

נִצְטָוִים

Nitztzavim

(standing)

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 29:9-30:20

In English Scriptures 29:10-30:20

Everyone is Included

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 29:10-13

10 *“You are standing this day all of you before YHWH your Elohim; your heads, your tribes, your elders, and your officers, even all the men of Yisrael,*

11 *your little ones, your wives, and your sojourner that is in your camps, from the hewer of your wood unto the drawer of your water;*

12 *that you may enter into the covenant of YHWH your Elohim, and into His curse, which YHWH your Elohim makes with you this day;*

13 *that He may establish you this day to Himself for a people, and that He may be to you an Elohim, as He spoke to you, and as He swore to your fathers, to Avraham, to Yitzchak (Isaac), and to Ya’aqov (Jacob).”*

As the Nation stood ready to enter the Land, YHWH reconfirmed the covenant that He had made with their fathers before them at Mount Sinai, even the covenant that He had made with Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya’aqov. YHWH includes everyone in this covenant. YHWH excludes no one! This includes those that do the lowest of manual labor tasks like cutting wood or drawing water.

What will follow are the requirements for entering into this covenant.

Future Generations Are Also Included

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 29:14-16

14 *“Not with you only do I make this covenant and this curse,*

15 *but with him that stands here with us this day before YHWH our Elohim, and also with him that is not here with us this day*

16 *(for you know how we dwelt in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the nations through which you passed.”*

YHWH not only desires to make this covenant with the present generation, but also with those that will be added to Yisrael later.

Those additions can come either by birth, or by assimilation – people from other nations who decide to join Yisrael and live according to His Torah commandments. Either way, those who are added still need

to have a personal encounter with Yeshua as Mashiach so that they can walk in the Ruach (Spirit) and hear and obey His Voice, also.

However, if we will not enter into His covenant by obeying His commandments, then these very same words will be a curse to us.

It is our choice.

Witnesses

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 29:17-18

17 "And you have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them);

18 lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turns away this day from YHWH our Elohim, to go to serve the elohim of those nations; lest there should be among you a root that bears gall and wormwood."

YHWH knows what we have seen, what comes into our gates.

What has come into our gates is a possible area of falling into sin. YHWH warns us that we should guard against this. We need to guard against it as individuals. We need to guard against these sins as families. We need to guard against these abominations as tribes.

But how do we guard against these sins?

Well, to be honest, we can sum it up in one word – accountability!

In order to properly guard against sin of any kind, we have to make the personal choice to make ourselves accountable to those whom YHWH places in authority over us (Hebrews 13:17). Even those in authority are accountable, as they are accountable to YHWH. But not only this, we are to be accountable to one another.

Ephesians 5:21

subjecting yourselves one to another in the fear of Mashiach.

Brethren, we are not in this alone! Nor are we to walk as if we were alone. We have Him first and then we have each other!

Ephesians 4:15-16

15 but speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into him, who is the head, even Mashiach;
16 from whom all the body fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplies, according to the working in due measure of each several part, makes the increase of the body to the building up of itself in love.

In Mashiach, we are all brothers. When a person comes to us with the word of YHWH, then we are under obligation to submit to that word, regardless of who YHWH has sent to us as the messenger. It is

not the messenger that matters; it is the word of YHWH! And we are to submit to the word of YHWH in the love of Mashiach.

One of the biggest obstacles that independent-minded Ephrayim faces today is making himself accountable to another in Mashiach. YHWH makes us all accountable to someone. And most of us are accountable to more than one person. And we are all to be accountable to one another!

The problem that Ephrayim faces today is that he loves his independence (rebellion). To be the army of the Living Elohim takes discipline and a high degree of accountability.

Don't Fool Yourself!

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 29:19

19 "And it will come to pass, when he hears the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart, to destroy the moist with the dry.'"

When a person makes the very unwise choice to walk according to his own heart's desire, he will deceive himself into believing that he is at peace with YHWH. However, the truth is that he is not at peace with YHWH because he is walking in rebellion (stubbornness) rather than in submission to His Torah.

