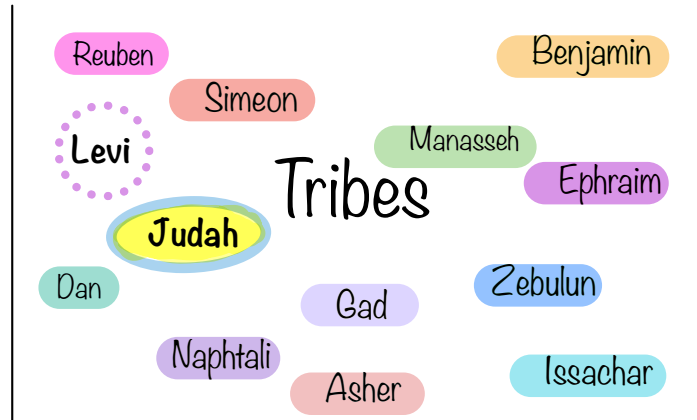


Mattot

“Tribes”

מטות



Pray First

Father God,

We thank You for protecting us and providing all things for us. Because You are all powerful and all knowing we can trust Your commands and guidance. Because You have redeemed us from death to eternal life we can obey You without fear. Help us to live in a way that demonstrates to the world we have hope for the future. Our blessed hope is secure in Your promise that we will not experience Your wrath but will live forever in Your Holy Presence. We praise You and eagerly wait for the second coming of our LORD and our God, Messiah Yeshua, and the establishment of Your Kingdom on the earth.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Next Read

Numbers 30:1-32:42

Then Moses spoke to the heads
Of the tribes concerning the Children of
Israel saying, “This is the thing
which the LORD has commanded...

Numbers 30:1

Numbers 30:1-32:42

In this week's Parasha Moshe (Moses) spoke to the heads of the twelve Tribes of Yisra'el (Israel) informing them of God's instructions concerning vows and oaths. These commands from God addressed the importance of keeping one's word to reflect the character of God. They also addressed the hierarchy of the family modeled after the hierarchy of God.

God does not lie. What He says He does and what He has spoken comes to pass. In the same manner men and women are bound by their vows to the LORD and oaths made to one another. Men and women are equally responsible to keep their word, but there is a hierarchy established by God between a man and his wife and between a father and his daughter while she remains unmarried in his home.

In the beginning God created man out of the dust of the earth, and woman He created out of man. When a man and woman are married, they are joined together and become one flesh, knowing each other intimately. A child who is born as a result of this union is a separate person but is a part of both the mother and the father.

The hierarchy of the family begins with the man who is equal to but the head of his wife. It continues to the woman who gives birth to the children. It ends with the children who represent the parents and are a gift to them from God.

Because of this hierarchy a female's father is her head until she is joined to a man in marriage. A vow and oath she makes in her father's presence that he does not refute must stand. As her head the father can overrule a vow and oath he does not agree with, and his daughter is blameless in the LORD's sight. Once she is married her husband becomes her head, and the same standards apply to her vows and oaths. All vows and oaths of a woman who is divorced or whose husband has died are binding and stand as she has made them.

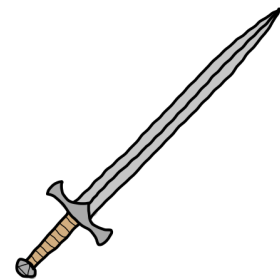
Following the establishment of these commandments, God instructed Moshe to take vengeance for the Children of Yisra'el on the Midianites who had made an alliance with the Moabites, leading the Children of Yisra'el into harlotry and idolatry. God informed Moshe he would die and be gathered to his people after this vengeance was complete.

Focus Passage of Scripture

Numbers 31:1-54

"A thousand from each tribe
of all the Tribes of Yisra'el
you shall send to the war."

