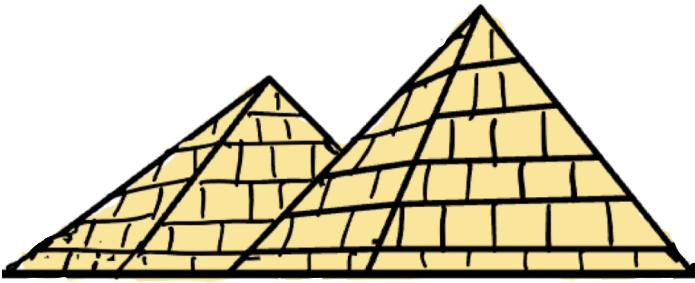


# Masei

“Journeys”

מָסֵה



These are the journeys of the Children of Yisra'el, who went out of the land of Egypt by their armies under the hand of Moshe and Aharon.

Numbers 33:1

Now Moshe wrote down the starting points of their journeys at the command of the LORD. And these are their journeys according to their starting points.

Numbers 33:2

Numbers 33:1-36:13

Following the exodus from Egypt, the Children of Yisra'el wandered forty years in the wilderness, being led by the Presence of God. In Parasha Mas'ei we learn of the journeys they made while in the wilderness which resulted in forty-one different campsites!

At the Yisra'elite's final encampment in the plains of Moab by the Jordan River across from Jericho God spoke to Moshe, giving him instructions on what to do and what not to do once the Yisra'elites crossed the river to dwell in the Promised Land. First, God set the boundaries of the land they were to live in as their possession from God. He also gave them instructions for dividing the land among the twelve tribes.

Next, God commanded that six cities of refuge were to be established among the forty-eight cities, set apart for the Levites. He gave commandments regarding the purpose for these cities and instructed that three be located on the east side and three be located on the west side of the Jordan River.

Finally, He commanded that women who inherited land should marry within their own tribe so that the land would not change hands from tribe to tribe but remain in the possession of the tribe of their fathers.

## First Pray

Father God,

We thank You for sending Your Son as our High Priest to redeem us from our sins. His death has set us free from the guilt of sin we have known since our birth. Because He died and rose again, all who are covered with His blood will live forever. Praise be to Him, our LORD and our God, and to You our Father forever and ever.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

## Next Read

Numbers 33:1-36:13

# “Things to do and things not to do”

## Numbers 33:50-56

Before crossing the Jordan River to take possession of the land of Canaan the LORD spoke to Moshe, giving him instructions of what to do and what not to do once the Yisra'elites entered the Land of Promise. Read the above passage of Scripture and then take the following true /false quiz.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Be tolerant of the Canaanite customs when you enter the Land of Promise and seek peace with them.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Drive out the inhabitants of the Land of Canaan (Land of Promise).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Learn about the Canaanite's false gods and rename the Feast of Passover to reflect them.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Destroy all the Canaanite's engraved stones, molded images and high places for worshiping false gods.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Buy a few of the idols and molded images that you are interested in.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Be thankful and courteous to the Canaanites for sharing their land.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Seek out nice places to live in the land near a natural stream of water.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Live with your family according to the tribe of your father.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Canaanites that are allowed to continue living in the Land of Promise will be like a thorn in the Yisra'elites side.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ If the Yisra'elites do not drive out the inhabitants of the Land of Canaan God will do to them what He intended to do to the Canaanites.

# ~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~

## Numbers 35:9-34

In last week's Parasha we learned that the tribes of Reuben, Gad and one half of the tribe of Manasseh had a great multitude of livestock and were granted the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead on the eastern side of the Jordan River as their possession because the region was good for livestock. In return for this concession they vowed to go before the Children of Yisra'el as their armed forces to drive out the Canaanites until the Land of Promise was conquered with each tribe receiving their possession of land. This demonstrated their great faith in God to secure victory for Yisra'el!

