



**Message 5-12-07**  
**Behar-On the Mount**  
**Leviticus 25:1-26:2**  
**Jeremiah 32:6-27**  
**Galatians 6:7-10**

**BeChukkotai-In My Statutes**  
**Leviticus 26:3-27:34**  
**Jeremiah 16:19-17:14**

**Introduction**

This week we have a double portion. The first portion Behar focuses on legislation intended to ensure that people – especially people in distress – may enjoy a secure life. The second portion and the last one of the book of Leviticus Bechukotai promises a time of security, peace, and prosperity for those who are faithful to God.

**Leviticus 25:18-22**

**18** 'So you shall observe My statutes and keep My judgments, and perform them; and you will dwell in the land in safety. **19** 'Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill, and dwell there in safety. **20** 'And if you say, "What shall we eat in the seventh year, since we shall not sow nor gather in our produce?" **21** 'Then I will command My blessing on you in the sixth year, and it will bring forth produce enough for three years. **22** 'And you shall sow in the eighth year, and eat old produce until the ninth year; until its produce comes in, you shall eat of the old harvest.

What are the statutes and judgments? The Hebrew word for statutes is *chukah* and can mean either statutes or ordinances and the Hebrew word for judgments is *mishpat*. Are these statutes and judgments separate from the Torah or are they part of the Torah in general? The Torah overall is the teaching or instruction of a loving God.

**8451** תּוֹרָה towrah {to-raw'} or תִּרְהָה torah {to-raw'}

**Meaning:** law, direction, instruction (human or divine), body of prophetic teaching, instruction in Messianic age, body of priestly direction or instruction, body of legal directives, law of the burnt offering, of special law, codes of law, custom, manner, the Deuteronomic or Mosaic Law

The Torah itself is a compilation of the instruction of God. In its present form it had been given to Moses while he was on Mount Sinai and it seems to have developed over the next forty years while the Israelites were wandering in the Wilderness.

**Deuteronomy 31:26** "Take this Book of the Torah, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there as a witness against you; **27** "for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. *If* today, while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the LORD, then how much more after my death?"

Near the end of his life Moses instructed the priests to take the book of the Torah and place it beside the Ark of the Covenant so it would stand as a witness against Israel. Moses had already experienced forty years of contending with the Children of Israel and God had shown him what would happen in the future regarding Israel. Moses had done all that he could in the forty years he had led Israel and he knew it would be left to those who would come after him to try to keep Israel on the road the Lord had placed them on.

Israel had a special relationship with God as God had called them out to be His own special treasure from among all of the nations of the earth. I might be so bold as to imply, that out of all the nations that have existed or will exist on the face of the earth Israel, since its birth as a nation, have remained with an identity no matter what she has been through.

The holocaust was an attempt on the part of Satan to wipe out the Jewish people from the face of the earth and from mankind's memory. He came very close to succeeding but God would not allow His people to be destroyed. In many ways we are doing a better job of destroying ourselves because of our rejection of God's Torah and our hesitation to commit ourselves to His Messiah and Son Yeshua.

**Hosea 4:6** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the Torah of your God, I also will forget your children.

**1847** דַּעַת da`ath {dah'-ath}

**Meaning:** knowledge, perception, skill, discernment, understanding, wisdom

The prophet Hosea under the inspiration of the Lord prophesied that the Children of Israel are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Tied to this lack of knowledge is the statement that this is due to forgetting the Torah of God. The Hebrew word for knowledge is *daath*. Among its meanings are discernment, understanding, and wisdom. I believe that discernment is a primary problem for us and has always been a problem.

**Philippians 1:9** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, **10** that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Messiah, **11** being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Yeshua the Messiah, to the glory and praise of God.

The Apostle Paul brings out this problem with a general reference back to Hosea. In verse 9 he says that he would like the love of the Believers to abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment. Discernment is something that is lacking among the people of God. It began way back in the early days of the community of Messiah and picked up speed once the Church emerged as the victor out of the battle for supremacy among the various forms of early Christianity and even out of its supremacy over the fading Messianic movement of the early years.