Numbers 31:4

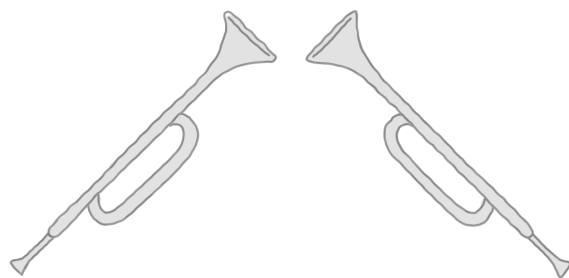


In Numbers 31:1-3 we learn of Moshe's final assignment from God prior to his death. Following the Children of Yisra'el's great sin of harlotry and idolatry which joined them to Baal of Peor (lord of the opening), God first judged the Children of Yisra'el, and then He turned His focus toward judging the Midianites for trying to destroy His people and plans. He commanded Moshe to take vengeance for the Children of Yisra'el on the Midianites, so Moshe spoke to the people telling them to prepare for war.

Even though Moshe understood that he would die after the war, he immediately obeyed God. Moshe stayed focused on fulfilling the word of God because he knew accomplishing the will of God was more important than his life in this world. He understood any task God had given him to accomplish for His Kingdom was more important than extending his own life.

God commanded a census be taken of all the Congregation of the Children of Yisra'el to include all men twenty years old and older who were able to go to war. This census counted 601,730 men eligible to fight. In Numbers 31:4-12 we learn that God commanded 1,000 men from each tribe be selected to form an army of 12,000 men.

Pinchas (Phinehas), the son of Eleazar the priest, led the 12,000 armed men against the Midianites, taking the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand. They killed all the males of Midian to include the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam the son of Beor, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Yisra'el so that they would eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.



God gave Yisra'el complete victory over the Midianites! The Children of Yisra'el took all the women and children of Midian captive. They burned all the cities of Midian along with the forts. They took the cattle and all the flocks and goods with them. They took the spoil and all the booty of man and beast with them. They brought the captives, the booty and the spoil to Moshe, Eleazar the priest and the Children of Yisra'el who were camped in the plains of Moab by the Jordan River across from Jericho.

In Numbers 31:13-18 we learn that Moshe, Eleazar the priest and all the leaders of Yisra'el went to meet them outside the camp. When Moshe saw them he was angry with the officers and captains of the army who had come from the battle because they had kept the women alive, taking them captive. He reminded them that the women of Midian had caused the Children of Yisra'el to sin against the LORD, resulting in the plague of death from God among the Yisra'elites at Peor.

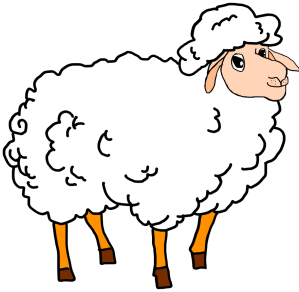
Moshe commanded the men of war to kill all the males among the children they had taken captive and to kill every woman who had known a man intimately. He instructed them to allow only the young girls to live. By the hierarchy God established concerning the family we can understand that a young girl who has never been intimate with a man and has been separated from her father by his death comes under the Authority of God alone. As the weaker vessel she is protected by God's Authority and He can determine her to be blameless in His sight.

In Numbers 31:19-24 we learn that following the victory against the Midianites, Moshe instructed the men of war to stay outside the encampment for seven days. Anyone who had come in contact with a dead body during the war was to purify themselves and the captives on the third day and the seventh day before reentering the encampment. They were to purify their garments and anything made of leather, goats hair or wood with water. All metal items to include objects of gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin and lead were to be purified with fire. Any metal objects that could not withstand fire they were to clean with water. These instructions were according to the law God had already given concerning purification following contact with a dead body (Numbers 19:11-22). Moshe understood the importance of following God's instructions for purity inside the encampment and obeyed all of God's commandments.

In Numbers 31:25-31 the LORD spoke to Moshe telling him to count all the plunder that was taken from the Midianites and divide it into two equal parts. From one part the men who went to battle would be paid and from the other part the Congregation of Yisrael would profit. God rewards faithful obedience to Him.

