

V'zot HaBracha

וזאת הברכה

“And this is the blessing”

First Pray

Father God,

Blessed are You LORD our God, Who blesses us and commands us to be a blessing to others. Thank You for allowing us to know You, agree with You and serve You. As You reveal Yourself to us through the truth of Your Word, please give us power to be joyful when we are persecuted for Your Name. In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen.

Read Next

Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12

Now this is the blessing

with which Moshe the man of God

blessed the children of Yisra'el before his death.

Deuteronomy 33:1

God first spoke to Moshe (Moses) from a bush that was on fire but was not destroyed by the flames. Due to fear, Moshe was reluctant to obey God, but as God continued to reveal Himself, Moshe agreed with God and committed his life to serve Him. Moshe understood that one of the greatest blessings from God is to be a blessing to others.

Before Moshe died at 120 years old in the land of Moab, he learned that he could not serve God in his own strength. Moshe learned that knowing God was not all that is required in order to serve Him. To be a servant of God it is necessary to agree with Him and submit to His authority.

At the time of his death Moshe's eyes were not dim, meaning he could clearly see the Word of God being fulfilled in the future. His

natural body was not sick or weak; rather, God ended his life on earth for a future purpose.

The last thing Moshe did before he died was to proclaim blessings on the sons of Ya'kov (Jacob). These blessings have future meaning for all the people of God. Through the life and service of Moshe we can clearly see that God's future plan for His creation will be accomplished by His power alone. Everyone who submits to the authority of God by faith in His Word will be blessed by Him.

Focus Passage of Scripture

Deuteronomy 33:2-29

In this week's focus passage of Scripture we learn that Moshe, the man of God, blessed the children of Yisra'el before his death. In Deuteronomy 33:2 Moshe reminds us that following their redemption by God from Egypt, the LORD came to the people of Yisra'el at Sinai to reveal His character, commandments and blessings. The LORD then judged them for their disobedience but continued to be with them to guide them from Mount Paran. Moshe stated that in the future the LORD will come with 10,000's of saints, and from His right hand He will rule the earth with His fiery law. As you read this verse in Scripture, do you notice that Moshe wrote these things as if they had already happened? Moshe expressed these historical and prophetic things in this way to make sure we understand that because of what God has done in history we can be confident that He will return to do what He has promised to do.

In Deuteronomy 33:3-5 we learn that God is faithful to His Word because He loves His people! All His saints (people) are held in His hand, and nothing can snatch them out of His protection. All God's people will sit down at His feet and receive His Words. Moshe spoke the law of God to His people and commanded them to obey it. For this reason the law is often called the law of Moshe but it is really the perfect law of God. It is inherited by all the people that join the nation of Yisra'el through faith in the Anointed One of Yisra'el, Messiah Yeshua, Who is the coming King of the world. He will gather all the leaders of the people and all the tribes of Yisra'el together in His Kingdom!

Do you remember the birth order of the sons of Ya'kov (Jacob) who form the tribes of Yisra'el? See if you can unscramble the names below and place them under their mother's name to find the correct order of their birth.

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Jdhau _____

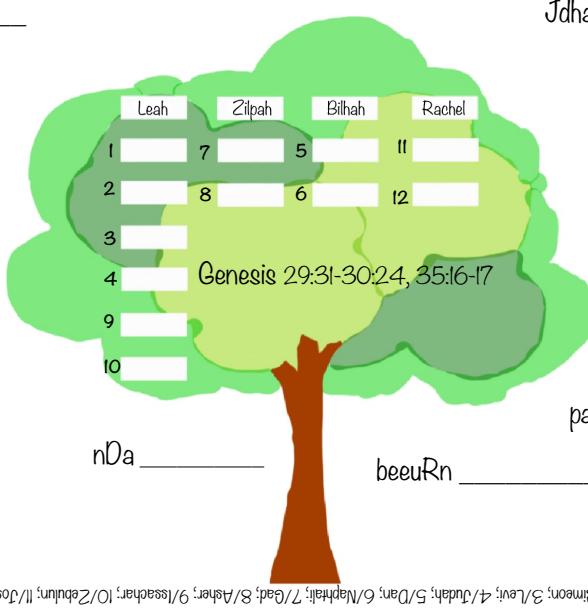
viel _____

Bjmnaein _____

rheAs _____

Gda _____

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Blessings

ברכות

In Deuteronomy 33:6 we learn that **Reuben**, whose name means “God saw,” was the first born son of Ya’kov. However, he did not receive the blessing of the first born from Moshe. The tribe of Reuben was allowed to live and multiply on the earth only for the sake of the promises God made to his great-grandfather Avraham (Abraham), his grandfather Yitzchak (Isaac) and his father Ya’kov (Jacob). Read Genesis 35:22 to know the reason that Reuben did not receive the blessing of the first born son.

