

עֵקֵב

Eqev

(because)

D'varim [Deuteronomy] 7:12-11:25

Not By Bread Alone

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 8:3

“And He humbled you, and caused you to hunger, and fed you with manna, which you did not know, neither did your fathers know; that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of YHWH does man live.”

When YHWH brought us up out of Egypt He did so in such a way so that we would be hungry. He did this in order to show to us that it is not the eating of bread that actually sustains one's life. The truth that He desired to convey to us was that it is the words of His mouth that actually give life to us. Let us consider some of those words that He spoke through Moshe in this Torah portion this week.

The word שמע – “shema”, which means “to hear and obey” is used in eight verses of this Torah portion. In one verse it is used twice. A parallel word to “shema” is the word שמר – “shamar” often in the form of “shomer”. “Shamar” means “to protect and to distance from danger”. This word is used in ten verses, and in three of those verses twice for a total of thirteen times. Then we also find in this Torah portion the word אהב – “ahav” which means “love” in the sense of complete devotion to another. This word is used for a total of eight times in eight verses.

What this teaches us is that the love of YHWH is continually being renewed as the number eight is the number of new beginnings. We are to guard and protect our relationship with YHWH our Elohim by loving Him in the manner that He has commanded us to love Him. The use of this word thirteen times tells us that this is for all thirteen tribes. However, since it is found in only ten verses this teaches us that it will be the ten tribes of the north who will bring this to pass first and then pass it on to the other tribes.

Then the word שמע – “shema” is used in eight verses again teaching us that we need to continually renew our commitment to hear and obey His Voice each and every day. It is used nine times showing us that if we fail to renew our obedience to His Voice continually, then the number nine is the number of

Satan, the rebellious one. We do not want to be rebellious like him, but we desire to hear and obey His Voice.

Please prayerfully consider the following portion from this Parasha.

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 11:13-16

13 "And it shall come to pass, if you shall listen (שָׁמַעַ) obediently (תִּשְׁמָעוּ) to My commandments which I command you this day, to love (לְאַהֲבָה) YHWH your Elohim, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul,

14 that I will give the rain of your land in its season, the former rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, and your new wine, and your oil.

15 And I will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you shall eat and be full.

16 Beware (תִּשְׁמָרוּ), lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them."

Notice first that all three of these words are used in this passage. In it we are admonished to hear and obey YHWH our Elohim and to love Him. This then is followed with a warning to make sure that we keep His statutes and ordinances because if we don't then our hearts will be turned aside. The first word of verse sixteen could easily be rendered as "Keep! Lest your heart be deceived..." But to the western translators this didn't seem to make since to them. But this is exactly what YHWH is saying through Moshe.

Throughout this Parasha we are admonished over and over again to listen to and keep the commandments of YHWH our Elohim.

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 11:22-23

22 "For if you shall diligently keep all this commandment which I command you, to do it, to love YHWH your Elohim, to walk in all His ways, and to cleave to Him;

23 then will YHWH drive out all these nations from before you, and you shall dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourselves."

Notice that it is YHWH's desire, yea, His commandment, that we keep and do all of His commandments. It is in this way that one demonstrates that he truly loves YHWH his Elohim. If one does not keep and do all of His commandments, then does he truly love YHWH his Elohim? Not according to what Mashiach Yeshua taught us.

Yochanan (John) 14:15

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."

What are His commandments? We find them in the Torah; those are His commandments. After all it was not Satan who gave the Torah to Moshe on Sinai, even though I have heard well-meaning Christians declare obeying the commandments of YHWH as being Satanic. Now honestly, does such a declaration

make any sense at all? To declare obeying the words of YHWH to be Satanic is in itself Satanic and not of the Spirit of Mashiach! When faced with such a situation it may be best to give one stern warning in love and then walk away if the one making such a declaration does not repent.

Even the talmidim of Yeshua understood this simple truth and taught this to us as well.

Yochanan Aleph (1st John) 5:3

For this is the love of Elohim, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not grievous.

Notice that His commandments are not grievous. Even the Torah teaches us that His commandments are not too difficult for us. So here is a question for you to ponder. The Torah teaches us that the commandments of YHWH are our life. To do them means that we live. Not to do them means that we die. Pretty simple, huh? The things that YHWH asks from us are for us to simply hear and obey His Voice. Even Yeshua taught us this truth. So, why did Israel go after other gods to serve them by sacrificing their children to these non-gods? In what way is killing your own child easier than serving YHWH and obeying His Voice? Does this make any sense to you why they did this?