In Numbers 34 God set the boundaries for the Land of Promise, and the remaining nine and one-half tribes were commanded to go into the land and take possession of it. The land would be divided into large and small parcels with the larger tribes receiving land from the larger parcels and the smaller tribes from the smaller parcels. The actual assignments of land would be determined by lots. Moshe and Eleazar were placed in charge of the land assignments in this manner.

The Levites were not assigned a parcel of land but were to live among all the tribes. They were to be given forty-eight cities along with common land surrounding them. The larger tribes would provide more cities and common land than the smaller tribes. The tribe of Levi had been chosen by God from among the Children of Yisrael, replacing every firstborn male redeemed by the blood of the lamb in Egypt. For this reason the Levites belonged to God, being set apart to serve Him and lead the people in worship of Him.

‘So you shall not pollute the land where you are, for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.

Numbers 35:33

## ~ Cities of Refuge ~

In Numbers 35:9-15 God commanded Moshe to speak to the Children of Yisra'el, instructing them to establish six cities of refuge among the Levite cities. Contact with death defiles a person making them impure. Why does death make one impure? It was never God's will for anyone to die! Death is the result of sin. God is the source of all life, the fountain of living water and perfectly pure. God's presence dwelt in the midst of the Children of Yisra'el in a unique way. Therefore, the land must not be defiled with death because innocent bloodshed pollutes the land. If a person murdered another, his judgement was death. The nearest relative to the one murdered must kill the murderer to avenge his blood and keep the land from being polluted.

In certain situations a person might accidentally kill another without forethought or intent. The cities of refuge were to be established for this one to flee to and remain safe from the avenger of blood until he stood before the congregation to be judged. The cities of refuge were to serve this purpose for the Children of Yisra'el, the stranger and the sojourner among them in the land.

In Numbers 35:16-24 we learn what was considered accidental death as opposed to purposefully killing someone. For instance, if someone struck another with an iron implement, a stone in the hand or a wooden hand weapon and the person died, he was a murderer. If one pushed another out of hatred, hurled something at someone while lying in wait for him or in enmity struck him with his hand and he died, he was a murderer. For all these situations the avenger of blood must put the murderer to death when he saw him.

However, if a person pushed another suddenly without enmity, threw something at him without lying in wait for him or threw a stone without seeing the person and the person dies, then the congregation would determine between the manslayer and the avenger of blood if the manslayer should be put to death.

In Numbers 35:25-28 we learn that if the decision was made that the death was accidental, then the manslayer would be returned to his city of refuge where he would be protected from the blood avenger and allowed to live freely within the city. He was not free to leave the city and must remain there to be protected until the high priest of the city who was anointed with oil, died. Following the death of the high priest, the manslayer could return safely to the land of his possession.

In Numbers 35:29-34 God commanded that all these things would be a statute of judgment for the Yisra'elites throughout their generations in all their dwellings. If by the testimony of more than one witness it was confirmed that the death of a person was purposeful, the murderer must be put to death. He must receive the death penalty to purify the land.

No ransom could be taken for the life of a murderer who was guilty of death. Likewise, no ransom could be taken for one who had fled to his city of refuge so that he could return to live in the land of his possession before the death of the high priest.

All these things were commanded by God so that the land He dwelt in among the Yisra'elites would not become defiled being polluted by blood.

Therefore do not defile the land which you inhabit, in the midst of which I dwell, for I the LORD dwell among the Children of Yisra'el.

Numbers 35:34



# Haftarah

Jeremiah 2:4-2:8, 3:4

In this week's Haftarah we learn that after the Children of Yisra'el entered the Land of Promise, they did not continue to serve and worship God. Every form of leadership God had established to teach and lead the people to include the priests, the teachers of the law, the rulers and the prophets had betrayed God by pursuing things of the world that do not have eternal value. The people had become idolaters due to their evil pursuit of worldly accomplishments and things.

God was very angry with His people, and He called a young prophet named Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) to warn them of His coming judgment. God spoke through Yirmeyahu to the people, asking them what injustice had He done to deserve such betrayal. Was it because He had redeemed them out of slavery in Egypt? Was it because He had led them through the wilderness of deserts and pits through a land of drought and the shadow of death? The wilderness was a place where no one dwelt. No one dared to cross it, and no one could survive in it without the supernatural protection and provision of the Almighty God! He had sustained them in the wilderness for forty years.