In Deuteronomy 33:7 we learn that **Judah** inherited the firstborn blessing which contains all the promises of God. The tribe of **Judah**, whose name means “Praise,” will be heard by God, and he will be brought to his people. Judah will be protected from the enemy and blessed by God to be a blessings to others (Genesis 27:27-29, 28:3-4). God chose Judah because he loved his father so much, he was willing to become a slave to free his brother (Genesis 44:32-34).

In Deuteronomy 33:8-11 we learn that the tribe of **Levi**, whose name means “To Walk Alongside,” will remain as the servants of God’s Holy Priesthood. The tribe of Levi will execute the judgments of God to the descendants of Ya’kov and teach Yisra’el His law. Although Levi acted from his own authority using his strength to avenge the kidnapping of his sister Dinah at Shechem, the tribe of Levi later demonstrated allegiance to the authority of the LORD during a time of rebellion against God (Exodus 32:25-29).

In Deuteronomy 33:12 we learn that the tribe of **Benjamin**, whose name means “Strength of My Right Hand,” is beloved just as the second son of Ya’kov was. Benjamin was the only son of Ya’kov who was born in the Land of Yisra’el. He would have been lost to slavery in Egypt if Judah had not been willing to surrender his life to save him. Because Judah loved his father so much that he was willing to suffer in order to set him free, the tribe of Benjamin will dwell in safety with God in the Land of Promise, protected by Him forever.

In Deuteronomy 33:13-17 we learn that the **land** of Yisra’el is blessed forever because of the faithfulness of **Joseph**, whose name means “To Add.” Joseph, the firstborn son of Ya’kov’s beloved wife Rachel, did not go into exile as a result of his own sin but because of the sins of his father and brothers when they did not agree with the truth that God revealed in his dreams (Genesis 37:5-10). Even though Joseph was hated by his brothers and wrongfully imprisoned in Egypt, God was with him as he remained a faithful servant of the LORD believing in the promises of God. His descendants will fill the earth!

In Deuteronomy 33:18-19 we learn that the tribes of **Zebulun** and **Issachar** will dwell in the land of Yisra'el and be blessed there as they worship the LORD righteously. The name Zebulun means "To Dwell," and the name Issachar means "To Hire." The prophetic blessing these two sons received from their father Ya'kov remains basically unchanged, suggesting they were content to submit to the authority of God's spoken word concerning their inheritance. As a result, they are blessed and will be given the shores of the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea.

In Deuteronomy 33:20-21 we learn that **Gad**, whose name means "Good Fortune," is blessed to prosper victoriously, first to his descendants and then to others by administering the justice and judgments of the LORD in Yisra'el.

In Deuteronomy 33:22 we learn that **Dan**, whose name means "Judge," is blessed as a lion's whelp who leaps from Bashan. This blessing indicates that the descendants of Dan will rely on their strength and become arrogant, misusing their gifts from God. Samson, the last judge of Yisra'el, was from the tribe of Dan. Although Samson's parents dedicated him to serve the LORD by taking the Nazarite vow before his birth, he broke this vow to the LORD by drinking wine, touching dead animals and marrying Philistine women. He used his gift of supernatural strength to get what he wanted and to take vengeance on his enemies.

