



חול המועד פסח



Chol HaMoed Pesach

Exodus 33:12-34:26

This week's Parasha is a special reading that is studied during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It is studied each year during the two seven day festivals of God: the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Tabernacles. Both of these feasts are connected to God's grace and His Kingdom where He will dwell in the midst of His people.

The events in this Parasha occur after God redeemed the people out of bondage in Egypt and after the people acted selfishly - committing the great sin of idolatry by worshipping a god made of gold at Mount Sinai. Because of their idolatry, Moshe (Moses) broke the two tablets of stone God had carved and written on with His finger.

God was very angry with the people for practicing idolatry and called them a stiff-necked people. He told Moshe He would not go up with them lest He consume them along the way. Only for His Name's sake to honor the covenantal promises He had made to Avraham (Abraham), Yitz'chak (Isaac) and Ya'kov (Jacob) would He send His angel before them to drive out six nations that lived in the land. Remember, the number six means grace in the Bible.

God had cut a covenant for Avraham and placed in it these promises: He would make Avraham to be a great nation, He would give the land of promise to Avraham's descendants and from this location only - through the seed of Avraham - the entire world would be blessed. God always keeps His promises. He maintains them and accomplishes them because they are His perfect will.

The people humbled themselves before God and stripped themselves of their ornaments as God commanded. Moshe set his tent far outside the camp. Moshe's tent was called the Tabernacle of Meeting because whenever he entered it God would meet with him at the door in a pillar of cloud. When Moshe walked toward his tent, the people would rise to see the pillar of cloud descend from heaven, and each man would draw near to God by standing to worship Him at the door of their tents.

From Moshe's tent door he spoke to God face-to-face. Moshe always prepared to meet with God by obeying His instructions. Because Moshe approached God in the way He provided, God extended His grace to Moshe and knew him by his name. Moshe begged God to have mercy on and extend His grace to the people He had redeemed. God listened to Moshe's plea and revealed truth to him about His character and His Name.

Pray First

Father God,

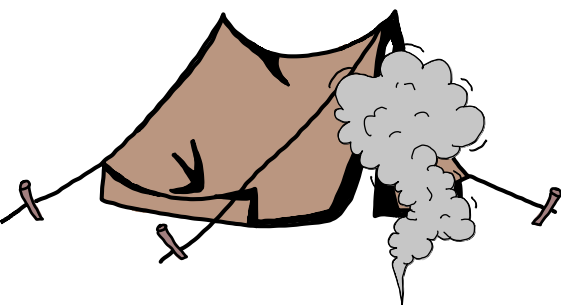
We thank You for cutting a covenant for us. We praise You because You keep the promises and blessings You have placed inside Your covenants.

Please teach us to reflect more of Your character by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Please help us to submit to Your authority in all things. Help us live in the way that will honor Your Name by keeping Your commandments.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen.

