

Parashah 54 V'Zot HaBrachah (This is the Blessing)

V'Zot HaBrachah (This is the Blessing) {Deuteronomy 33:1 – 34:12}

Haftorah: Y'hoshua (Joshua 1:1-18)

B'rit Hadashah suggested readings for Parashah

*Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:1-61; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; John 17:11-26;
Romans 15:4-6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 2:1-2; Acts 2:1; Ephesians 3:14-21*

This, the final week's portion is from Deuteronomy 33:1 – 34:12

(Bold, Underlining and Italics added for emphasize) {NKJV-New King James Version, CJB-Complete Jewish Bible, TEV-Today's English Version}

Our Prayer today, for understanding of G-d's word with His promises and requirements for us:

Psalm 86:11,6 (NKJV) *"⁶ Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications... ¹¹ teach me your way, O LORD; I will walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name."*

*"Father make my mind to understand your truths and not to depend on my imperfect understanding,
but rather your perfect will to show and guide me to truly understand your truths"*

We have reached the end of the Torah, the Law. This is the last reading of the Torah for this cycle. It is normally a special Parashah, being the last one. It is not normally read on Shabbat, but traditionally read on the 8th day of the Feast of Tabernacles, or Sukkot.

These are the last recorded words of Moses, as he spoke blessings over Israel, specifying individual blessings for each tribe. We saw this before, when Jacob (later renamed Israel) pronounced his blessings over his heirs, the forefathers of the Nation Israel, whom make up the twelve tribes. The first five verses and their immeasurable importance are the focus of our study today.

Now, let us proceed with what today we would call the prologue, chapter 33 verses 1 to 5:

Deuteronomy 33:1-5 (NKJV) ¹ Now this *is* the blessing with which ***Moses the man of God*** blessed the children of Israel before his death. ² And he said: "The LORD came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand *Came* a fiery law for them. ³ Yes, He loves the people; All His saints *are* in Your hand; They sit down at Your feet; *Everyone* receives Your words. ⁴ Moses commanded a law for us, A heritage of the congregation of Jacob. ⁵ **And He was King in Jeshurun, When the leaders of the people were gathered, All the tribes of Israel together.**

This is the only time in the Torah Moses was called "*the man of G-d*".

Take note also of the words used in verse four:

Deuteronomy 33:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Moses commanded a *law for us, A heritage of the congregation* of Jacob.

Deuteronomy 33:4 (CJB) ⁴ *the Torah* Moshe commanded *us as an inheritance for the community* of Ya'akov.

Understand this – The Torah is the possession of *the people, the congregation*, not just of certain individuals. G-d's word, His commands, His Torah is for all. G-d Almighty *wants, expects and demands* His people (today Jew and Gentile as one new man) to be in total unity (yachad) with worship of Him, according to what He has set forth in His laws, His commands, i.e. the Torah and then the further enlightenment of it by Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ.

From verse five make note of the meaning behind the particular wording used here. *Jeshurun (Yeshurun)* is a title of honor that is descriptive of Israel in its ideal state, a title of honor as an upright nation. This word is from a root word, which means "straight" (yashar). It is a descriptive title concerning unity of the nation of Israel as a whole. While Israel was/is made up of individuals with many different roles; everything G-d Almighty did, including having chosen them as His people, has been done and occurred for them as a corporate unified entity and a blueprint for the future. It is a blueprint for today!

Only when Israel as a united people, in agreement as one, together as one in harmony of belief and action will The Lord reign as King over Israel.

Consider it, as a unified body of people; Israel accepted the Torah and the Covenant with G-d Almighty at Mt. Sinai. As one body of unity in belief, worship and purpose Israel received the blessings of G-d Almighty.

On the other hand, as one body of unity in belief, worship and purpose Israel also received the judgments and curses of G-d Almighty when that unity was idolatry, faithlessness and disobedience. This happens when the majority (which represents the whole) are doing their own thing, doing things according to their fleshly understanding, thus tearing asunder the many parts of the "body". That is not keeping the body as one and unity in G-d.