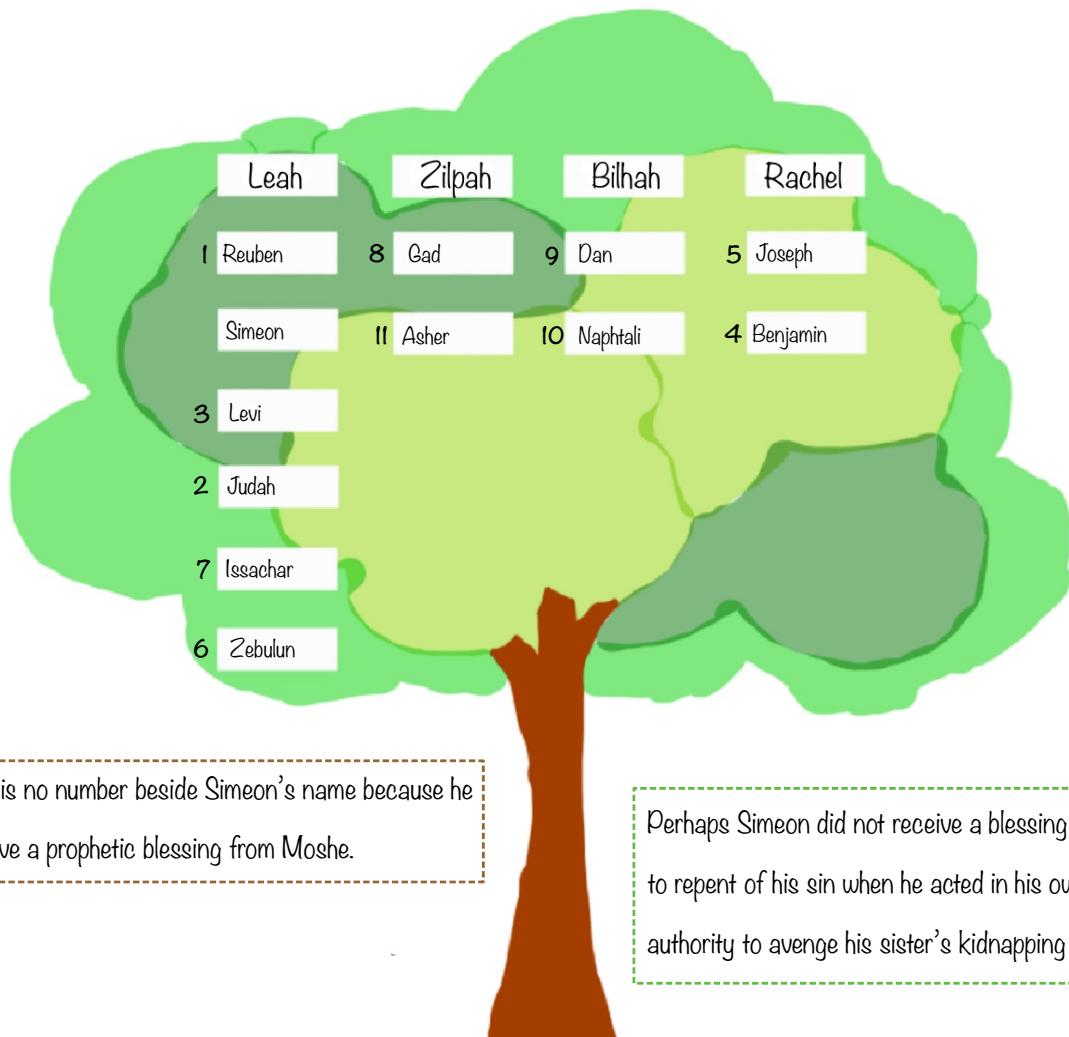
In Deuteronomy 33:23 we learn that **Naphtali**, whose name means "Prevail," is blessed to possess the west and the south because he is satisfied with finding favor with the LORD.

In Deuteronomy 33:24-25 we learn that **Asher**, whose name means "Happy or Blessed," is the most blessed of the sons. His descendants will be firmly planted in the land all their days, suggesting victory over the enemies of God.

In Deuteronomy 33:26-29 we learn that there is no one like the God of Yisra'el Who is the eternal strength and refuge for His people. He holds His people safe and secure in His everlasting arms! God will defeat the enemies of His people, and Yisra'el will dwell safely in the Land of Promise, having all their needs met through God's provision and blessings. Yisra'el has great reason to be happy because it is God Who is their Shield and Savior. The enemies of Yisra'el will submit to them and the high places of their false gods will be destroyed!

On the tree below you will find the sons of Ya'kov positioned under their mother's name.