Read Next

Exodus 33:12-34:26



THE TRUTH

Exodus 33:12-34:26

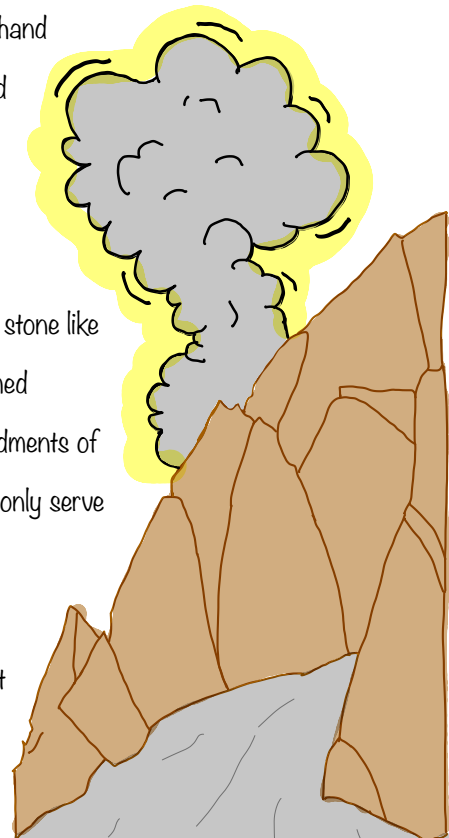
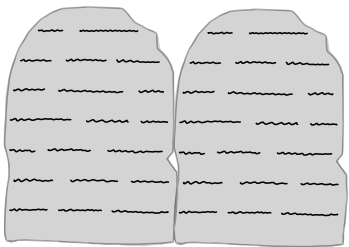
In Exodus 33:12-15 Moshe spoke to the LORD, asking Him to reveal Who He would send with him to deliver the people into the Promised Land. Moshe pleaded with God, asking Him to continue to extend His grace because He knew him by name. Moshe asked God to show him His Way so that he might know Him, continue to find grace in His sight and consider the people to be His people. Moshe knew that he did not have the power to accomplish the commandments of God unless the presence of the LORD was with him.

In Exodus 33:16-17 Moshe spoke to the LORD, asking Him to separate himself and the people from all others. Moshe asked Him to make this distinction between the nation of the redeemed and the rest of the people on the face of the earth by being in their presence. If the LORD went up with them, then the entire world would know that they had found grace in the sight of the Almighty God. The LORD responded that He would grant this request because Moshe had found grace in His sight, and He knew him by his name. It is only when we follow God's Way for redemption that we find grace in His sight and are known to Him by our names.

In Exodus 33:18-23 Moshe asked the LORD to show him His glory. The LORD told Moshe that He would allow all His goodness to pass before him. He would proclaim His name before him, and He would be gracious to and have compassion on whom He would have compassion. He told Moshe he could not see His face because no man can see the face of God and live. The LORD told Moshe He would protect him by placing him on the rock, by hiding him in the cleft of the rock and by covering him with His hand while all His glory passed before him. Once the glory of God passed by He would take away His hand, and Moshe would see the back of God Almighty but not His face. God was revealing to Moshe that He will extend grace and have compassion on whoever follows His Way to come into His presence. The glory of God will not be represented by an image but by the character of God that is demonstrated in His Name.

In Exodus 34:1-4 God commanded Moshe to carve two tablets of stone like the first ones God had cut. Moshe broke the first tablets when the redeemed people abandoned their trust in God by worshipping an idol. The commandments of God are for the benefit of those who worship Him alone. Otherwise, they only serve the purpose of defining good and evil in the sight of God.

God instructed Moshe to be ready in the morning to go up Mount Sinai and present himself there to the LORD on top of the mountain. Moshe obeyed all the instructions God gave him by rising early the next morning, ascending the mountain and carrying the tablets of stone. To worship God we must obey His instructions.



In Exodus 34:5-9 the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with Moshe on the rock. The glory of the LORD passed before Moshe on the mountain. The glory of the LORD is described by His character that is represented by His Name. Count the attributes describing God's glory in these verses. Did you count thirteen? Thirteen is a unique number in the Scriptures and represents the people of God (12) plus the number for God (1). Let's list the thirteen attributes of God's glory described by His Name.

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) The LORD | 4) Merciful | 7) Abundant in Kindness | 10) Forgiving Iniquity |
| 2) The LORD | 5) Gracious | 8) Abundant in Truth | 11) Forgiving Transgression |
| 3) God | 6) Slow to Anger | 9) Keeping mercy to Thousands | 12) Forgiving Sin |
| | | | 13) Cleansing |



