion or idol worship. Also, they were given food laws. Why don't people want to listen to God's advice? There are perhaps hundreds of ideas on how we should eat. What about what God tells us/?

Yeshua said to love one another; the world would be a better place if we all did that. We learned in Deuteronomy 6:24 that the commands God gave them were for their own good. It sounds like God is giving them good fatherly advice. He is the good Father; so trust in Him. Deuteronomy 32:6 NKJV says, "Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?" Doing things God's way has been a blessing for me; give God the chance to bless you.

They were to appear before the Lord for the three feasts. The feasts not only have something to do with Israel, but are relevant for those who believe in Yeshua. The Bible even says they will be celebrated in the eternal future kingdom of God. Isaiah 66:22-23 CJB says, "For just as the new heavens and the new earth that I am making will continue in my presence, 'says ADONAI,' so will your descendants and your name continue. Every month on Rosh-Hodesh and every week on Shabbat, everyone living will come to worship in my presence, 'says ADONAI.'"

One of things that we have through believing in Yeshua is the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit we can allow God to inspire us and we can learn to trust in His leading. God can lead us in almost anything in life from the important things to the little things. God even gets me up in the morning sometimes or wakes me up in the middle of the night to pray. Most of the time it is up to us to use good sense, but God can also help us.

One time, God inspired me in the moment to avoid a hole in the road. God opened my eyes sort of like the word for our Torah portion, "Re'eh," which means see. All of a sudden, I saw a huge construction hole in the road and that perhaps saved the lives of the 5 people in my car. We were in the country and the hole was poorly marked.

That was a big deal; and the Holy Spirit has saved my life many times. A couple of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are a word of knowledge and a word of wisdom. God can inform and lead us supernaturally. Start being led by God. Read my teachings on prayer (<https://www.teshuvahsa.org/prayer-class>) and our beliefs about the Holy Spirit under our beliefs online (<https://www.teshuvahsa.org/our-beliefs>). These are great teachings about prayer and our beliefs that can help you. Look up the scriptures and read them. Shaul (Paul) said, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth;" 2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV. We need the encouragement (Hebrews 3:13) and our teachings online are intended to inform us and help us.

Because we know how to live through keeping God's commandments and because we are helped by the Holy Spirit, we can bring so much light into the world. There are whole countries that are dedicated to hate because of their false religion. What a difference believing in the Messiah can make. He truly wants to bring peace and save the world from hate and sin, and teach people to love one another. We need to teach people about Yeshua and the true God. God is over all and brings His light to the world. Be part of what God is doing.

Shaul (Paul) tells us to be lights, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is

acceptable to the Lord;" Ephesians 5:8-10 NKJV. What is acceptable to God and Yeshua? Yeshua said to keep God's commandments. "Don't think that I have come to abolish the Torah or the Prophets;" Matthew 5:17 CJB. Because Yeshua is God, Yeshua gave us the commandments of the Tanakh/Old Testament portion (the Messiah is God; Jeremiah 23:5-6). Yeshua said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments;" John 14:15 NKJV. Yeshua was merely referring to what it says in the Torah, "Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always;" Deuteronomy 11:1 NKJV.

Keep God's commandments and then be connected to God; we can't do everything we want to do, but we can do something. One of the first things I think about is how God had Moshe set up a system of leadership and judges. His father-in-law Jethro told him he needed to change how he was doing things. Jethro was a new believer and God was able to speak through him to help Moshe! Always be humble like Moshe.

Some of us are already very busy, so don't think that you need to spread yourself too thin. Perhaps we can find a way to serve God in what we are already doing. Perhaps we could make it a goal to talk to one of our coworkers once a week. Perhaps we could make it a goal to talk to one new neighbor every week. The possibilities are endless and they don't have to be a giant time-consuming project.

I knew of one lady who made it a point to tell someone at the store where she went to church. She kept track of the people who came and over a period of time, over 100 people she had invited came to her church. Isn't that amazing! When asked how she did it, she just said that she would say something like, "I go to a good church, maybe you could visit some time. I'm usually in the foyer, so come up and say hi if you come." And she hands them a card with information about her church. Have a 20 second spiel (talk) ready. Say something like, "We have good teachings that are encouraging; I've grown spiritually and have been encouraged.

Being connected to God is important. Could you imagine God leading Israel out of Egypt and then leaving them to themselves? God helped Israel and He wants to help us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is good so start using the gift God has given you. "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:11-13 NKJV.

They used to bake bread between stones, so the bread could look like a stone. Some fish look like serpents, and you wouldn't give you child a scorpion egg. God is not going to play around with you. What He gave us is good. Like I said, God has even saved my life at times. That's a big deal. God wants to help us and to help others. There are a few things I have done to help others. We all can pitch in and do our part.

When I first became a believer, I did my part by sweeping the floor and setting up chairs. I did whatever I could do. At times I've helped feed the poor and I've helped with construction on several church buildings. I've gone around neighborhoods and offered to help people, pray for people, and help people know more about God; and, I've helped children in need. I do what I can; remember, we can't do everything though. We need each other and we need to be connected to God and allow the Holy Spirit to lead us and use us in different ways.

So, let God help you to help others. One time I volunteered to travel with someone who went around my area of the country to teach about God. He always included prayer afterward and I prayed for people and people got healed. I was amazed at how God could use me. It was because I decided to do something. One time I blew up balloons, set up chairs, and washed chairs for a party someone was having in the jungle. I thought to myself, 'What could possibly come of this?' The next year I went back to the jungle and they were building a church for 200 people to meet because of that party! God gave me the desire to go pray and to go serve, and God was there with me as I served. "He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength;" Isaiah 40:29 NKJV. Start taking some risks and let God help you. He's helped me.

In all you do, stay pure and clean; examine yourself spiritually. "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves;" 1 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV. "Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the Lord; let us lift our hearts and hands to God in heaven;" Lamentations 3:40-41 NKJV. Stay faithful and then in all you do, inspect your own efforts and labors so that you can be satisfied in what you have accomplished and not in what others do (ref. Galatians 6:4). You can do it and God will help you. "And Asa cried out to the Lord his God, and said, " Lord, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O Lord our God, for we rest on You;" 2 Chronicles 14:11 NKJV.

Some people say there is no such thing as spiritual blessings or curses. We saw how God worked powerfully for Israel to free them from Egypt. It is a prime example of Egypt being cursed for standing up against God. When people **don't** do things God's way, they bring curses on themselves. It is their choice. We are to follow God and no false God or false religion. The Holy Spirit is good and will help us in all of life, sometimes in very extraordinary ways. Allow God to inspire you and lead you. God is light and wants to bring blessings and goodness into the world.

Make sure you personally take part in those blessings and then help others to be blessed. Take part in what God is doing. We are to be lights to this world by how we live and also, we are lights because we can be connected to God through the Holy Spirit. God freed Israel from Egypt so they could serve God, and God wants to set people free from sin through the Messiah Yeshua so they can serve him. Serve God and stay pure and clean spiritually. See, "Re'eh," what God has set before us. We trust in a good and great YeHoVah our God.