The number beside each name indicates the order in which they received a prophetic blessing from Moshe before he died.



Directions: Number the following blessings according to the order by which Moshe gave them to the tribes of Yisrael.

The land of Yisrael will be blessed forever and his descendants will fill the earth

Blessed by God to be a blessing to others

Will submit to work the land of inheritance

Will be content to dwell in the land of inheritance

Satisfied by finding favor with God

Will execute the judgments of God

Allowed to live because of the Promises of God

Will dwell safely in the Land of Promise forever

Victorious by administering God's justice and judgment

Supernatural strength

Most blessed among the sons to be firmly planted in the land

God cut a covenant with Father Avraham because he was faithfully obedient to His Word. Within God's covenant, or container of blessings, is His promise to accomplish His will for His creation through the descendants of Avraham.

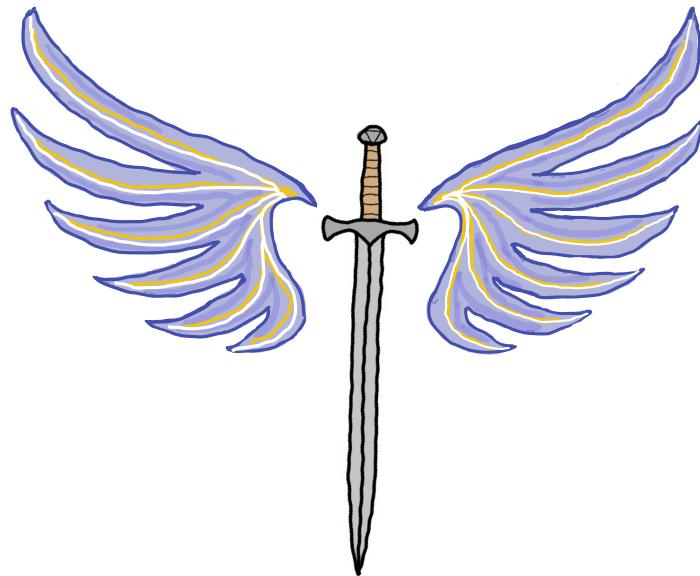
Ya'kov, who was Avraham's grandson, pursued the promises of God all the days of his life. He learned that pursuing God's promises using his own strength only led to strife. Ya'kov learned that he must agree with God in all things and rely on His Word, order and power to accomplish His will. As a result of Ya'kov's obedience to God, Avraham's great-grandson's became the nation of Yisra'el and inherited the land of Yisra'el along with all the blessings of God. When we have faith in God as Avraham did, we also receive all the blessings of God.

Read the prophetic blessings Moshe gave the Tribes of Yisra'el listed in the order they were given below to find clues that teach us about our present lives and our future as the adopted Children of God through the nation of Yisra'el.

1. We are sinful and are only blessed with life through the gift of redemption because of God's Promises.
2. Because we are blessed by God to receive redemption, we are to be a blessing to others.
3. As the people of God, we will execute His judgments when He establishes His Kingdom on earth.
4. We will dwell safely in the presence of God forever.
5. The land of Yisra'el will be blessed, and the people of God will fill the earth.
6. God's people will be content to live where He puts them.
7. God's people will submit to serve Him forever.
8. By administering God's law, the people of God will have victory over the enemy.
9. The people of God will be given supernatural strength to accomplish His will on earth.
10. All God's people will find favor with God, giving them true satisfaction.
11. The last descendants of Ya'kov, who will be born in the Land of Promise and never leave it, will be the most blessed among all the people of God who receive salvation during the Millennial Kingdom of God.

*All those who refuse to repent and agree with God's Only Way for Salvation will suffer His coming wrath which results in eternal shame and condemnation. Their names will not be included in God's blessings for His people.

Haftarah



Joshua 1:1-18

Yehoshua (Joshua) whose name means "Salvation," was a descendant of Ephraim, Joseph's (Yosef) second born son while in Egypt. Ya'kov (Jacob) blessed the younger son of Yosef above the older son, stating he would be greater and become a multitude of nations.