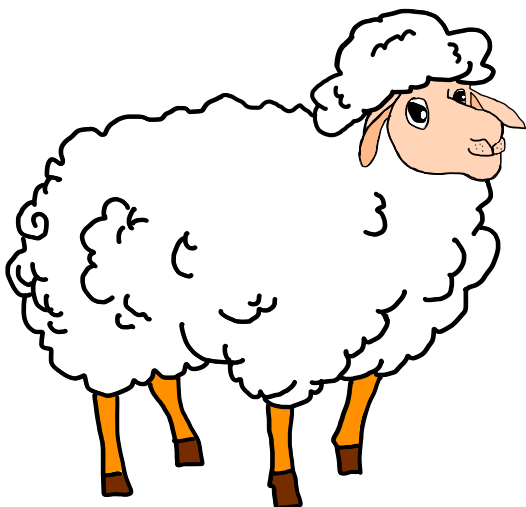
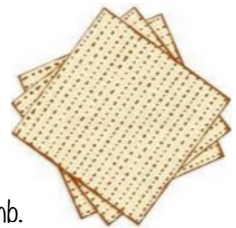
Once Moshe saw the goodness of God pass before him, he asked God to go with the redeemed people even though they were a stiff-necked people. He asked God to pardon their iniquity and sin. He asked God to take them as His inheritance.

In Exodus 34:10 God cut a new covenant. This covenant contains new promises from God. God promises to do marvels before the people of this nation that have never been done before in all the earth or in any nation. God promises that He is doing an awesome thing that only He can do through this nation.

In Exodus 34:11-17 God told Moshe to follow the instructions He is commanding him this day. God informed Moshe that he is driving out six nations from the land of promise before him. These six nations had refused to submit to the authority of God.

God also gave Moshe commandments to insure proper worship. These commandments included destroying the altars, sacred pillars and wooden images used to worship false gods in the land of promise. God is a jealous God and demands to be worshipped according to His instructions and not by an image. God commanded Moshe and the people not to enter into a covenant with idol worshippers to include marriage. Allowing idol worship to remain or making a covenant with one who worships idols defiles those redeemed by God, making them unable to be blessed by Him.

In Exodus 34:18-20 God commanded Moshe and the people to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread by eating only unleavened bread for seven days. This feast was to be kept at the time it originally occurred, beginning on the fifteenth day of the first month - Aviv. This is the day the people left Egypt, having been redeemed from death by the blood of the Passover lamb.



All year long to commemorate the people's redemption by God in worship of Him every firstborn male of their livestock, whether ox or sheep, was to be offered as a sacrifice to God on the altar of burnt offerings. The firstborn male donkey was to be redeemed with a lamb. If the donkey was not redeemed, his neck was to be broken. A donkey was an animal used for work and travel. They were to gain no benefit from their work or movement that had not first been committed to the LORD. Likewise, every firstborn son had to be redeemed as he was committed to inherit and continue in the promises of God. No one was to appear before God to worship Him empty-handed or without an offering.

In Exodus 34:21 God commanded the weekly Sabbath to be kept. Six days work is done, but on the seventh day each week no work is to be done no matter what work needs to be done. This act of worship demonstrated trust and resting in God to accomplish and provide for all the redeemed people's needs.

In Exodus 34:22-24 God commanded the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of

Ingathering at the year's end be kept. Three times a year for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year all men were to appear before the LORD, the LORD God

of Yisra'el (Israel). The LORD said that He would cast out six nations

before the redeemed people and expand their territory. He would also

protect and defend the land for them even when they were away

from their homes worshipping Him during these times of the year.

In Exodus 34:25-26 God gave commandments for the proper way to worship Him. He commanded no leaven be

