

Parasha 44: D'varim (Words)

D'varim/Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

*All Scripture References from The Orthodox Jewish Bible- Referred to as OJB- unless otherwise noted

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Our parasha this week comes from the fifth and last sefer/book of the '*Torah proper*', D'varim/Deuteronomy. ****[Because of the redemptive work of our blessed Master Yeshua, the Kethuvim HaNotzrim/The Writings of the Nazarenes/the seferim/books of the Messianic Writings (Matthew-Revelation), which testify to the final ReNewed Covenant originally made between YHWH and Yisrael at Mt. Sinai, are also considered to be a part of the 'Whole Counsel of YHWH'. The Chumash or Five Books of the 'Torah proper' are the 'root of all Scripture'. Everything beyond the 'Torah proper' answers back to its root. Therefore, there is NO CONFLICT between the Torah and all other Scripture, especially that of the Messianic Writings. They form ONE echad/multi-faceted WHOLE unit.)**

Now, we find Am Yisrael, the second generation, poised just east of the Land of Cana'an at the Yarden/Jordan River. The '*same place the previous generation*' was when they '*failed in unbelief*'. Subsequently, they '*rebelled against YHWH*' and refused to go into The Land. The '*evil report of unbelief*' was given by ten of the twelve nesi'im/leaders appointed by Moshe to '*tour The Land*'. It corrupted the '*hearts of Am Yisrael of the First Generation*'. In turn, that '*unbelief*' manifested by their saying the words '*they could not go in and possess The Land*'. YHWH let their '*own words be their judgment*'! It was forty years total that Am Yisrael '*wandered in the midbar/wilderness*' until most of the '*First Generation*' died over twenty years old. Only Yehoshua/Joshua and Kaleb/Caleb were '*exempt from that judgment*' because they '*remained faithful*' to YHWH.

'D'varim' in Hebrew means '*Words*'. It was '*words*' that kept Yisrael '*from entering and possessing their inheritance*' forty years previous. Now, Moshe is about to bring the words of YHWH before this '*Second Generation*'. It is their '*trusting faithfulness in those words*' that will prove most important. They must do what their '*avot/fathers*' didn't... **POSSESS THE LAND!**

The more familiar title of this sefer/book is '*Deuteronomy*'. It comes from the '*Greek transliteration*' of the Torah known as the '*Septuagint*'. It means '*Second Torah*'. This is a '*very poor definition*', because this '*sefer/book of D'varim*' **IS NOT** a '*second Torah*' at all! The rabbis instead use the title '*Mishneh HaTorah*' meaning, a '*Repetition of the Torah*'. Yet, even in this, there is a '*need to define*' what it is exactly that is being '*repeated*'. If you are expecting the '*sefer/book of D'varim*' to be an '*actual repeat of the whole of Torah*' thus far, then you will be sadly disappointed. There is hardly anything at all '*repeated*' within this sefer/book from any of the previous seferim/books. In fact, there are many additional '*mitzvot/commands*' given in this sefer/book that are recorded nowhere else in the Torah! If by '*repetition*' you mean a '*repeat of those important words*' that Am Yisrael will '*need*' in order to '*successfully enter*' The Land and '*possess their inheritance*', then you would be correct.

Moshe knows that he has little time to make his words count. He is well aware of Am Yisrael's nature and history. As a 'true father' he wants them to 'hear and continue hearing' the words they will **NEED** to hear. Even if it means that some of those words are 'hard to accept'. So, he does what a 'real father would do'. He opens his discourse with a **CALL TO TESHUVAH/REPENTANCE**.

The Great Need Of True Biblical Repentance

As a former Christian pastor, I preached repentance. I believed in repentance. I exhorted people to turn away from sin. The only problem was **I DIDN'T GIVE THEM A DESTINATION TO GO TO!** For the most part, 'repentance in religious understanding' simply means, 'a change of direction'. Oh, I knew people needed to stop sinning. I knew they needed to 'move away' from their previous lifestyles as unbelievers. I told them to 'start living godly lives'. **OBEY THE LORD** I said, but exactly what does that mean? Well, through the grace and mercies of YHWH I know exactly what that means today. **THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS TRUE BIBLICAL REPENTANCE THAT DOES NOT RESULT IN A RETURN TO THE TORAH OF YHWH!**