In this week's Haftarah we learn that after Moshe died, the LORD chose to speak to Yehoshua. He commanded Yehoshua to lead the children of Yisra'el over the Jordan River to the land which He was giving them. God proclaimed He was now giving them all the land from the wilderness where they had wandered for forty years to Lebanon, or Yerushalayim (Jerusalem), as far as the River Euphrates toward the Mediterranean Sea. God proclaimed to Yehoshua that He had given them victory over every place where they would walk in the land.

God proclaimed to Yehoshua that no man would be able to defeat him as long as he lived because God would be with him just as He had been with Moshe. God required only one thing from Yehoshua. God required that Yehoshua be **strong and of good courage!** Let's take a look at the first chapter of Joshua together in order to find the four times this phrase is stated.

#1 In Joshua 1:6 we learn that God commanded Yehoshua to be **strong and of good courage** because he would be used by God to divide the Land of Promise as an inheritance to the descendants of Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'kov just as He had sworn to do.

#2 In Joshua 1:7-8 we learn that God again commanded Yehoshua to **be strong and very courageous** that he might know and do all the law which God had given Moshe His servant to teach His people to observe. God emphasized the importance of living by His law, being careful not to turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that God would bless them and make them prosperous wherever they went.



“Only be strong and very courageous that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moshe My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.” Joshua 1:7

#3 In Joshua 1:9 we learn that the LORD God used the phrase “**be strong and of good courage**” in the form of a question to Yehoshua reassuring him that no matter how the people of the nations living in the land reacted to his obedience to God, he was not to be afraid to live by the law. If Yehoshua and the people of God were careful to observe all the law, they should not be concerned by the reaction of the world because the LORD God would be with them!

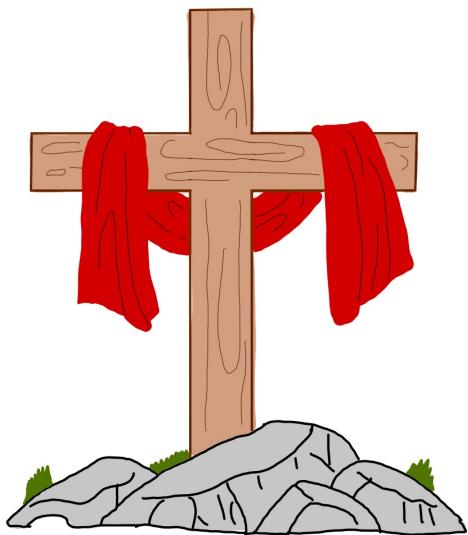
Do you see how important it is for the people of God to obey all the law given to them by God’s servant Moshe? This is why it is important for us to study the Torah continually! We should meditate on it day and night to know the character of God and submit to His authority. Only when we make this our practice for living, will God bless our lives.

Following these commandments from God, Yehoshua commanded the officers of the people to pass through the camp and instruct all the people to prepare to cross over the Jordan River within three days. He reminded the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh of their agreement with Moshe to fight until victory was given on the western side of the Jordan River before returning to the land that had been given to them on the eastern side of the river. These tribes agreed that they would do all that Yehoshua commanded them to do.

#4 In Joshua 1:15 we learn that the people of God vowed to put anyone who refused to follow the commands of Yehoshua to death as long as he was **strong and courageous** as the LORD had commanded him to be.

New Testament

Matthew 5:3-17



Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) took the curse of sin which leads to eternal shame and condemnation upon Himself, and He cut a new covenant with humanity through the shedding of His innocent and perfect blood. All people who rely on His work of redemption on the cross and His resurrection from the dead by God the Father will receive all the blessings contained in the new covenant.

Prior to His crucifixion and resurrection, Messiah Yeshua's ministry began in the newly formed village of Kefar Nahum (Capernaum). He made this village His home while on earth to fulfill the words of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 9:1-7). Kefar Nahum is located on the borders of the land by the way of the sea that the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali inherited in the days of Moshe. Can you remember what blessing the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali received when Moshe died? If you answered "being content to dwell in the land and satisfied to find favor with God," you answered correctly! Do you know that this is exactly what Messiah Yeshua did when He left His home in heaven to fulfill His Father's will on earth? He was **content** to leave His heavenly home and **dwell** with humanity on earth. Even though He is God the Son, He was **satisfied** to find **favor** with God the Father while in this low form of existence.