If it does not make any sense to you, then why are the descendants of Israel, that includes you and me, still doing this? Why are those scattered in the Diaspora still worshipping other gods who are not gods? Why are we causing our children to pass through the fires of these other deities? If you think that you are not doing this then please consider this prayerfully.

When Israel was enslaved in Egypt, Egypt forced them to worship and serve their gods. They forced them to build idols and images and cities and all that they did to worship their gods. It is no different today. Israel is enslaved by the system of Babylon/Egypt. Movies, TV, music, secular employment, paying taxes, voting, politics, degrees, all these things are to keep us enslaved and serving a master other than YHWH our Elohim. Mashiach Yeshua came to set us free. Are you free? I doubt it! We are enslaved by the powers that rule this present world. You are allowed to do whatever you like as long as you do not disrupt the system and you contribute your part. As long as you are doing this and teaching your children to do the same, then you are not free. And if you are not free, then you cannot be serving YHWH your Elohim with a whole heart. It is simply not possible. This is why YHWH sent Moshe to Pharaoh to demand that Pharaoh let YHWH's people go so that they could serve Him only. Or do you forget the words of Mashiach Yeshua, that one cannot serve two masters!

Gilyana (Revelation) 18:4

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her My people, that you have no fellowship with her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues."

The people that claim to love YHWH and to serve Him, need to stop participating in the system of Babylon. We need to get out of it. That is a lot easier said than done. But it can be done; but probably

not alone. This is going to take some practical understanding of what it means to love YHWH our Elohim. The amazing thing is that we find some of this practical information in this portion this week.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 10:17-18

17 "For YHWH your Elohim, He is the Elohey of elohim, and Adoney of adonim, the great El the mighty, and the terrible, who regards not persons, nor takes bribes.

18 He executes justice for the fatherless and widow, and loves the sojourner, in giving him food and raiment."

We learn in this passage that YHWH Himself makes sure that the orphans and the widows will receive justice. Furthermore, YHWH loves the sojourner or alien. This is the word גֵר – "ger". YHWH makes sure that he has food and clothing. This is how YHWH shows His love to him.

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 10:19-20

19 "Therefore, you love the sojourner; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

20 You shall fear YHWH your Elohim; Him shall you serve; and to Him shall you cleave, and by His name shall you swear."

Notice that YHWH then gives us a very practical commandment to do and keep. We are to love the ger as well by giving him food and clothing. In this way we will show to YHWH that we love Him. Because we are doing the things that He is doing. Hummm... that has a familiar ring to it doesn't it.

Yochanan (John) 5:19

Yeshua therefore answered and said to them, "Amein, amein, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father doing; for what things soever He does, these the Son also does in like manner."

Do you desire to be a son of the Living El? Then do those things that He is doing, make sure that there is justice for the widows and orphans and feed and clothe those who are strangers and aliens to you. This is what YHWH does, go and do likewise.

D'varim (Deuteronomy) 10:16

"Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any more."

How do you do this? By doing what YHWH is doing!

Now in order not to be remiss in this lesson we need to discuss one more aspect of that which comes forth from the mouth of YHWH our Elohim, and that being our life.

Yochanan (John) 6:51

"I am the living bread which came down out of heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever; yea and the bread which I will give is My flesh, for the life of the world."

Yeshua came forth from the Father.

Yochanan (John) 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Yochanan (John) 1:1-2

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with Elohim, and Elohim was the Word.

2 The same was in the beginning with Elohim.

YHWH manifested Himself in Mashiach in the flesh that we might see that He is our life. Without Him, we cannot and do not have life. If we are to have life, then this is the true bread that has come down out of heaven that we must partake of. This is that which has come forth from the Father above. Let us partake fully and freely and give to all men without reserve that we may do the works of our Father in heaven that we might be known as the sons of the Living El.

ABBA YHWH, thank you for Mashiach Yeshua, for He is our life and without Him we have no life. Give us this life in abundant fullness; in the name of Mashiach Yeshua. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

www.onetorahforall.com