Chapter 33 contains the blessings Moses pronounced over the tribes of Israel, each with an individual pronouncement. Just as Jacob blessed the forefathers of the tribes of Israel, each according to their potential and destiny, Moses gave the blessings according to each tribe's personality and responsibilities. These responsibilities are for the good and unity of the entire nation, the "congregation". Hebrew scholars admit these blessings vary substantially. It is interesting many of the words and phrases used by Moses in these blessings are not found anywhere else in the Bible. These words used for the blessings are considered by the Hebrew scholars to be rare.

It is interesting to note when reading the blessing for the tribe of Benjamin, that the forefather Benjamin was the only one who was literally, physically born in the land of Israel.

Haftarah - Prophets ***Y'hoshua (Joshua 1:1-18)***

This week's Haftorah portion contains the discussion of Joshua's succession of his mentor, Moses. After Moses passed, G-d now spoke to Joshua with instructions and encouragement. G-d almighty is reassuring Joshua, He will be with him and Israel as they go into the Promised Land. Make a note of the way G-d referenced these promises to what He had told Moses and the Torah which He had given Moses for the children of Israel.

Joshua 1:2-5 (NKJV) ²"Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, *arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land, which I am giving to them--the children of Israel.* ³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, **as I said to Moses.** ⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. ⁵ ***No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.***

G-d encourages Joshua to be strong and bold. God also reminds Joshua of the importance of following the Torah, His commandments.

Joshua 1:6-9 (NKJV) ⁶ **Be strong and of good courage,** for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, **that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.** ⁸ **This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,** but *you shall meditate in 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. ⁹ ***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 calls his officers to task, reminding them of G-d's commands and the Torah received from G-d through Moses. He commands his officers to prepare the people to cross the Jordan River, including the tribes that were settling on the eastern bank of the river to come and fulfill their vow to help take the land G-d was giving them.

Joshua 1:16-18 (CJB) ¹⁶ They answered Y'hoshua, "We will do everything you have ordered us to do, and we will go wherever you send us. ¹⁷ Just as we listened to everything Moshe said, so will we listen to you. Only may Adonai your God be with you as he was with Moshe. ¹⁸ If anyone rebels against your order and doesn't heed what you say in every detail of your order, he will be put to death. Just be strong, be bold!"

B'rit Hadashah – New Testament

Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 4:1-61; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27;

John 17:11-26; Romans 15:4-6; 1 Corinthians 1:10;

Philippians 2:1-2; Acts 2:1; Ephesians 3:14-21

Time to review and summarize this week's teaching and study

When writing to the Hebrew congregation, the writer was most likely thinking of and referencing Moses' comments that we learned at Deuteronomy 33:1-5. The writer was speaking by all accounts to a congregation of only Jewish believers, relying heavily on teaching from the "old Testament" to show and prove the Messiahship of Yeshua, Jesus.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV) ²⁴ And let us consider one another ***in order to stir up love and good works,*** ²⁵ ***not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together,*** as is the manner of some, ***but exhorting one another,*** and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (CJB) ²⁴ And let us keep paying attention to one another, ***in order to spur each other on to love and good deeds,*** ²⁵ ***not neglecting our own congregational meetings,*** as some have made a practice of doing, but, ***rather, encouraging each other.*** And let us do this all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Moses through the direction of G-d, emphasized, the unity required and expected for the children of Israel in belief, worship and purpose.

While in the body/congregation there are many parts and these parts have different functions, they must be in harmony and unity in order to function properly and with acceptance, worship the Heavenly Father, God Almighty.

The Apostle Paul addresses this issue in correction and exhortation to both Jewish and Gentile believers in his day. See how Paul reminds the congregation at Ephesus the importance of this matter. Take note of Paul's emphasize on unity.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the ***unity*** of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ ***There is one*** body and ***one*** Spirit, just as ***you were called in one*** hope of your calling; ⁵ ***one*** Lord, ***one*** faith, ***one*** baptism; ⁶ ***one*** God and Father ***of all,*** who is above ***all,*** and through ***all,*** and in you ***all.***