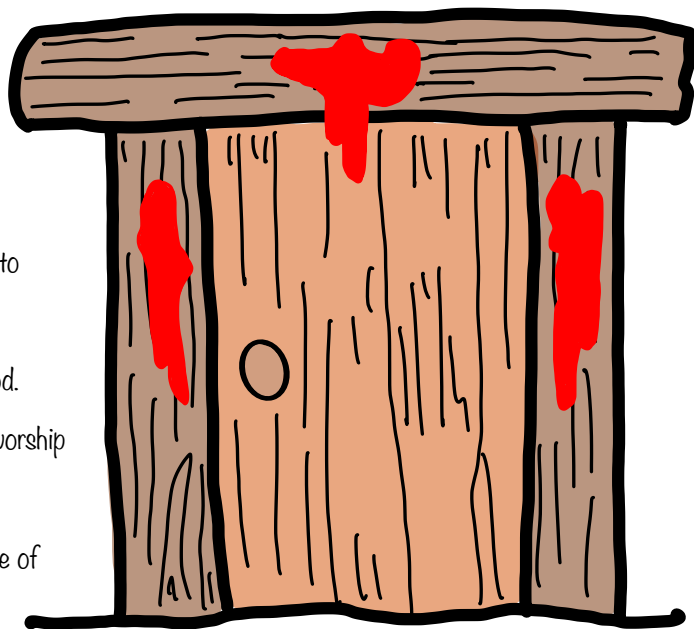
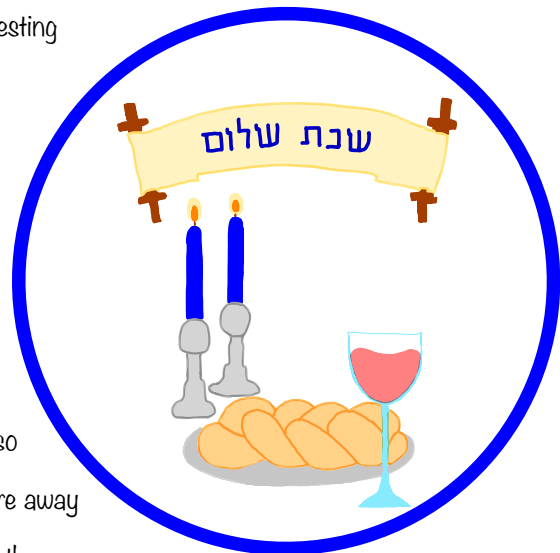
offered with the blood of a sacrifice to Him. Remember, leaven represents sin, and the blood of the sacrifice redeemed the

firstborn from the penalty of sin - death. God also commanded that none of the lamb sacrificed for the Feast of

Passover be left until the morning. This serves to remind us that the Passover lamb had only one purpose, and that was to redeem the life of another. It was not to be kept or used for any other reason.

