



Shabbat Torah Readings of Yeshua

And as Yeshua's custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Shabbat, and stood up to read. (Luke 4:16)

February 11, 2017

Introduction

Below are vocabulary terms that some readers may not be familiar with from the Jewish culture.

- (1) **Yeshua** is the actual name of Jesus.
- (2) **Shabbat** is the seventh day of the week on the Jewish calendar. It begins at sundown on Friday and ends at sundown on Saturday.
- (3) **Synagogues**, at the time of Yeshua were community centers which were used for many different purposes, but on the Shabbat they became a *Bet Midrash* (House of Study).
- (4) The **Torah** is a scroll that contains the information found in the following books of Jewish and Christian Scriptures today ó *Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy*.
- (5) The **Torah Reading Schedule** is lists the scheduled portions of the Torah that are read and discussed in synagogues each Shabbat. This Torah Reading Schedule is based on the earliest schedule we have been able to find. It takes a three year cycle to read through the entire Torah. A synagogue official called a *chazzan* (*cantor*) chose people from the congregation to read the portions of the Torah and *haftarahs* each Shabbat. A teacher, rabbi, Levite or other learned person would expound on the readings afterwards.
- (6) The **haftarahs** are sections read from the Prophets (scrolls now recorded in the second section of the Jewish Scriptures called *Nevi-im* [*Prophets*]). When Antiochus IV Epiphanes ruled Israel, he issued a decree that the Jewish people were forbidden to read from the Torah. So the Jewish sages instructed the people to read a section of the Prophets instead. Those sections contained a theme or idea related to the Torah portion that should have been read that week. After the prohibition was repealed, the tradition of reading the haftarahs was combined with Torah Readings.
- (7) **Yeshua, Teacher of the Torah**, is how he described himself and the role he saw himself fulfilling. He declared this in the famous Sermon on the Mount ó *öI have not come to misinterpret the Torah and the Prophets, I have come to interpret them correctly!ö* By being familiar with the scheduled readings of the ancient synagogues, your understanding of teachings of Yeshua recorded in the Synoptic Gospels (*Matthew, Mark & Luke*) will be greatly enhanced.

The Yeshua that lived and taught in Galilee, Samaria and Judea is very different from the different beliefs about the Christ of Paul that originated in Gentile churches centuries later. They redefined who he was, what he said and what his movement was. The Real Yeshua Project's goal is to help people rediscover the real Yeshua and his values, because they are urgently needed today!

Exodus 3:1-4:13

^{3:1} And Moses was tending the flock of Jethro¹ his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock behind the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of the ELOHIYM.² And the messenger of Yahweh appeared to him in a flame of fire from out of a thorn bush. And he saw, and behold, the thorn bush was burning with fire, and the thorn bush was not burned up. And Moses said, *õI will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the thorn bush does not burn up.ö*

⁴ And Yahweh saw that he turned to see, an ELOHIYM³ called to him from the midst of the thorn bush and said, *õMoses, Moses!ö* And he said, *õHere I am.ö*

⁵ And he (ELOHIYM) said, *õDo not come near here. Pull your sandals off your feet, for the place which you standing on is holy ground.ö* And he said, *õI (am) the ELOHIYM of your father — the ELOHIYM of Abraham, the ELOHIYM of Isaac, and the ELOHIYM of Jacob.ö* And Moses hid his face, for he feared to look upon the ELOHIYM.

⁷ And Yahweh said: *õSurely I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry from their slave drivers, for I know their sorrows. And I have to deliver them out of the hand of Egypt and to deliver them from that land to a good and broad land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite. And now therefore, behold, the cry of the sons of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them. And now, go, and I will send you to Pharaoh and you bring my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.ö*

¹¹ And Moses said to the ELOHIYM, *õWho (am) I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?ö*

¹² And he (ELOHIYM) said, *õFor I will be with you, and this (will be) a sign to you that I have sent you: When you bring out the people from Egypt: you shall serve the ELOHIYM on this mountain.ö*

¹³ And Moses said to the ELOHIYM, *õBehold, I (shall) come to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘The ELOHIYM of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they will say to me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?ö*