Here is the truth of the matter: there are many people who are returning to Torah via the Hebrew Roots movement. However, many of those people are only going part way. They only want to do that which is pleasing in their own eyes. They only want to do that which does not inconvenience them in their own personal lives. One of the basic tenets of Christianity, is that if a person gives something to "God," then he can pretty much do as he wishes the rest of the time. This is not scripturally true. And it certainly will not fly when it comes to obeying His Torah commandments. In short, YHWH wants it all. He wants all of you! Anything less will get a person something less than eternal life.

Many of those same people are very stubborn when it comes to obeying certain insights into how to live His commandments. They readily accept the commandment of tzitzit, but stop short of Rosh Chodesh or men's head coverings. Many simply pick and choose which commandments they consider to be valid today and the rest they say have been fulfilled. In reality, those who take this position are actually saying that the rest have been done away with. This is, of course, in direct violation of what Yeshua Himself taught us.

No Pardon for Stubbornness

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 29:20

20 "YHWH will not pardon him, but then the anger of YHWH and His jealousy will burn against that man, and all the curse that is written in this book shall lie upon him, and YHWH will blot out his name from under heaven."

It is not a good thing to have one's name blotted out from His book!

It is not a good thing to have YHWH angry with us!

He has told us exactly what it is that will make Him angry with us, so that He will come and destroy us and blot our name out: stubbornness.

So why would anyone want to do that?

Well, the truth is, none of us wants to do that. So, why do we then?

Because the truth is, we *are* stubborn.

Let's face the facts here. Ephrayim went away from His covenant because of stubbornness three millennia ago. We have actually perfected stubbornness and almost made it into an art form (not that we should consider stubbornness art). Stubbornness is bred into us for untold generations (1st Peter 1:18).

How is stubbornness manifested in us today? Independence!

Basically, we just need to get over it and choose to stop being stubborn in order to enjoy His blessings.

The Wrong Type of Set-apartness

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 29:21

21 "And YHWH will set him apart unto evil out of all the tribes of Yisrael, according to all the curses of the covenant that is written in this book of the Torah."

YHWH commands us to be a set-apart people, set-apart unto YHWH.

However, we see a different type of set-apartness here in this verse. YHWH will take that person who is stubborn and set him apart to pour out upon him all the evil that is possible. If you can find it in Scripture, that stubborn person will get it!

This is not the kind of attention that we want YHWH to give to us.

What is happening, is that YHWH is acting as a parent to discipline a wayward child. As the stubbornness remains or increases, so does the amount and severity of the discipline. If YHWH cannot root the stubbornness out, the only thing left is death and removal of that person's name from His book.

Questions

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 29:22-28

22 "And the generation to come, your children that shall rise up after you, and the foreigner that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses wherewith YHWH has made it sick;

23 'The whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, no grass grows there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, which YHWH overthrew in His anger, and in His wrath.'

24 Even all the nations shall say, 'Why has YHWH done this to this land? What does this great anger mean?'

25 Then men shall say, 'Because they forsook the covenant of YHWH, the Elohim of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them forth out of the land of Egypt,

26 and went and served other elohim, and worshipped them, elohim that they knew not, and that He had not given to them;

27 therefore the anger of YHWH was kindled against this land, to bring upon it the entire curse that is written in this book;

28 and YHWH rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as at this day.'"

Future generations would look at the Land and ask why it was that YHWH's anger burned against it and destroyed the people and the Land. It would be for following the stubbornness of their own hearts. This would be manifested by their idolatry and serving other gods.

Now Revealed

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 29:29

29 "The secret things belong to YHWH our Elohim; but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this Torah."

YHWH had Moshe write down all the words of His commandments so that we would be able to know and do His Torah. This Torah belongs to everyone who so desires to keep His commandments. Those who do not desire to keep and do His commandments will not do so and it does not belong to them.

Hmmm... doesn't look like much room for an oral Torah does there?

Obedying His Voice Brings His Compassion!

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:1-3

1 "And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you shall call them to mind among all the nations, where YHWH your Elohim has driven you,

2 and shall return to YHWH your Elohim, and shall hear and obey His Voice according to all that I command you this day, you and your children, with all your heart, and with all your life;

3 that then YHWH your Elohim will turn your captivity, and have compassion upon you, and will return and gather you from all the peoples, where YHWH your Elohim has scattered you."