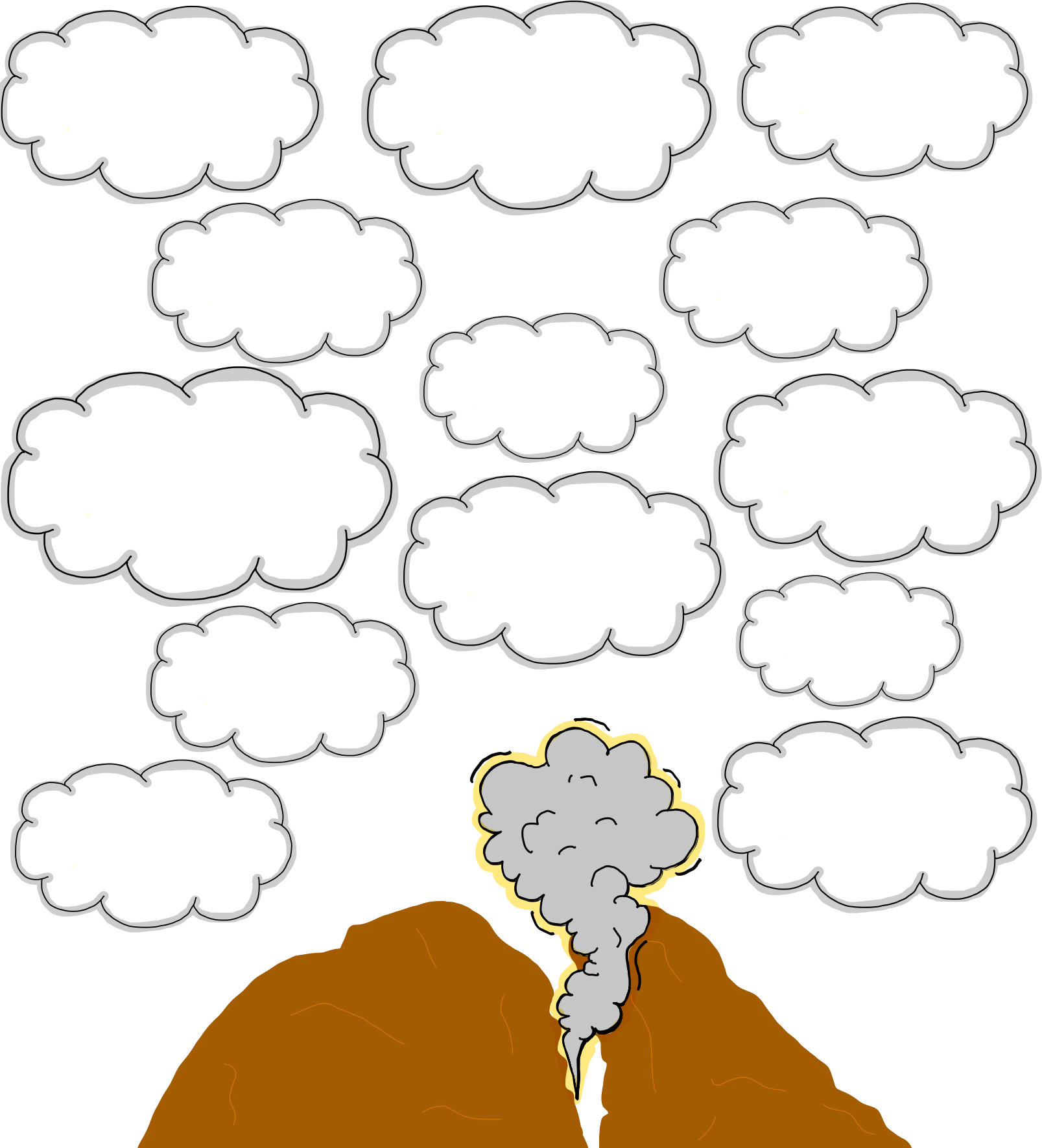
God also commanded that an offering from the firstfruits of the land be brought to Him as an act of worship. Not only did God create the land, but He gave it to those He redeemed and caused it to produce fruit by sending the blessing of rain in the proper season. Bringing the firstfruit offering was a way to acknowledge and thank God for His gifts and provisions.

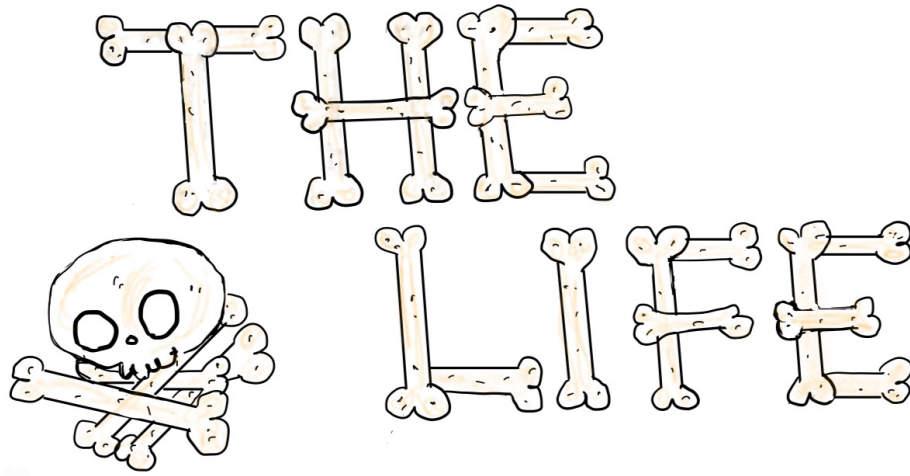
All these commandments were given as a means for proper worship of God. Proper worship leads to blessing and abundant life from Him. Because proper worship is a source of blessing that protects against evil and idolatry, it should never be combined with idolatrous traditions. To combine what God has given as a source of blessing with any other form of worship is like boiling a young goat in its mother's milk. It is taking what was meant to bless and using it in a way that brings about a curse. This form of worship is not accepted by God.