See just how pointed and detailed the Apostle Paul is when he writes to congregation at Corinth.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NKJV) ¹² ***For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.*** ¹³ ***For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*** ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the smelling? ¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. ¹⁹ And if they *were* all one member, where *would* the body *be*? ²⁰ But now indeed *there are* many members, *yet one body.* ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honorable, on these we, bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable *parts* have greater modesty, ²⁴ but our representable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, ²⁵ ***that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.*** ²⁶ ***And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*** ²⁷ ***Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.***

Our blueprint, the Nation of Israel had the individual tribes and the appointed Priesthood; there were many

members and many "chores", "jobs", "functions" and "gifts" within the whole, the one body. They were all assigned by G-d's guidance, as He alone preferred. Today the Body of Christ, Yeshua HaMashiach has many members with many "chores", "jobs", "functions" and "gifts" within the whole, the one body and all are assigned by G-d's guidance as He alone pleases.

There is room and it is necessary to have individual expression and personal contribution within the body. However there is a caveat to that individual expression and personal contribution! Just as each tribe of Israel had its individual banner (representative of their unique traits, responsibilities and contributions) and their assigned place to camp and set up, there was only one point of focus for them all. That point of focus was the Tabernacle, located in the middle of the encampment. The point of focus of the Tabernacle was the visible presence of G-d Almighty in midst of His people!

This unity, this oneness, this one body in purpose and focus is what Yeshua, Jesus addressed in His prayer to the Heavenly Father as he was wrapping up His earthly ministry. His sacrificial death would be the manner that brings - brought unity to all mankind in worship and purpose as Jew and Gentile, one in Messiah, one body!

John 17:11-26 (NKJV) ¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, *that they may be one as We are.* ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. ²⁰ ***"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*** ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, *that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one,* and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ ***And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.***"

We have seen G-d's plan in action through the blueprint given to us through the nation of Israel and His purpose for bringing us to unity as one body. Unity is G-d's goal for us, for that is how we will be able to set foot into and enter HIS kingdom.

Romans 15:4-6 (NKJV) ⁴ ***For whatever things were written before were written for our learning,*** that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. ⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to ***be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,*** ⁶ ***that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

1 Corinthians 1:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ***you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.***

Philippians 2:1-2 (CJB) ¹ Therefore, if you have any encouragement for me from your being in union with the Messiah, any comfort flowing from love, any fellowship with me in the Spirit, or any compassion and sympathy, ² then complete my joy by having a common purpose and a common love, by being one in heart and mind.

Let your mind run amuck for a moment and think what would have happened on the day of Shavuot/Pentecost if those believers of the 1st century had not been "like-minded", in unity of belief, worship and purpose!

Acts 2:1 (NKJV) ¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come; they were all with one accord in one place.

If someone was not like-minded" being of one accord, then they would have missed the arrival of the Holy Spirit on them personally and the resulting miracles of G-d!!!!

Coming full circle back to Deuteronomy 33:5, our repentance and acceptance of Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ makes our course "straight" (yashar), thus allowing us to earn the title "Yeshurun" the name for Israel meaning and symbolizing "unity" (Yachad) (closely related is "one" {Echad} that stresses unity) in HIM!!!

Closing:

Our future, my brothers and sisters, is dependent on becoming "Yeshurun". The "body" of today is fractured by the many doctrines and traditions of man, having added to or taken away from G-d Almighty's commands, His Law, His Torah. We must once again become a unified body! This is G-d's requirement, His plan, and His demand of us!!! So, are each of us humbling ourselves, through loving one another as our King, Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ did, thus working toward this required unity? Are we in the word so the word will be in us, that we may fulfill the great commission to go forth and spread the good news of the gospel (includes the entire Bible) making disciples for the Lord?

***If there is no issue of Salvation or false teaching,
then there should be no division over differences of opinions on unimportant
issues, such as when the Rapture would occur and other such differences.***

Let us end this cycle of study and the year's study of G-d's plans, purposes, love and grace for us with the prayer offered by the Apostle Paul:

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ, ¹⁵ from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ that *He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,* ¹⁷ *that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,* ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰ *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,* ²¹ *to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.* Amen.

*YOU HAVE TO BE IN THE WORD,
FOR THE WORD TO BE IN YOU!*

Shabbat Shalom, G-d Bless and Keep you!

© Terry L. Newman, 2015 5776