The Church displayed a great lack of discernment when it decided to sever all ties to its Hebrew/Jewish roots. It was these roots that fed the tree that was Israel causing the tree to bring forth two distinct branches that have gone into two distinct directions. Among these branches are others that have died or are in the process of dying. My analogy to the tree and the branches were brought to mind by a tree that I have in the rear of my home. When we moved into our home almost 14 years ago we had this tree. Through the years we have planted other trees, some have

thrived and others have not. This one particular tree, has at times looked like it was on its last legs, only to suddenly spring back to life, but having branches among the live ones that have died.

I find myself having to prune these dead branches from the tree or on a windy day the wind does the job for me. This reminds me of what the Lord does to keep His tree, called Israel, clean from too many dead or dying branches. It would seem in our day we are returning to the problems that were rampant among the newly emerging congregations during the time of the Apostles. As they went out to take the teachings of their Master Yeshua to the nations they encountered a variety of different thinking that was not in line with what they had been taught. We do not see too much mention made of the Jerusalem congregation and what they believed or the various issues they had to deal with but due to the writings of the Apostle Paul we see the problems he had to deal with in his congregations that were out there among the nations.

The problems his congregations had would be different from the problems Jewish based congregations would have because of the variety of beliefs he had to deal with that ran contrary to Jewish teachings and thinking. In fact, this same problem is with us today and growing. It is not a problem limited to the Church but one that is gaining a foothold in the Messianic movement in different forms. Too many people in the Messianic movement focus too much energy on things like prophecy. I am not talking about a prophetic word that is used to bring exhortation to the Body of Messiah. I am talking about a focus on future events that are out of proportion to our study of the Torah and the Word of God in order to develop good, sound, foundational principles that will help us to sink our roots deep into the soil of Messiah.

Moses dealt with the same problems in the emerging nation of Israel and we are finding ourselves in the same situation he was in. The Lord showed Moses what the future would bring and the prophets of God shared these same concerns with Israel to no avail. I am sure they felt they were not out of God's will the same as we think today. We are struggling, my friends, and we do not realize it. I used to think that the Messianic movement was simply going through growing pains and would start showing a level of maturity it had not before. Yet, as I look around me, I see no such emerging maturity but a falling away from the basic teachings found in the Torah of God.

I am not pointing the finger at anyone in particular or any group. We are all responsible to some degree.

**Romans 7:4** Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the Torah through the body of Messiah, that you may be married to another -- to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

Many of us have become what Paul is speaking about in a symbolic manner. That is, we have become dead to the Torah or have become so legalistic concerning the Torah that we have gone in the opposite direction. Instead of becoming one body as we are told to do in the Word we have become separate branches each seeking its own way.

**Romans 12:4** For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, **5** so we, *being many*, are one body in Messiah, and individually members of one another.

Paul is saying in Romans 12:4-5 that while we are different and each one of us have different functions within the Body of Messiah it is through Messiah Yeshua that we are supposed to be united yet we are doing the opposite.

It is known that early Judaism was as diverse as early Christianity yet most Jews considered themselves to be part of the body Jewish to some degree. Today if someone disagrees with someone else over some minute point of belief they go out and start a new congregation or movement placing emphasis on the point in contention rather than on the points they have in agreement. We are tearing the Body of Messiah apart and are well on our way to becoming the remnant that Scripture continually talks about.

### **Jeremiah 16:19-21**

**19** O LORD, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in the day of affliction, the Nations shall come to You from the ends of the earth and say, "Surely our fathers have inherited lies, worthlessness and unprofitable *things*." **20** Will a man make gods for himself, which *are* not gods? **21** "Therefore behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know My hand and My might; and they shall know that My name is the LORD.

I can tell you one thing about this is I wish that people would pay attention and wake up and see what is happening. Jeremiah's message is not just to Israel of his day but we need to pay attention and see that his message is just as valid today as it was in his day. Remember that Jeremiah was not a prophet that the people wanted to jump on board with. Then again the prophets of God were not well received by the audience they were addressing. When you look at what they had to say you realize they were bringing a word of exhortation to the people in order to get them back on track with the Lord because they had fallen off the road.

In verse 20 Jeremiah tells the people that how can they make gods for themselves which are not gods. While this is posed as a question I can see it as more of a rhetorical question than one where God is actually seeking an answer. The Lord, through His prophets, tries to get His people back on track.