Please note that YHWH tells our fathers that all these things would, in fact come upon them, because they would act in stubbornness against Him and rebel against His Torah. As a result of this rebellion, He would scatter them throughout all the nations of the world.

However, the good news is that He would once again gather them to Himself when they would return to Him and start to obey and do all of His Torah with their heart and life. What these verses teach us is that this will happen when we begin to hear and obey His Voice once again.

Surely we all desire to have YHWH turn our captivity and gather us again. If that is true then shouldn't we all begin to act like it and come together obeying His Voice and His Torah? He will then be compassionate towards us and our children.

A Greater Blessing

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:4-5

4 "If your outcasts be in the uttermost parts of heaven, from thence will YHWH your Elohim gather you, and from there will he fetch you;

5 and YHWH your Elohim will bring you into the land which your fathers occupied, and you shall occupy it; and He will do you good, and multiply you above your fathers."

YHWH desires to bless His people.

We are now at the threshold of seeing these verses come to pass. But how much do we really want to see this?

Are we willing to back up to the verses before these and see that in order to see the blessing of this magnitude come to pass that we must walk in complete and total obedience to His Voice?

Are we willing to do what is necessary to get that blessing?

Are we willing to be gathered by Him?

Circumcised Hearts

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:6-8

6 "And YHWH your Elohim will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your seed, to love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live.

7 And YHWH your Elohim will put all these curses upon your enemies, and on them that hate you, that persecuted you.

8 And you shall return and obey the Voice of YHWH, and do all His commandments which I command you this day."

To truly and properly love YHWH the way that He desires and commands us to love Him, we must have YHWH circumcise our hearts. As you can easily see, the idea of heart circumcision is not a new one. It is right here in His Torah. It has always been a part of His Torah to be circumcised in the foreskin of our flesh and in our hearts as well.

Has YHWH circumcised your heart?

If one has trouble hearing His Voice, perhaps the problem is internal.

A simple and honest request from us to Him to circumcise our hearts is the first step. But then we must be willing to walk by faith. Part of this step is to be filled with His Spirit. Are you filled with His Spirit?

The Condition for Being Blessed

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:9-10

9 “And YHWH your Elohim will make you plenteous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, and in the fruit of your cattle, and in the fruit of your ground, for good; for YHWH will again rejoice over you for good, as he rejoiced over your fathers;

10 if you shall obey the Voice of YHWH your Elohim, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the Torah; if you turn to YHWH your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your life.”

I don't want to sound like a broken record, but the Scripture says what it says, and it says many times over and over, that if we obey His Voice He will bless us. And if we do not obey His Voice He will curse us. Just in this chapter alone, this is now the third time (of four) that YHWH reminds us that He commands us and expects us to know His Voice, hear His Voice and to obey His Voice.

As we discussed earlier about being stubborn, one just has to wonder if YHWH's repeated reminders of hearing and obeying His Voice are because we are in fact, a rebellious and stubborn people (“stiff-necked” as some translations put it).

Hey, This Torah is Easy!

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:11

11 “For this commandment which I command you this day, it is not too hard for you, neither is it far off.”

What makes the Torah so easy? Some of us struggle so much with it, mostly because it is a new thought to us to actually keep His commandments, since many of us grew up wrongly hearing that Yeshua had done away with the Law [Torah]. Let us consider another passage along with this one.

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 29:4

“but YHWH has not given you a heart to know, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, to this day.”

Lest we miss what Moshe hanavi is saying in the above verse, Torah is easy to do, it is not too hard for us, nor is it far off. We must also understand that these same people were not doing the Torah in a way that was totally pleasing to YHWH. Why? It is simply because they did not have Mashiach, nor the infilling of His Spirit. It is only when a person has the internal guidance of His Spirit (circumcision of the heart) that makes the true obedience of His Torah possible.

It is when His Spirit fills us that He brings His Torah near.

His Torah is Not in Heaven

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:12

12 "It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it?'"

Yeshua has already come down from Heaven to give us a renewed covenant. It is time for us to walk in the fullness of that covenant (Torah).

His Torah is Not Beyond the Sea

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:13

13 "Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it to us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it?'"

I find this one particularly intriguing, as we find ourselves scattered the furthest from Yisrael that we can be. We are, to the very ends of the Earth.