The word 'Torah' comes from the Hebrew word 'yarah'. It means 'to throw, shoot or cast'. It is an 'archery term' and is used in the 'sense of hitting a target'. The word 'Torah' in Hebrew literally means 'teaching or instruction'. So, what the Torah 'teaches and instructs' you to do is, 'hit the target that YHWH has set up' in order for your life to be what He intends for it to be... **FOR HIS GLORY!** When we 'leave the Torah' is when we start 'heading for trouble'. The 'simplest definition of sin is... **TORAHLESSNESS**. It's what most English translations call 'iniquity'. What is that? It means to live by one's own 'independent, self-willed choices' with no regard for YHWH's **ALREADY REVEALED PARAMETERS AS ESTABLISHED WITHIN HIS WRITTEN TORAH **FIRST FIVE BOOK GIVEN TO MOSHE**].

“Everyone practicing chet [sin] also does averah [transgression], and chet [sin] is averah [transgression] al HaTorah [of The Torah/Instruction- referred to derogatorily as 'Law' by the theology of Christendom].” (Yochanon Alef/1 John 3:4 OJB- commentary/ definitions mine)

All of Yisrael's troubles throughout the Scriptural record can always be found when they 'departed from YHWH's Torah given to Moshe'. The 'true prophetic call' in today's 'restoration of the Whole House of Yisrael' is one that **ALWAYS DEMANDS** a heartfelt 'return to the derech/way' or path of the Torah'. It is the Torah that 'instructs' us as to the 'way of righteousness, how to discern the holy from the profane'. We are also taught how to recognize the condition or status of being of people and animals as clean and unclean'. It is also herein, where the 'definition' of what is to be considered 'actual food is found.' YHWH, by His Torah, further 'defines the realms' of what is to be considered 'clean and unclean'. Most importantly, through the Torah, we are 'instructed' as to how to 'discern these realms' and **HOW TO CHOOSE** the 'abundant life and blessing' YHWH has promised. This understanding is what allows us to maintain the 'balance' between YHWH's Torah/Instructions and our **SUBMISSION** to those instructions. Unfortunately, when the church of Christendom chose to 'reject YHWH's Torah', it unwittingly 'threw away YHWH's blueprint for living that abundant life'!

There is a need to make a ‘*clear distinction*’ here. Torah is **NOT** about **ETERNAL SALVATION**. It is about **SANCTIFICATION**. No one can ‘*earn eternal salvation by keeping commandments*’. The Torah was **NEVER** meant to be about ‘*eternal salvation*’. That’s why YHWH’s ‘*covenant with Abraham*’ comes first. The **SAME WAY** he ‘*obtained his righteousness*’ is the **SAME WAY** we obtain our righteousness... **BY TRUSTING FAITHFULNESS. (B’reshet/Genesis 15)** We must not get ‘*the cart before the horse*’. Master Yeshua and His ‘*redemptive work on the physical execution stake*’ is the **ONLY** way into the ‘*door that leads to eternal salvation*’. It is our ‘*trusting faithfulness*’ in His death, burial and resurrection **ALONE** that brings us **FIRST** to ‘*redemption*’, and **THEN** at His return, to the **FULLNESS** of our ‘*eternal salvation*’. (**Ivrim/Hebrews 9:28**) **REDEMPTION** gets us **INTO** YHWH’s house. However, ‘*learning the rules*’ of **HOW** His house is run (**SANCTIFICATION**) is what **KEEPS US IN THE HOUSE!** This fact must ever be kept foremost in our mind and heart. The Torah is no longer ‘*written just on tablets of stone*’. **IT IS BEING WRITTEN** ****[a present/continuous work] ON THE FLESHLY TABLETS OF OUR HEART! (Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 31:33)** Whenever we ‘*turn away*’ from YHWH’s Torah is when we start ‘*missing the mark*’. This is where sin is waiting, and the only way to stop that ‘*process*’ is to **RETURN** to the place we left. ‘*Teshuvah*’ is the Hebrew word meaning, to return to YHWH’s Torah, the realm of blessing and shalom. As we turn back to His Ways, He will ‘*return to us*’.

