

Parashah 43 Masa'ei (Stages)

Masa'ei (Stages) {Numbers 32:43-36:13}

Haftorah: Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah 2:4-28; 3:4)

B'rit Hadashah suggested readings for Parashah

James 4:4, James 4:6-10, Matthew 11:27-30, John 7:37-38

This week's portion is from Numbers 32:43 -36:13

(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) *"**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."*

The teaching this week, will close out the book of B'midbar – Numbers. This is a time of tying up loose ends. It is the time prior to going into the Promised Land and requires more instruction and time for Moses to continue writing all G-d had told him to write for the Torah.

Chapter 33 is a listing of the travels and encampments by the Israelites since leaving Egypt.

Numbers 33:1-2 (TEV) ¹ The following account gives the names of the places where the Israelites set up camp after they left Egypt in their tribes under the leadership of Moses and Aaron. ² At the command of the LORD, Moses wrote down the name of the place each time they set up camp.

1. These are the journeys of the children of Israel who left the land of Egypt in their legions, under the charge of Moses and Aaron.

א. אלה מסעי בני ישראל אשר יצאו מארץ מצרים לצבאתם ביד משה ואהרן:

2. Moses recorded their starting points for their journeys according to the word of the Lord, and these were their journeys with their starting points.

ב. ויכתב משה את מוצאייהם למסעיהם על פי יהוה ואלה מסעיהם למוצאייהם:

Moses lists the 42 journeys and encampments, from the Exodus to their final encampment in the plains of Moab across the Jordan River from Jericho. For emphasize, each is told of twice.

At the end of Chapter 33, G-d Almighty gives Moses instructions to give to the children of Israel. First are the general instructions for what they are to do with the inhabitants, their idols and temples etc. It is a spiritual and physical cleansing of the land as they take possession.

Numbers 33:50-53 (NKJV) ⁵⁰ **Now the LORD spoke to Moses** in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, saying, ⁵¹ "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: *'When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan,* ⁵² *then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places;* ⁵³ *you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess.*

50. The Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying:

ג. וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל מֹשֶׁה בְּעֶרְבַת מוֹאָב עַל יַרְדֵּן יְרַחוּ לְאֹמֶר:

51. Speak to the children of Israel and say to them: When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

נא. דַּבֵּר אֶל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם כִּי אַתֶּם עֹבְרִים אֶת הַיַּרְדֵּן אֶל אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן:

52. you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their temples, destroy their molten idols, and demolish their high places.

נב. וְהוֹרַשְׁתֶּם אֶת כָּל יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ מִפְּנֵיכֶם וְאַבְדֹתֶם אֶת כָּל מַשְׁכֵּי־תָם וְאֶת כָּל צִלְמֵי מִסְכַּתָם תִּסְבְּדוּ וְאֶת כָּל בְּמוֹתָם תִּשְׁמִדוּ:

53. You shall clear out the Land and settle in it, for I have given you the Land to occupy it.

נג. וְהוֹרַשְׁתֶּם אֶת הָאָרֶץ וְיֹשְׁבֹתֶם בָּהּ כִּי לְכֶם נָתַתִּי אֶת הָאָרֶץ לְרִשְׁתָּ אֹתָהּ:

Next G-d gives Moses the instructions for dividing the promised - as an inheritance to the tribes of Israel. G-d Almighty gives a brief but intense warning to Israel concerning His instructions and the consequences of any disobedience.

Numbers 33:54-56 (NKJV) ⁵⁴ And you shall divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your families; to the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; there everyone's *inheritance* shall be whatever falls to him by lot. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers. ⁵⁵ ***But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell.*** ⁵⁶ ***Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them.*** "

54. You shall give the Land as an inheritance to your families by lot; to the large, you shall give a larger inheritance and to the small you shall give a smaller inheritance; wherever the lot falls shall be his; according to the tribes of your fathers, you shall inherit.

נד. וְהִתְנַחֲלֶתֶם אֶת הָאָרֶץ בְּגוּרָל לְמִשְׁפְּחֹתֵיכֶם לְרַב תְּרַבּוּ אֶת נַחֲלֹתוֹ וְלִמְעוֹט תִּמְעִיט אֶת נַחֲלֹתוֹ אֶל אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא לוֹ שְׁמָה הַגּוּרָל לוֹ יִהְיֶה לְמִטּוֹת אֲבֹתֵיכֶם תִּתְנַחֲלוּ:

55. But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the Land from before you, then those whom you leave over will be as spikes in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they will harass you in the land in which you settle.