Even so, we live in a time that His written Word (Torah) is more readily available now than at any other time in history. In most homes in countries that are considered first world, there will be found a copy of Scriptures and many times several copies of the Scriptures.

His Torah is Very Near Us

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:14

14 "But the word is very near to you, in your mouth, and in your heart, that you may do it."

Consider what YHWH said through the prophet Yirmeyah (Jeremiah).

Yermeyah 31:33

"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Yisrael after those days," declares YHWH, "I will put My Torah within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people."

YHWH tells us that days are coming that He will write His Torah on our hearts. We are now in those days when He is writing His Torah on the hearts of His people. This is what makes keeping His Torah easy, because we obey Him from the inside and our obedience manifests itself on the outside in our everyday living.

If we are willing to accept this, then YHWH places His Torah in our hearts and it is even in our mouths. These things are so that we may do it. He does not give us this knowledge just for informational purposes only, He expects us to do it (obey it).

The Choice Before Us

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:15-16

15 "See, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil;

16 in that I command you this day to love YHWH your Elohim, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, that you may live and multiply, and that YHWH your Elohim may bless you in the land where you go in to occupy it."

Please note that the choice that we must make is between life and death, between good and evil. I think that all of us would agree that this is pretty much a "no-brainer," as they would say in today's vernacular. However, please consider the context of where we find this choice.

In order to choose life and good we must keep and obey His commandments – all of them. If we do not keep all of His commandments then we choose by default, death and evil.

My observation has been that what many people actually attempt to do is live in such a way that they are choosing death and evil (they wrongly think and act as if the Torah has been done away with), while they say with their words that they are keeping Torah (the parts that they like and want to do), when in fact they are only keeping part of Torah.

Many are actually attempting to have it their own way. They want all the passing pleasures of death and evil and all the benefits of life and good.

Please brethren, can we not be honest enough to see that this is folly and it is not possible?

We should make the choice to walk in the fullness of Torah keeping. When we make that choice then YHWH does some very wonderful work in us.

Yekezekel [Ezekiel] 36:26-27

26 "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My ordinances, and do them."

YHWH will give us a new heart and a new spirit so that we now have the ability to keep His Torah out of a heart of love and devotion to Him.

Not Obeying = Destruction

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:17-18

17 "But if your heart turn away, and you will not hear and obey, but shall be drawn away, and worship other elohim, and serve them;

18 I declare to you this day, that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land, where you cross over the Yarden (Jordan) to go in to occupy it."

We need to understand that there is no middle ground here. Either we are striving to obey His Torah and doing the very best that we can by walking in His Spirit. Or, we have chosen death and evil by default.

I hope and pray that each and every one of us comes to a clear understanding of this truth. Each one of us must choose and live in such a way as to show YHWH that we really are serious about keeping His Torah commandments every moment of every day.

To keep and obey His commandments will not, yea, cannot, happen by chance or accident. He has given His commandments in such a way that only those who actually attempt (strive) to keep them will succeed in doing so, for He will help and empower them to do so through His Spirit.

Obedying His commandments must be intentional on our part. It is an act of our volition.

The only alternative to striving to keep and obey His commandments is destruction. We are either moving into (eternal) life or we are moving into death (eternal destruction).

Not looking at our words, but rather looking at our deeds (works) and our life, what choice have we been making?

Two Witnesses

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 30:19-20

***19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse: therefore choose life, that you may live, you and your seed;
20 to love YHWH your Elohim, to obey His Voice, and to cleave to Him; for He is your life, and the length of your days; that you may dwell in the land which YHWH swore to your fathers, to Avraham, to Yitzchak (Isaac), and to Ya'aqov (Jacob), to give them."***

YHWH has called heaven and earth as witnesses against our fathers and against us as their children.

What will these two witnesses testify concerning you and me?

Will it be a testimony that leads to life?

Or, will it be a testimony that leads to death?

If we are to have any hope of the testimony from these witnesses to be for life, then we must do our part and make everyday choices that lead to life. We must constantly strive to keep and obey His commandments and to hear and obey His Voice.

ABBA YHWH, please open our ears so that we may hear and obey Your Voice in order that we might keep and obey Your prophetic word, and that Your name may be honored and glorified and lifted up above the whole earth; in the Name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom
Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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