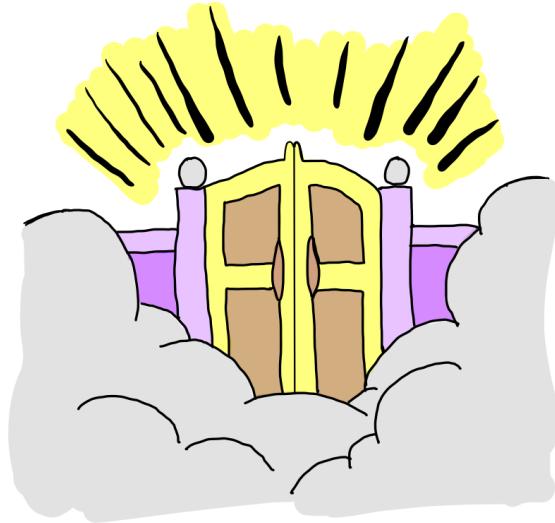
God clearly was the One Who brought them safely into the Land He Promised, a bountiful country full of fruit and goodness. He gave them instructions that would sustain them in this abundant land, but they disobeyed Him, defiling the land in His Presence. Because of their sin they made His heritage an abomination. God set His judgment against them and their grandchildren, stating not even the idol worshipers outside the land had exchanged their false gods for another. Although they knew the One True God, they had exchanged that knowledge for a lie.

"For My People have committed two evils:  
They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living  
waters, and hewn themselves cisterns  
—broken cisterns that can hold no water.  
Jeremiah 2:13

Calamity would come from the north because the Yisra'elites had forsaken the LORD their God and had not feared Him. They had gone after the desires of their flesh, turning their back on God instead of worshiping Him face to face. They belonged to God because He had redeemed them from death. They were to be His vessel of judgment upon others. Now God would use others to judge them. The Yisra'elites would not understand the seriousness of what they had done until their time of trouble came and their false gods could not save them. Only then would they repent and cry out to God.

# New Testament

## James 4:1-12



In this week's New Testament Scripture Ya'kov (James) was speaking to fellow Jewish believers who were scattered outside the land of Yisra'el. Ya'kov, a distinguished leader among the believers in Jerusalem, was concerned about the conflict taking place among the believers living outside the land. This conflict was due to a lack of understanding concerning the spiritual laws of God.

Messiah Yeshua is our High Priest. His death freed us from the unintentional sin we were born in as human beings. When one believes in the Son of God Messiah Yeshua for their redemption, they are given the gift of the Holy Spirit to dwell within them in a powerful way! God the Holy Spirit supernaturally joins the believer to God the Father through Messiah Yeshua Who is God the Son. The believer continues to live in his human body and does not stop being tempted to sin. However, he now has a renewed mind, the mind of Messiah, which empowers him to overcome all temptation.

The new man, being formed by the Holy Spirit within the believer, and the natural sinful flesh of the believer are in conflict with one another. This conflict is real and is often referred to as spiritual warfare.

During spiritual warfare, Satan tempts the believer through the desires of his flesh. This temptation can lead the believer to sin against God. A believer who sins against God is serving Satan and strengthening his evil kingdom that will one day be destroyed. Because the believer has received eternal life secured by Messiah Yeshua he can be victorious in this battle when he follows the spiritual laws of God. This victory allows the believer to freely worship and serve God while he remains in his human body.

When a believer focuses on the things of the world instead of the things of God, Satan begins tempting the believer to desire things he does not have. He tempts him to do things he should not do to obtain what he wants. The believer often asks God to give him what he wants, but God does not answer his prayer because it is an insincere, selfish request that does not serve God's Kingdom.