Moshe Speaks In Code To Yisrael

Moshe starts out his instruction by reminding Am Yisrael of where they have come from. Here is the opening verse of our parasha.

“These are the devarim (words) which Moshe spoke unto kol Yisroel [all Yisrael] on the far side of the Yarden [Jordan] in the midbar [wilderness], in the Aravah [plain] opposite Suf [Red Sea] between Paran, and Tophel [meaning smear/libel], and Lavan [meaning white], and Chatzerot [meaning courts/settlements], and Di-Zahav [meaning enough/too much gold].”
(D’varim/Deuteronomy 1:1 OJB- definitions mine)

These ‘*words*’ that Moshe is using are not just random places or locations. They are, according to the sages of Yisrael, ‘*a kind of shorthand*’. They are like ‘*code words*’ that are meant to ‘*jog the memory*’. These locations are the places where Yisrael, the First Generation, ‘*committed their greatest sins*’. Moshe is making an ‘*indelible point*’ at the very outset of his message.

- 1.) **The Wilderness-** the place where Yisrael complained because there was no water to drink. They accused Moshe of bringing them up from Mitzrayim/Egypt to die there
- 2.) **Aravah-** the plain where Yisrael sinned with the daughters of Moab by joining themselves to Ba’al Peor
- 3.) **Suf/The Red Sea-** this is where Yisrael cried out against Moshe because of Pharaoh’s army that was coming from behind to destroy them
- 4.) **Paran-** where Yisrael sinned the great sin of believing the ‘*evil report*’ of the ten nesi’im/leaders and saying, ‘*they could not go in and possess The Land*’
- 5.) **Tophel and Lavan-** this is where Yisrael accused YHWH, scorned Him for the whitish bread called Manna and lusted after meat
- 6.) **Chatzerot-** the place of Korach’s/Korah’s rebellion
- 7.) **Di-Zahav-** the place where Yisrael sinned with the Golden Calf

Moshe follows this with these words,

“(There is ELEVEN DAYS’ JOURNEY from Chorev [Horeb/Mt. Sinai] unto Kadesh-Barnea by way of Mount Seir.)” (D’varim/Deuteronomy 1:2 OJB- emphasis/definitions mine)

Can you imagine how those words must have stung? Moshe is pulling no punches here. He has spent forty years with these Yisraelites! He knows and remembers all too well how stiff necked and stubborn they can be. **HE WANTS THEM TO REMEMBER IT TOO! Why? BECAUSE HE DOESN’T WANT THEM TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN!** Beloved, ‘teshuvah/repentance’ is **NOT** just a ‘one-time experience’. **IT MUST BECOME A LIFESTYLE!** YHWH is after the heart. We must not forget from whence we have come. We can and should forget the ‘condemnation’ of our sin, **BUT** we **MUST NOT** forget **WHAT** was done. A ‘broken spirit and a broken and a contrite heart is a great prize’ when it comes to our ‘walking in the ways’ of YHWH. **(Tehillim/Psalms 51:17)** Moshe knows he will not be with them much longer. So, he starts the ‘repetition method of instructing’ Yisrael through the Torah.

Teshuvah/Repentance is at the heart of the Torah. 1400 years later at this very same location, there is another mighty navi/prophet of YHWH crying out to Yisrael. His Message? Teshuvah/Repent!

“Now in those days Yochanan [John] of the tevilah of teshuva [immersion of repentance] appears, preaching, crying out as a maggid (preacher) [for the Moshiach] in the midbar (wilderness) of Yehudah [Judah], saying, Make teshuva [repentance], for the Malchut HaShomayim [the Kingdom of the Heavens] has come near.” (Mattityahu/Matthew 3:1 OJB- definitions mine)

Beloved, the Torah is ‘unyielding’ when it comes to sin. It ‘defines’ for us exactly what sin is. The reason ‘sin is so rampant’ in this day among most of the ‘church of Christendom’ is, there is **NO TORAH!** Everything is **RELATIVE**. I decide what’s right or wrong for me. **THERE ARE NO ABSOLUTES.** Nothing to the ‘left’ of Matthew really matters, because we live in the so-called ‘New Covenant land of grace’. ‘Don’t put me under the Law’ is the anthem that is proclaimed. All the while, those who make that proclamation are blinded to the reality it is just this kind of ‘flawed theology’ that actually puts you there! To **KEEP** YHWH’s Torah, His ‘Instruction’, **KEEPS** you **FROM** being placed **UNDER THE JUDGMENT** that comes from ‘breaking those commandments’! Let us remember the words of our blessed Master Yeshua,