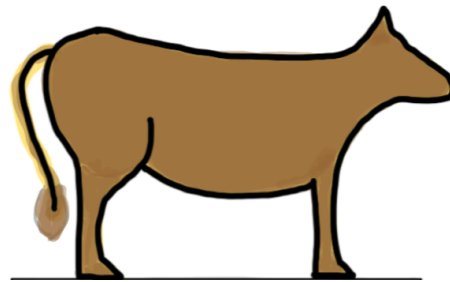


From the half set aside to pay the men of war a tribute to the LORD was taken and given to the priesthood. This tribute amounted to one in every 500 of the following: persons, cattle, donkeys and sheep. This tribute was given to Eleazar the priest as a heave offering to the LORD. The total given was 675 sheep, 72 cattle, 61 donkeys and 32 persons. From the half set aside to distribute among the Children of Yisra'el a donation was taken and given to the Levites who kept charge of the Tabernacle of the LORD. This donation was determined by giving one in every 50 of the following: persons, cattle, donkeys and sheep, from all the livestock. Moshe and Eleazar accomplished all these things just as the LORD commanded.

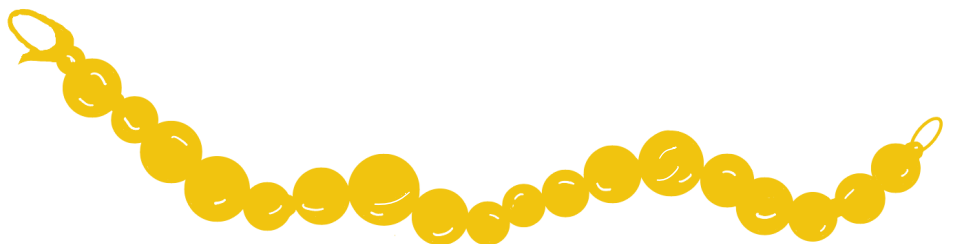


After the tribute to the LORD and the donation to the Levites were given the remaining plunder was distributed. The 12,000 men who went to war received 337,500 sheep, 36,000 cattle, 30,500 donkeys and 16,000 persons. All the Congregation of Yisra'el received 337,500 sheep, 36,000 cattle, 30,500 donkeys and 16,000 persons.

...and they said to Moses,
"Your servants have taken a count
of the men of war who are under our
command and not a man of us is missing."
Numbers 31:49

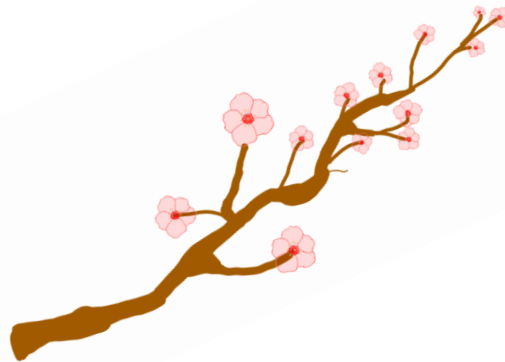


Once all the plunder had been distributed by Moshe and Eleazar, the captains of thousands and the captains of hundreds came to Moshe and said they had taken a count of the men and all the men of war were present. Not one man had died fighting the Midianites! In thanksgiving to God for His protection and provision that had secured complete and total victory over the enemy they brought an offering to the LORD. The offering of gold they brought to make atonement for themselves totaled 16,750 shekels. Moshe and Eleazar received the gold and brought it into the Tabernacle of Meeting. Offerings that are made in thanksgiving to God become treasures stored in heaven.

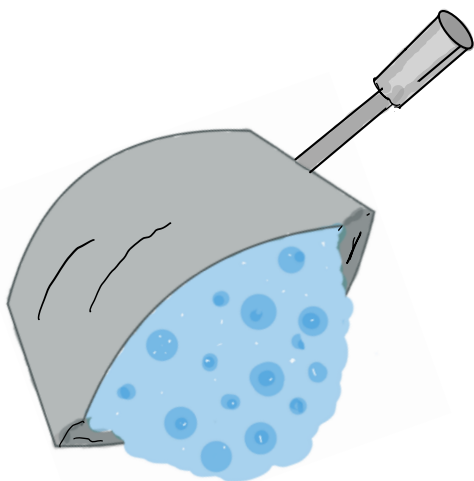


Haftarah

Jeremiah 1:1-2:3



In this week's Haftarah the Children of Yisra'el were living in the Land of Promise, and once again they were in danger of God's judgment due to disobedience and idolatry. The LORD chose a young man named Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) to be His prophet even before he was born. Yirmeyahu received an assignment from God to speak the truth concerning God's imminent judgment, regarding the sin of His people. God informed Yirmeyahu that this message would not be well received and the people would desire to harm him. No matter if the people believed God's message or not God was ready to judge the disobedience and idolatry of His people before pouring out His judgment on the nations that desired to destroy them just as He had done to the Midianites in the days of Moshe.