¹⁴ And ELOHIYM said to Moses, *õI will be who I will be.ö* And he (ELOHIYM) said, *õThus you will say to the sons of Israel, ‘I Will Be has sent me to you.ö* And again ELOHIYM said to Moses, *õThus you shall say to the sons of Israel: ‘Yahweh the ELOHIYM of your fathers, the ELOHIYM of Abraham, the ELOHIYM of Isaac, and the ELOHIYM of Jacob, has sent me to you. This (is) my name forever, and this is my memorial for generation of generation.’ Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, ‘Yahweh the ELOHIYM of your fathers, the ELOHIYM of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, “I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt; and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, to a land flowing with milk and honey.öö*

¹⁸ And they will hear your voice; and you will enter, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, *¬Yahweh the ELOHIYM the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us*

go journey of three days into the wilderness, and let us sacrifice to Yahweh our ELOHIYM. ' And I know that the king of Egypt will not permit you to go, not even by a strong hand. And I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in its midst, and afterward he will send you. And I will give this people favor in the eyes of Egypt; and it shall be, when you go, that you will not go empty. And each woman shall ask from her neighbor, and from the stranger in her house things of silver, and things of gold, and clothing; and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. And you shall strip Egypt.ö

^{4:1} And Moses answered and said, *öAnd behold, they will not believe me and not listen to my voice; for they will say, 'Yahweh has not appeared to you.ö*

² And Yahweh said to him, *öWhat is this in your hand?ö*

(Moses) said, *öA staff.ö*

³ And (Yahweh) said, *öThrow it to the ground.ö*

And (Moses) threw it to the ground, and it became a snake, and Moses fled from its face.

⁴ And Yahweh said to Moses, *öReach out your hand and catch it by the tail;ö* (and [Moses] reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand), *in order that they may believe that Yahweh the ELOHIYM of their fathers, the ELOHIYM of Abraham, the ELOHIYM of Isaac, and the ELOHIYM of Jacob, has appeared to you.ö*

⁶ And Yahweh said to him, *öNow put your hand in your lap.ö*

And (Moses) put his hand in his lap, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous, like snow.

⁷ And (Yahweh) said, *öPut your hand in your lap again.ö*

And (Moses) put his hand in his lap again, and he took it out of his lap, and behold, it had turned like his flesh.

⁸ (Yahweh said) *öAnd it shall be, if they will not believe you and will not listen to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. And it will be, if they will not believe even these two signs, and will not listen to your voice, you will take water from The River (Nile) and pour it out on the dry land, and it will be, the water which you take from The River will become blood on the dry land.ö*

¹⁰ And Moses said to Yahweh, *öPlease master, I am not a man of words, neither before nor since you spoke to your servant; for I (am) heavy of mouth and heavy of tongue.ö*

¹¹ And Yahweh said to him, *öWho has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Is it not I, Yahweh? And now, go, and I will be with your mouth and will teach you what you will speak.ö*

¹³ And (Moses) said, *öPlease master, send now by the hand (whomever else) you will send.ö*

Look for themes or ideas in the reading below that are related to the Torah portion you just read above.

Haftarah Reading #1

Isaiah 40:11

Like a shepherd (Yahweh) shall feed his flock;
With his arm he shall gather the lambs,
And in his lap carry them,
And he will lead those with young.

Haftarah Reading #2

2 Kings 20:8

And Hezekiah said to Isaiah,
*“What will be the sign that Yahweh will heal me,
and that I shall go up on the third day to the House of Yahweh?”*

Related reading from the Synoptic Gospels:

Exodus 3:6 & 3:15-16 – Matthew 22:32, Mark 12:26 & Luke 20:37

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*Please share these Torah Readings with others who value Jesus too!
Gathering with others to read them orally and discussing them afterwards in light of his teachings
is a valuable and worthwhile learning and spiritual experience.*

Shabbat Shalom!
Jim Myers

¹ He was called “Reuel in Exodus 2:17.

² HA-ELOHIYM = the + god

³ ELOHIYM - Number 2 above without definite article HA (the), “an ELOHIYM.”