נה. וְאִם לֹא תוֹרִישׁוּ אֶת יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ מִפְּנֵיכֶם וְהָיָה אֲשֶׁר תּוֹתִירוּ מֵהֶם לְשָׂכִים בְּעֵינֵיכֶם וְלְצַנִּינִם בְּצַדֵּיכֶם וְצָרְרוּ אֶתְכֶם עַל הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם יֹשְׁבִים בָּהּ:

56. And it will be that what I had intended to do to them, I will do to you.

נו. וְהָיָה כְּאֲשֶׁר דִּמְיַתִּי לַעֲשׂוֹת לָהֶם אֲעֲשֶׂה לְכֶם:

Continuing, in Chapter 34 we find the exact boundaries of the Promised Land, which G-d Almighty gave for the Nation of Israel. Moses tells the children of Israel these things and specified this would be for nine and half tribes, as the tribe of Rueben, the tribe of Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh have their inheritance on the side of the Jordan where they were camped.

In Chapter 35 we find that G-d did not forget about the Levites (they did not receive a direct portion as did the other tribes). Each tribe was to give a city and a portion of land surrounding the city for Levites. As a part of these cities, six were to be designated as cities of refuge.

Numbers 35:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶ Now among the cities which you will give to the Levites *you shall appoint* six cities of refuge, to which a manslayer may flee. And to these you shall add forty-two cities. ⁷ So all the cities you will give to the Levites *shall be* forty-eight; these *you shall give* with their common land. ⁸ And the cities, which you will give, *shall be* from the possession of the children of Israel; from the larger *tribe* you shall give many, from the smaller you shall give few. Each shall give some of its cities to the Levites, in proportion to the inheritance that each receives."

6. Among the cities you shall give to the Levites, shall be six cities of refuge, which you shall provide [as places] to which a murderer can flee. In addition to them, you shall provide forty two cities.

ו. וְאֵת הָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּנּוּ לְלוֹיִם אֵת שֵׁשׁ עָרֵי
הַמִּקְלָט אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּנּוּ לְנֶס שְׂמֵהּ הַרְצִיחַ עֲלֵיהֶם
תִּתֶּנּוּ אַרְבָּעִים וּשְׁתַּיִם עִיר:

7. All the cities you shall give to the Levites shall number forty eight cities, them with their open spaces.

ז. כָּל הָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּנּוּ לְלוֹיִם אַרְבָּעִים
וּשְׁמֹנֶה עִיר אֲתֶהֱן וְאֵת מִגְרָשֵׁיהֶן:

8. And as for the cities that you shall give from the possession of the children of Israel, you shall take more from a larger [holding] and you shall take less from a smaller one. Each one, according to the inheritance allotted to him, shall give of his cities to the Levites.

ח. וְהָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר תִּתֶּנּוּ מֵאֲחֻזַּת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
מֵאֵת הַרְבֵּי תִרְבּוּ וּמֵאֵת הַמְעַט תִּמְעִיטוּ אִישׁ
כְּפִי נַחְלָתוֹ אֲשֶׁר יִנְחִלוּ יִתֵּן מֵעָרָיו לְלוֹיִם:

These are not a "catch-all" city of refuge. This is in case a person causes the accidental death of someone. In Verses 9 thru 34 G-d lays out the elements of this law and the grace of having refuge in case of an accident. Included are the regulations for the "avenger of blood".

Finally in Chapter 36, the tribe of Joseph brings up an important question concerning the inheritance. They have a situation, which the daughters of a tribe might marry into another tribe, and thus in the year of Jubilee the lands could be swapped and one tribe lose some of its inheritance and another add more to its inheritance. Thus G-d gave the instructions for the daughters within a tribe only marry within the families of that tribe.

The book of B'midbar – Numbers recounts the travels, censuses, organization, trials and testing of the children of Israel on their journey to the Promised Land. Despite the fact the first generation missed entrance into the Promised Land and died in the wilderness as a result of judgment on their rebellion and lack of faith, the goal of the Promised Land was still there.

Food for thought: I read something interesting concerning the list G-d commanded Moses to record. It was said, each location (the 42) is a clue as to the journey we will be on, keeping in mind our goal of the Promised Land, G-d's Kingdom. Looking at the 42 locations and what each location encompassed by way of trials, it is of interest to note there are also 42 months (3 ½ years) in the Great Tribulation.

Returning to Numbers 33:55, G-d Almighty makes it very clear about Israel compromising with the "enemy", as it is, not maybe, it is impossible to live side by side with the enemies. Looking at the situation in Israel today, it is the obvious outcome, when people decide to modify G-d's Instructions and do the way that is wise in their own eyes! The Promised Land was designated by G-d's Plan, that only e would be worshipped in the land. Those following, worshipping other gods and idols were to be removed from the land and now where has that commandment been rescinded.