Torah Review Fun

Directions: Help Moshe hear the proclamation from the LORD describing His glory by writing the thirteen attributes for God's character in the clouds.



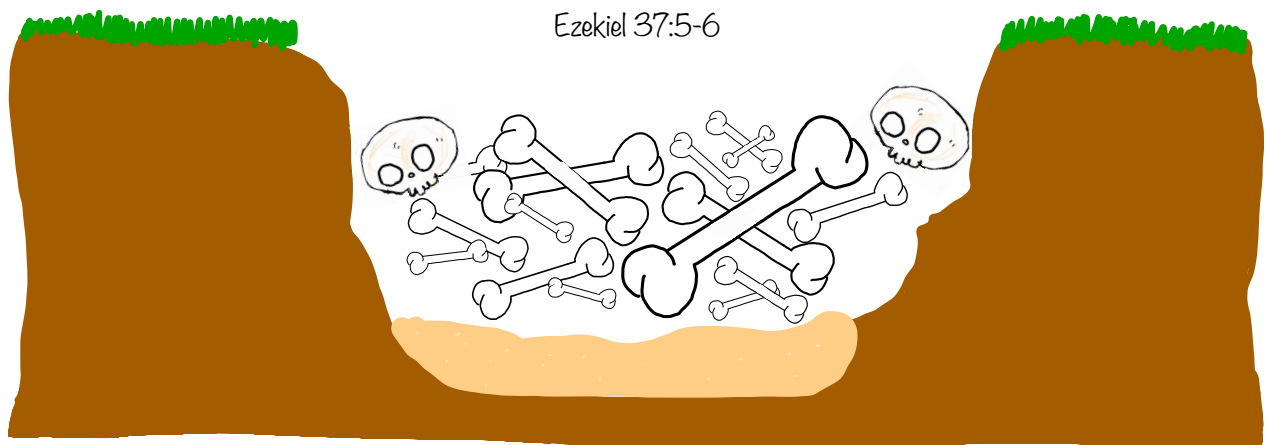


~ Haftarah: Ezekiel 37:1-14 ~

In today's Haftarah Ezekiel, a prophet of God, was taken by the LORD in the spirit of the LORD and placed in the midst of a valley. The valley was full of bones. The LORD caused him to pass by all the bones, so he could fully see them. Ezekiel saw that there were a huge number of human bones, and they were all very dry.

The LORD asked Ezekiel if the dry bones could again have life, and he responded that only God could truthfully answer this question. Then the LORD commanded Ezekiel to speak to the bones, telling them to listen to the words of the LORD. Ezekiel obeyed Him and spoke these words of the LORD to the dry bones in the valley:

“Thus said the LORD God to these bones: ‘Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.’”



As Ezekiel was speaking all these words from God to the bones in the valley, he heard a noise. The noise he heard was a rattling sound as the bones were coming together to form human skeletons. As he continued to look, he saw sinews and flesh covered with skin coming upon the skeletons. But there was no breath in them, and they laid on the ground.

Then the LORD spoke to Ezekiel and commanded him to once again speak His words. Ezekiel obeyed and spoke these words from the LORD to the breath.

“Thus said the LORD God: ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’”

Ezekiel 37:9

Ezekiel then witnessed another marvel of the LORD. Suddenly, breath came into the bodies lying on the ground. They became alive again and stood up on their feet. Ezekiel saw an exceedingly large number of living people that formed a great army.