Messiah Yeshua began His ministry of restoration by teaching His disciples about the blessings that are contained in the New Covenant He cut with humanity. From a mountain in Galilee He explained what was necessary to receive all the blessings God the Father desires to give us and the rewards that are stored for us in heaven when we faithfully live our lives according to this knowledge. These truths apply to everyone who is redeemed by the blood of Messiah Yeshua today!

Focus Passage of Scripture

Matthew 5:3-19

Let's study Matthew 5:3-19 together in order to understand the blessings contained in the New Covenant Messiah Yeshua cut with humanity. In Matthew 5:3 we learn that the **poor in spirit** will be blessed by entering God's Kingdom in Heaven. Being poor in spirit means being troubled by the **sinful condition** of the world. Those who are poor in spirit understand that they are sinful and can do nothing to save themselves from God's coming judgment of sin. They agree with God's Only Way for Salvation, and they understand it is only their faith in His Way that will allow them to be a part of His Kingdom.

In Matthew 5:4 we learn that those who **mourn** will be blessed with comfort. Messiah Yeshua's home during His years of ministry on earth was at Kefar Nahum, or the village of comfort. Messiah Yeshua came to change the status of all people who would mourn their present sinful condition and trust in His Work on the cross. Everyone who trusts in the power of His blood will be changed to reflect the outcome of God's perfect will for His creation. When we agree with God and mourn our inability to change ourselves, we will be comforted or changed by Him.

In Matthew 5:5 we learn that the **meek** will be blessed to inherit the earth. Being **meek** means relying on God's strength instead of our own. Let's remember that Yehoshua did not conquer Jericho by the strength or power of man. Jericho was conquered when Yehoshua listened to and obeyed the instructions of God. Yehoshua's meekness resulted in victory over the enemies at Jericho allowing the descendants of Ya'kov to inherit the Land of Promise. Likewise, when we are meek, relying on God's power instead of our own, we have victory over the enemy and will inherit the earth!

In Matthew 5:6 we learn that all who hunger and thirst for **righteousness** will be filled! Our physical bodies must be filled with food and water to live. Likewise, our soul must be filled with righteousness to have eternal life. We are commanded to bless the LORD our God when we have eaten and are full (Deuteronomy 8:10-20). Just as God fills our bodies with food and water, He is the Only One Who can fill our souls with righteousness. Because God is the Only One Who is Righteous, we must receive this gift from Him. When we have faith in the redemptive Work of Messiah Yeshua Who is God the Son, God the Father will fill us with His righteousness! Even though we don't deserve God's blessings, His greatest desire is to bless us!

In Matthew 5:7 we learn that it is only by God's mercy, or not getting what we deserve, that we can be blessed by Him. Because God extends mercy to us, we should extend **mercy** to others. When we extend mercy to others because we have received mercy from God, we reflect His Glory. Can you recall the Glory of God that passed before Moshe when God hid him in the cleft of the Rock (Exodus 34:5-7)? The mercy of God has the power to heal and restore what has been lost because of sin. It accomplishes exactly what is needed in every situation to achieve the will of God. When we extend mercy to others, we will receive abundant mercy from God.

In Matthew 5:8-9 we learn that as an outcome of the mercy of God we will be given a **pure heart**. When we receive a heart that is pure, we will be able to see God's face and live! We will then be blessed to carry out the will of God on the earth as **peacemakers**. There is no peace outside the will of God! Only when Messiah Yeshua is ruling and reigning as King of the earth will there be peace on the earth. At this time all those who submit to His authority will be called Sons of God, meaning we will see His face and serve Him!

In Matthew 5:10-12 we learn that we will be persecuted for the righteousness of Messiah that is within us. We will be hated by others, and they will say evil things about us because we are blessed by God. When this happens, we should not be sad, we should be happy! We should be filled with joy and sing praises to God because we know that we will one day receive all the blessings that the New Covenant contains. We will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven because we are servants or sons of God. We will enjoy great reward from God for eternity when we continue to stand for the truth of His Word while being persecuted. God did not spare the prophets who spoke His Word of truth because He has a great reward waiting for them. Likewise, we should continue to speak and act according to the truth of His Word given by His prophets to receive our future reward.