But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD. Jeremiah 1:7-8

The LORD put forth His hand and touched Yirmeyahu's mouth, giving him His words to say. Yirmeyahu would speak of God's unavoidable judgment coming to kingdoms and nations just as the LORD commanded him.

The LORD gave Yirmeyahu a vision and asked him to describe what he saw. Yirmeyahu responded that he saw a branch of an almond tree. It is important to remember that during the great rebellion led by Korach in the wilderness, Aharon's (Aaron) staff that blossomed had ripe almonds on it and was set before the Ark of the Testimony in the Tabernacle of Meeting to proclaim Aharon as God's choice for the High Priest. Through this vision the LORD was letting Yirmeyahu know that due to the rebellious sins of Yisra'el they were like a dead branch, unable to produce fruit. Because of their unwillingness to worship and serve God as He commanded only God's judgment that brought forth His Grace could produce new life.

Then the word of the LORD came to Yirmeyahu a second time, asking him what he saw. Yirmeyahu responded that he saw a boiling pot facing away from the north. The LORD explained that He was about to bring destruction from the north to all the inhabitants in the Land of Promise. He explained He would judge Yisra'el for their wickedness of forsaking Him by worshiping other gods and idols.

God told Yirmeyahu to prepare himself before going and speaking all these words of truth concerning the calamity He was about to bring upon the Nation of Yisra'el. He commanded him not to be dismayed by the enormous task set before him because God Himself would be with him. God made sure Yirmeyahu knew that the kings, princes, priests and all the people of the land of Judah would fight against him. He commanded him to speak the words of truth given to him no matter what the response was. Because God is all knowing and all powerful Yirmeyahu could obey Him without fear, knowing that any assignment from God was more important than his life on the earth.

Then the Word of the LORD came to Yirmeyahu commanding him to go with this message of judgment and cry these words from God in the hearing of Jerusalem saying,



“Thus says the LORD:

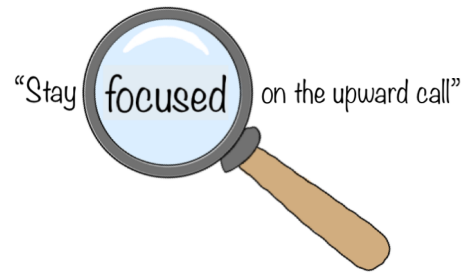
“I remember you, the kindness of your youth, the love of your betrothal, when you went after Me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown. Yisra'el was holiness of the LORD, the first fruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; disaster will come upon them,” says the LORD.”

Jeremiah 2:2-3

Through these words God was explaining that despite the great sinfulness of the Children of Yisra'el causing Him to judge them, once this judgment was complete He would turn His focus upon all the nations who sought to destroy Yisra'el, bringing disaster upon them. Once God's Righteous Judgment of His people is complete and those who oppose Him are completely defeated, He will establish His Kingdom on earth in total victory over sin. God will accomplish all these things for the sake of His Word He spoke to Avraham (Abraham), Yitz'chak (Isaac), and Ya'kov (Jacob). God does not lie! What He says He will do and what He has spoken will come to pass.

New Testament

Philippians 3:12-16

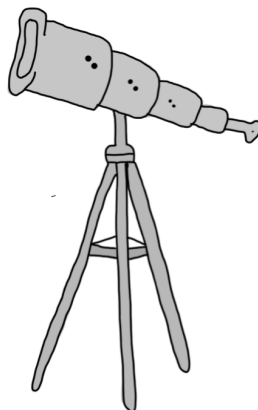


In today's New Testament reading the Apostle Paul was speaking to believers in Messiah Yeshua who lived in Philippi. He explained to them that by the standards of the world he is considered righteous because of his birth heritage, obedience to the law and past zeal for persecuting the church. He wanted them to know a simple truth he had learned as a mature believer in Messiah. Paul wanted them to understand that all things of the world are rubbish! We can count all things of the world for loss because they have no value in the Kingdom of God! Messiah Yeshua left His heavenly home and became fully human in order to take all things of this world to the grave because they only lead to death.