**Psalms 81:11** "But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would *have* none of Me.

God tells us that His people would not listen to Him. What is it the people would not listen to? It had to be the Torah – the living Word of God made flesh in Yeshua! This is not a supposition but a fact. If God said it then there should be no question but we struggle with this. We listen to God with one ear and if we don't like what He has to say we close the other one and don't let His words pass on in.

**Deuteronomy 4:1** "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you.

**Deuteronomy 7:12** "Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers.

Our covenant with God is not meant to be one sided – no covenant is. There are a minimum of two parties to any agreement. In our case there is God on the one side Who has initiated the covenant and us on the other side the intended recipients of the promises found in the covenant. God has made several covenants with His people but none of them has replaced the one that preceded it. Every covenant God has made with His children is an extension or adjustment to the one that came before it. He never said that any one covenant has replaced one that came before. This would be against the very nature of God and Who He says He is. He says He never changes and His word never changes. As Messianic Believers we understand His word to be Yeshua, His Son.

How this is I don't know but it is a matter of faith that we accept what God has said and done. If God said it then that should be the end of it.

### **Galatians 6:7-10**

**7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. **8** For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. **9** And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. **10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Do you see what verse 10 says? Let us do good to all, especially the household of faith. It is all well and good to do good things for others but we are instructed to be especially mindful of the Body of Messiah or the community of the faithful. We lack in doing this. We have forgotten that we are to help our brethren first. I know that the message being trumpeted around today is we are citizens of the world, so therefore, we should be mindful of the world's citizens. Since when did this list grow to include those who would act against the very God we worship?

I realize that by saying that one person's god is not the same as mine goes against the grain of what we are being told by our leaders, but the bottom line is that Buddah, Allah, and all the other names of people or deities that others put out there as their god being the same as my God is not true.

**Exodus 20:3** "You shall have no other gods before Me.

**Deuteronomy 5:7** "You shall have no other gods before Me.

This is the first in the list of the ten words that God gave to the Children of Israel at Mount Sinai. This is the fundamental command given by God that precedes all the other commandments. This is the essence of who God is and what He desires from us. There are no other gods before Him. One might say, "Well this means there are other gods but He just says He is the supreme God." This is not what God is saying based on what He says in other places in His word. There are no other gods besides Him. Any other god that man may worship is a false god next to Him. Most gods that man worships are made by the hands of men out of materials like stone, wood or a precious metal. A prime example of this is the Golden Calf. This was made by the hand of Aaron as the god that man should worship meaning the Most High God. It did not please Him people. He rejected this and brought judgment down upon the Children of Israel.

Three thousand died that day for their sin against God and the rest of the Children of Israel were made to drink water that contained the ground up Golden Calf. It would leave a taste in their mouths that they would soon forget. Are we not like them today? You might say, "But I don't worship an idol?" If money, your job, or your home takes priority in your life then you have placed an idol in your path. Nothing can get in the way of your faith and worship of the Almighty. My friends, look closely at yourselves and take a moment to take stock of your lives. Are you doing what God has instructed us to do through His Torah and upheld by His Son Yeshua and His prophets?

**2 Kings 17:13** Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the Torah which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets."

**Zechariah 7:12** "Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the Torah and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

**Acts 24:14** "But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Torah and in the Prophets.

**Romans 3:21** But now the righteousness of God apart from the Torah is revealed, being witnessed by the Torah and the Prophets, **22** even the righteousness of God, through faith in Yeshua the Messiah, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference.

The Apostle Paul in Romans 3:21-22 talks about the righteousness of God apart from the Torah and yet he also says that the righteousness of God is witnessed to by the Torah and the Prophets by our faith in Yeshua. How can this be? It would seem that Paul is talking out of both sides of his mouth but if one realizes what Paul is saying we

see there is no contradiction. God is the Author of the Torah so therefore He is the living Torah and needs no law to testify of His righteousness but that He has become a man, like you and me, and allowed the Torah to have reign over Him so that it would testify of His righteousness.

**1 Kings 18:39** Now when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

Don't wait until God sends down fire from heaven to accept Him as Lord. It may just be too late by then.

***It is good to sing to our God (Psalm 147:1). It is good if you can have God sing within you...Chassidic***

***from Mordecai Silver - Have a great Shabbat!***

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