The LORD explained to Ezekiel that these bones are the whole house of Yisra'el even those with no hope because they had been cut off. He commanded Ezekiel to speak these words to the army:

“Thus said the LORD God: ‘Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it,’ says the LORD.”

Ezekiel 37:12-14

When the LORD performs this miracle, it will be a marvel that has never been done in all the earth nor in any nation. It will be an awesome thing He is doing with His people that only He can do. The LORD always keeps His promises for the sake of His Name.





~ New Testament: John 14:1-20 ~

In today's New Testament portion of Scripture Yeshua (Jesus) was talking with His disciples after eating the Last Supper with them prior to Passover. Yeshua explained to them that He was going away. This information was very troubling to His disciples because Yeshua told them they could not follow with Him now but would follow afterward. Yeshua, knowing all things, told them not to be troubled because He and the Father are One. Yeshua explained that in the house of His Father there was an opportunity for everyone to dwell. He stated He was going away to prepare for them a place because He was coming back to get them, so they would be with Him always. Yeshua said these words to His disciples:

"And where I go you know, and the way you know." John 14:4

Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, responded to Yeshua, saying that they did not even know where He was going so how could they know the way. Yeshua then spoke these words:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

Yeshua was speaking the truth to His disciples, explaining that there is only one Way to the life with His Father. The Way is true and leads to eternal life in the presence of Father God. This true, life-giving Way is through the sacrificial blood of God's One and Only Son, Yeshua. The blood of Yeshua shed on the cross is the only sacrifice that brings comfort to the Father, allowing Him to extend His grace of redemption and cleansing. When a person trusts in the Way given by the Father, He extends His grace and knows that person by his name. That person will dwell with the Father and the Son in the Kingdom of God.

It was for this reason that Yeshua left His home with the Father in heaven and came to earth so that anyone who trusts in the power of His Name will know the Father and see Him. In other words anyone who has a permanent relationship with Yeshua has a permanent relationship with Father God.

Philip totally missed the meaning of what Yeshua was revealing to them. He asked Yeshua to show them the Father, and it would be enough for them. Yeshua was very disappointed because His disciples had not comprehended the truth of His identity.

Pray First

Father God,

We praise You for Your mercy and Your grace. We praise You because You are slow to anger and abundant in kindness and truth. We thank You for keeping mercy to thousands as You forgive our iniquities, transgressions and sins.

Although we are not worthy of these blessings, You have promised them to us because of Who You are and what Your Son has done for us. Because He has died in our place, we are cleansed and able to be in Your Holy Presence. All honor, glory and praise belong to You forever and ever.

In Yeshua's name we pray. Amen.

Read Next

John 14:1-20

Yeshua explained that He was in the Father and the Father was in Him. Although They are separate entities, They are One. Yeshua continued to explain that because They are One, it is the Father that does the work through Him and the words He spoke were the words of the Father. Only in regard to position is the Father greater than the Son. We know this is true because Yeshua always submitted to and continues to submit completely to the Father.

Yeshua told His disciples that if they were not willing to accept these words of truth from the Father, then they should believe based on the miraculous works they had seen Him do. The miracles Yeshua performed while He was on the earth confirm the truth of His identity.

Yeshua also explained that because He was going to the Father, anyone who believes in Him will do the same works He did and even greater ones. He told them that once He was glorified again by the Father whatever they asked in His Name He would do so that they might also bring glory to the Father. This does not mean that whatever we personally want in this world He will give us if we ask Him. This means that our desire will be to glorify the Father as Yeshua's desire was to glorify Him. Because of our love for Yeshua and the Father and our gratitude for what They have done for us, we will obey Their commandments and submit to Their authority. When we walk in obedience to Their word, we will only ask for things that will bring glory and honor to the Kingdom of God, and these requests will be granted.