In his letter Ya'kov explained to his brethren that friendship with the world makes one an enemy of God. Ya'kov wants all believers to understand that the Holy Spirit within them is jealous when they submit to the enemy. God gives grace to all believers who humbly submit to Him, but He resists believers whose pride makes them servants of Satan. Basically, a believer should learn to stand faithfully for the Kingdom of God while humbly trusting God to do whatever is needed to defeat the enemy.

In his letter Ya'kov equips the people for battle, informing them of many spiritual laws of God. For instance, whenever a believer chooses to submit to God and resist the devil, the devil will flee from him. When a believer draws near to God, God will draw near to the believer. When a believer focuses on the truth of God's word and His eternal Kingdom, he is no longer double-minded, and he is empowered to live in the world with a pure heart which leads to hands that do not sin against God.

When a believer is being persecuted by another or troubled by evil in the world, he should not complain about others to others. Instead, he should complain, mourn and weep before God. He should turn his laughter into mourning and his earthly joy into gloom. When he humbles himself before God in this way, God will lift him up.

Reacting to conflict by speaking negatively about another is the easiest and most common way for Satan to manifest evil through the believer. There is only One Judge and One Lawgiver, and He is God! The believer is required

to follow the law not attempt to implement it. He who speaks evil of his brother exalts himself as a judge instead of one required to follow the law. Only God is able to save and to destroy. Therefore a believer should not condemn his brother.

The goal of every believer should be to worship and serve God while in the flesh. The first step to achieving this goal is to identify the desires for the world that have no eternal value. The second step is to understand and abide by the spiritual laws God has put in place

for the believer. The Spiritual Laws of God are perfect and result in spiritual blessings from God when followed. These two simple steps will help the believer say "no" to the flesh and "yes" to the Spirit of God within them. When this is accomplished, the believer stores up treasures in heaven with great eternal rewards!

# Recap Review Fun

Directions: Fill in the blank using the word bank

1. God sets the \_\_\_\_\_ for His people to live within.
2. Death is the result of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God is the source of all life, He is the fountain of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Innocent bloodshed \_\_\_\_\_ the land.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ were set apart by God to teach the Children of Yisra'el to know Him and worship Him.
6. God commanded \_\_\_\_\_ cities of refuge be established among the tribes of Yisra'el.
7. A manslayer who had unintentionally killed someone could live safely in his city of refuge until the death of the anointed \_\_\_\_\_.
8. A murderer received the \_\_\_\_\_ as his judgment.
9. Following the death of the anointed high priest the manslayer was free to return and live in his land of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The nearest relative to the one murdered was the \_\_\_\_\_ of blood.
11. The testimony of more than one \_\_\_\_\_ was required to convict a person of murder.
12. The pursuit of worldly things is a form of spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.
13. When those whom God has redeemed forsake Him and exchange their knowledge of Him for a lie He sends \_\_\_\_\_ upon them.

Sin	Levites	Avenger
Living Water	Death Penalty	
Calamity	Pollutes	Six
Boundaries	Idolatry	
High Priest	Possession	Witness

# Spiritual Law Review

Directions: Correctly complete the following statements by drawing a line from the number to the corresponding letter

- I. The Holy Spirit and the renewed mind of the believer
- 2. Satan tempts the believer
- 3. Victory over the temptation of sin allows
- 4. A believer's friendship with the world
- 5. God gives grace to those
- 6. God resists those who
- 7. A believer should stand faithfully for God's Kingdom
- 8. When a believer submits to God and resists the Devil
- 9. When a believer draws near to God
- 10. Being Kingdom minded leads to
- 11. Having a pure heart leads to
- 12. When a believer humbles himself before God,
- 13. There is only One Judge and One Lawmaker
- A. through the desires of the flesh.
- B. the devil will flee from him.
- C. empowers one to be victorious over temptation.
- D. makes him an enemy of God.
- E. the believer to freely serve and worship God.
- F. who humbly submit to Him.
- G. God draws near to the believer.
- H. a pure heart.
- I. while humbly trusting God to defeat the enemy.
- J. and He is God!
- K. hands that do not sin against God.
- L. are proud.
- M. God will lift him up.