Paul encouraged the believers in Philippi to live in a way that is foreign to the ways of the world. After being redeemed by the Blood of Yeshua one must be humble enough and wise enough to make Messiah Yeshua the LORD of their life, learning to deny the desires of the flesh and pursue the will of God. This type of lifestyle will help the believer grow and mature spiritually. The result of this spiritual maturity is a joy and contentment that the world can not understand.

Paul explained that he has not yet attained perfection at this, but he has faith that he will one day realize it because Messiah Yeshua has secured it for him. Because Paul has faith in the all knowing, all powerful Messiah Yeshua he is quick to obey God without fear, knowing that pursuing the plans of God is more important than life on earth. For this reason he presses onward with the goal of receiving the upward call he has been given. He is careful to forget the past being aware that Satan desires to remind him of his sins tempting him to live his life in guilt. Paul encouraged the believers at Philippi to remain focused on the upward call which is a victory call containing the promises of God in Messiah Yeshua.



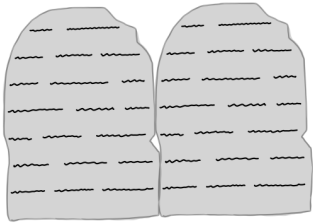
Mattot Recap Review Fun

Directions: Match the following statements to complete each sentence

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Men and women are equally responsible | A. He is all-knowing and all-powerful. |
| 2. A father is the head of his | B. obedience to Him. |
| 3. A husband is the head of | C. unmarried daughter. |
| 4. Once God judges His people He judges | D. brings forth His grace that produces new life. |
| 5. Fulfilling the word of God is | E. people impure. |
| 6. Coming in contact with death makes | F. his wife. |
| 7. God rewards faithful | G. become treasures stored in heaven. |
| 8. Offerings made in thanksgiving to God | H. all those who seek to destroy His people. |
| 9. God's righteous Judgment of sin | I. Messiah Yeshua has secured it for them. |
| 10. Denying self and pursuing the will of God | J. with joy and contentment. |
| 11. Spiritual maturity supplies the believer | K. develops spiritual maturity for the believer. |
| 12. We can obey God without fear because | L. to keep their word. |
| 13. A believer in Yeshua will attain perfection in the Kingdom of God because | M. more important than life in this world. |

Rubbish

Directions: Draw a line from each item to the trash can that has no Kingdom value



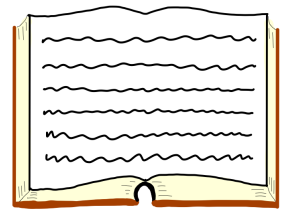
Obeying God's Commandments



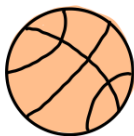
Money



Humble prayer to God



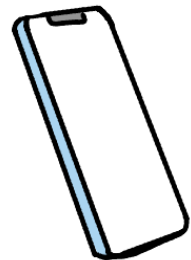
Studying God's Word



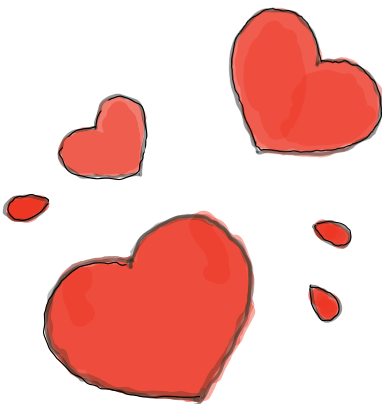
Sport competitions



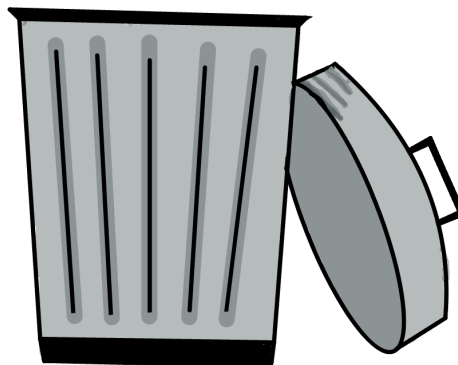
Accomplishments



Social connections



Loving your neighbor as yourself



Traveling around the world