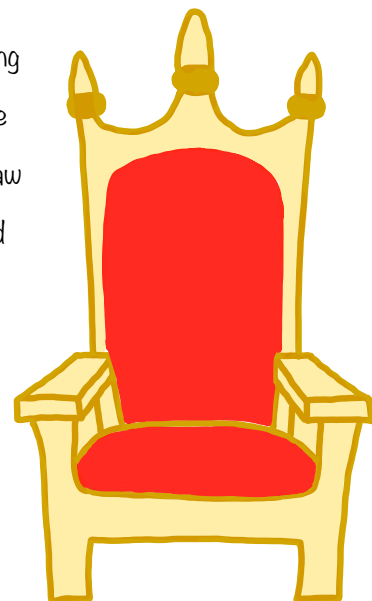
Yeshua also revealed to His disciples that trusting in the work His Father had given Him to do on the cross as the only way for redemption is a commandment of the Father. The moment anyone keeps this commandment Yeshua requests the gift of the Holy Spirit be given to the believer in His Name. It is the Father who grants His Son's request and gives the anointing of the Holy Spirit to the believer to comfort and lead them in His perfect will.

The Holy Spirit, or the Comforter, is the Spirit of Truth Who the world cannot understand because it does not see Him nor does it know Him. Anyone who trusts in and submits to the work of Messiah Yeshua upon the cross for their salvation receives the Holy Spirit from God. This person now knows Him because He dwells with them and in them. This trust connects them to and makes them one with God the Father and God the Son through God the Holy Spirit. They become a child of God and are guaranteed a great inheritance.

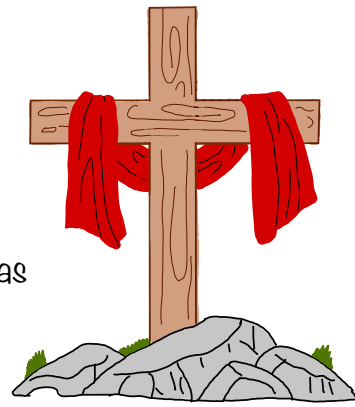
Because the one who trusts in the Name of Yeshua has the Comforter (or Holy Spirit) within them, they have the peace and assurance of Yeshua. No matter what the ruler of this world, who is Satan, is doing or what trouble he is causing, they can rest without fear or a troubled heart because they belong to the Kingdom of God and have an eternal future with Him.

After these teachings, Yeshua once again explained that He would be leaving in a little while. He was speaking about His death by crucifixion. The world would not see Yeshua once He died, but His disciples would because the Father would raise Him from the grave after three days and nights to appear to them for forty days. Once they saw that the Father had raised Yeshua back to life, they would understand that they too would live again after they died because the Holy Spirit connected them to the Truth, the Life and the Way - Messiah Yeshua.

Yeshua wants you to understand these things He explained to His disciples. He wants you to submit to the Father's Way and receive the gift of eternal life in His Kingdom. All that is required from you is to trust in the work of Messiah Yeshua. Will you trust in Him today? He is waiting to send you the gift of the Holy Spirit to dwell within you the moment you submit to His authority to do so.



Who is Messiah Yeshua?



Directions: Using the word bank and the Bible references provided, fill in the blank.

1. In the beginning was the _____ and the Word was with God, and the Word was _____. John 1:1
2. He is the image of the indivisible God, the _____ over all creation. Colossians 1:15
3. The next day John saw Yeshua coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The _____ of God who takes away the sins of the world." John 1:29
4. For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten _____, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16
5. And Yeshua said to them, "I am the _____ of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." John 6:35
6. Yeshua said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Avraham was, _____." John 8:58
7. I am the good _____. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. John 10:11
8. Yeshua said to him, "I am the _____, the _____, and the _____. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6
9. And Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the _____, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:16
10. And for this reason He is the _____ of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. Hebrews 9:15

Word Bank

Shepherd	Lamb	Truth	Life	Messiah/Christ
Son	WORD	I AM	Mediator	
Firstborn	Bread	God	Way	