In Matthew 5:13 we learn that because we have been redeemed by God and made heirs to all the blessings contained in the New Covenant, we are to be His servants while still living in the world. As a servant of God, we are to be the salt of the earth! Salt has more than one purpose. Not only does it identify impurities and draw them out, it preserves the good that has been saved by this process. As servants of God we are to live according to His commandments making us a peculiar people in the world. We should never try to have the same values and opinions that the world does. If we compromise to be like the world, we do not have the ability to expose the sin that makes the world impure. Also, we are not able to preserve the standards of God as right and holy. When we live in a way that compromises with the standards of the world, we are not serving God. When we do not serve God as we should, we will be trampled by the world. We will be defeated because we are attempting to have victory in our own power and strength.



In Matthew 5:14-16 we learn that as sons of God we are the light of the world! Just as a city on a hill cannot be hidden because of its light, so should we be diligent to let our light shine in the world. We should never hide our light as if it were under a basket only for us to see and benefit from. We should put our light on a lamp-stand to give light to everyone around us. When we do this we glorify God, knowing that our future in His Kingdom is secure because of His promises contained in the New Covenant.

In Matthew 5:17-19 we learn that Messiah Yeshua did not come from heaven to earth to destroy the Law of Moshe or the writings of the Prophets of God. He came to fulfill them! Nothing will pass away from the Law until all the words of God spoken through His prophets have been fulfilled. The law and the prophets will not be completely fulfilled until after Messiah Yeshua returns to rule and reign as King over all the earth for 1,000 years! At the end of His reign on the earth He will create a new heaven and a new earth that will need no law to identify sin and teach righteousness because sin will be no more.

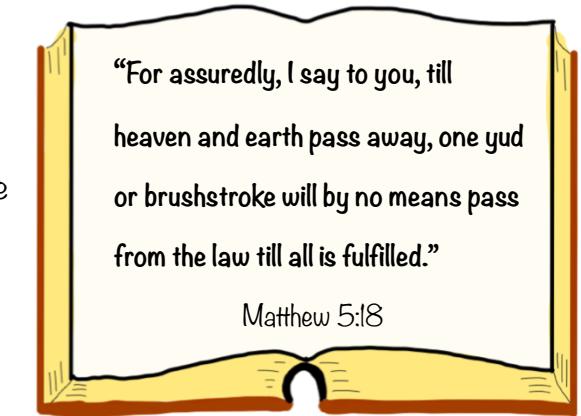
Because the law is perfect and the Prophets of God spoke His Words, they remain very important for God's will to be accomplished. For this reason anyone who breaks one of the least of the commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven and whoever upholds the standard of the law and the prophets, teaching others to do so will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven!

There has never been a prophet like Moshe, the First Redeemer, until the first coming of Messiah Yeshua, the Redeemer of the World. Moshe was sent to Egypt by God to perform all the signs and wonders which the LORD gave him. Moshe obeyed God and served him performing all signs and wonders by the mighty power of God. Moshe did not die because he was old or weak. Rather, God took his soul when his work on earth was complete. The same facts are true about Messiah Yeshua!

Before Moshe died, he laid his hands on Yehoshua so that he received the spirit of wisdom that God had given Moshe. With this wisdom from God Yehoshua commanded the army of Yisra'el with these words:

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:8-9

As we complete the final Torah study, let's be diligent to start our study again from the beginning. It is very important that we do not stop studying the Law and the Prophets so that we can find favor with God.



"For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one yud or brushstroke will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled."

Matthew 5:18

Recap Review Fun

Directions: Draw a line to connect each attribute in the first column to the correct blessing in the second column.

The poor in spirit

Great Reward

Those who mourn

Rely on God

The meek

Purifies and preserves

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

Agree with God

The pure and clean of heart

Committed to God's Will

The peacemakers

Will see God's face and live

Those persecuted for righteousness

Illuminates the truth of God

The salt of the earth

Satisfied by God

The light of the world

Changed by God

Those persecuted for righteousness / Great reward; The salt of the earth / Purifies and preserves; The light of the world / Illuminates the truth of God

Satisfied by God; The pure and clean of heart / Will see God's face and live; The peacemakers / Committed to God's Will

Changed by God; The poor in spirit / Agree with God; Those who mourn / Challenged by God; The meek / Rely on God; Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

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