Haftorah - Prophets

Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah 2:4-28, 3:4)

This week's Haftorah is the second of a series of three "haftarot of affliction." These three haftarot are read during the Three Weeks of mourning for Jerusalem, between the fasts of 17 Tammuz and 9 Av. This

Haftorah corresponds to the Jewish calendar and not the Torah Portion.

The prophet Jeremiah transmits G-d's message to the Jewish people, in strong tones chastising all the sectors of the people, including the leadership, for their abandonment of G-d.

Jeremiah 2:4-8 (CJB) ⁴ Hear the word of Adonai, house of Ya'akov and all families in the house of Isra'el; ⁵ here is what Adonai says: "What did your ancestors find wrong with me to make them go so far away from me, to make them go after nothings and become themselves nothings? ⁶ They didn't ask, 'Where is Adonai, who brought us out of the land of Egypt, who led us through the desert, through a land of wastes and ravines, through a land of drought and death-dark shadows, through a land where no one travels and where no one ever lived?' ⁷ I brought you into a fertile land to enjoy its fruit and all its good things; but when you entered, you defiled my land and made my heritage loathsome. ⁸ The *cohanim* didn't ask, 'Where is Adonai?' Those who deal with the *Torah* did not know me, the people's shepherds rebelled against me; the prophets prophesied by Ba'al and went after things of no value.

G-d asks them to view the actions of their neighboring nations, the Kittites and Kedarites.

Jeremiah 2:10-11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For pass beyond the coasts of Cyprus and see, Send to Kedar and consider diligently, And see if there has been such *a thing*. ¹¹ Has a nation changed *its* gods, Which *are* not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For *what* does not profit.

He reminds them of the kindness G-d did for them, taking them out of Egypt and leading them through the desert and settling them in the Promised Land, yet they repaid kindness with disloyalty.

Jeremiah 2:13 (NKJV) ¹³ "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 then goes on to foretell the suffering the Jewish people will suffer at the hands of their enemies, and also their erstwhile allies.

Jeremiah 2:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that *it is* an evil and bitter *thing* That you have forsaken the LORD your God, And the fear of Me *is* not in you," Says the Lord GOD of hosts.

G-d's Grace and Mercy is long suffering for Jeremiah assures the people that if they return to G-d with sincerity, they will be restored to their full glory.

Jeremiah 4:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ "If you will return, O Israel," says the LORD, "Return to Me; And if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, Then you shall not be moved. ² And you shall swear, 'The LORD lives,' In truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; The nations shall bless themselves in Him, And in Him they shall glory."

B'rit Hadashah – New Testament

James 4:4, James 4:6-10, Matthew 11:27-30, John 7:37-38

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

We too are on a journey. We are traversing the wilderness of this old world, the world of Satan. We are

looking to the promises of G-d for his Kingdom, the Promised Land.

In our journey, we come to many turning points, many transitions. Just as Israel was given preparatory instruction for making it into the Promised Land, we also are given preparatory instruction so we can make it into G-d's Kingdom. Much our instruction comes from the very instructions and warnings G-d gave Israel.

We cannot be friends with the world and G-d also.

James 4:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

We can be like Israel in their times of rebellion and judgment. We can forsake the truth of G-d's word, deciding and building for ourselves our own little world, which is dry and broken.

Jeremiah 2:13 (NKJV) ¹³ "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.**

Better, we can avail ourselves of the Grace and Love G-d gives to us.

James 4:6-10 (NKJV) ⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "*God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.*" ⁷ Therefore **submit to God**. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you**. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. ¹⁰ **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**

We can return to and receive relief from our problems and troubles of this old world, through the only begotten Son of G-d Almighty.

Matthew 11:27-30 (NKJV) ²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*. ²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ is our source of living water, as he proclaimed on the last day of the Feast Of Sukkot. He was preparing His Apostles and Disciples for the end of His ministry, the Time of His Perfect Sacrifice, as the Lamb that takes the sin of the world away.

John 7:37-38 (NKJV) ³⁷ On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Closing:

As with Israel of old, now along with them, we have the same promise, that not only applied in old times, but also is a prophetic word for our times, we can take comfort in G-d's promises for us. We merely have to avail ourselves of His Grace through His son, our

Messiah, Yeshua HaMashiach, Jesus Christ!

Isaiah 43:18-21 (TEV) ¹⁸ But the LORD says, "Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. ¹⁹ Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already—you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there. ²⁰ Even the wild animals will honor me; jackals and ostriches will praise me when I make rivers flow in the desert to give water to my chosen people. ²¹ They are the people I made for myself, and they will sing my praises!"

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

Hazak, Hazak, v'nit'chazek!!

Be Strong, be strong and let us be strengthened!!

Shabbat Shalom, G-d Bless and Keep you!

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