“If you have ahavah [love] for me, you will be shomer mitzvot [guard/keep] regarding my commandments.” (Yochanon/John 14:15 OJB- definitions mine)

THE TORAH IS ALL ABOUT LOVE. I challenge you to read our present sefer/book of D’varim and see ‘how many times the word love’ is used. The Torah is **NOT** a ball and chain. It is the means of ‘great freedom for those who understand it’. The Torah was given on the day of the ‘Mo’ed/Appointed Time/Chagim/Feast of Shavuot/Pentecost’. This was exactly 50 days after the ‘Mo’ed/Appointed Time of HaBikurrim/First Fruits’ during the celebration of the ‘Mo’ed/Appointed Time of Pesach/Passover’. **FIFTY** is the number of ‘Yovel or Jubilee’. The ‘Yovel/Jubilee’ is a time of ‘great freedom and release’. Debts are cancelled. The captives are set free. It is true, the Torah had a ‘perceived’ weakness. **(Romans 8:3a)** It could ‘point out sin’, but it could not ‘give the power to overcome it’. That’s where our Master Yeshua stepped in. He came

to us in the *'likeness of sinful flesh'*, in order that He might *'condemn/judge sin in the flesh'*. (**Romans 8:3b**) What the *'written Torah'* couldn't do, He, *'The Living Torah'* did! The animal korbanot/offerings of Torah instituted under the *'second renewal'* (**Shemot/Exodus 34**) of the *'original covenant'* between YHWH and Yisrael at Mt. Sinai (**Shemot/Exodus 20**), could only *'atone/cover sin'*. Yeshua HaMashiach/The Messiah gave His life and His blood. That *'perfect/sinless blood'* **TOOK AWAY** sin! When He comes the second time, the entire *'process of salvation will finally be realized'*. It is then, sin will not only be **TAKEN AWAY (meaning its ability to 'condemn' us for what we have done)**, it will be **OBLITERATED! FOREVER REMOVED FROM EXISTENCE!** (**Yirmeyahu/Jeremiah 31:34; Ivrim/Hebrews 10:17**) Now, we get to *'keep the Torah'* **WITHOUT CONDEMNATION.** (**Romans 8:1**) The Torah Keeper (**Mashiach Yeshua**) *'lives in us'* through the *'indwelling of YHWH's HaRuach HaKodesh/The Spirit of His Holiness'*. This is how **THE POWER OF YHWH** is able to **MANIFEST THROUGH US.** It is by YHWH's indwelling Presence we can **DO ALL OF YHWH'S WORDS!** (**Colossians 1:27; Philippians 4:13**) All we must do is **CONTINUE YIELDING TO HIM** as He *'moves within our spirit in power'*.

Understanding How The Book Of D'varim Is Broken Down

The book of *'D'varim/Deuteronomy'* is actually a speech Moshe is giving to Yisrael (**the Second Generation**) before His death. It is easier to keep up with what Moshe is doing if we can *'identify the different sections'* of this speech.

First off, we need to realize the sections of this speech **ARE NOT** marked in any way. Therefore, in order to *'identify'* what is happening, you must *'pay attention'* to **WHO** is *'doing the talking'* and **WHAT** *'the subject is'*. For the most part, the Torah is written in the *'3rd person as a narrative'*. However, in the sefer/book of D'varim/Deuteronomy it is different. From the opening of chapter one through thirty the writing is in the *'1st person/direct quote format'*. There are *'four sections'* in this speech. They are:

- 1.) **The Introduction-** Chapters 1-4
- 2.) **The Main Body-** Chapters 5-26
- 3.) **The ReNewed Covenant-** Chapters 27-28
- 4.) **The Call To Repentance-** Chapters 29-30

It is at this point the rest of the sefer/book returns to the *'3rd person narrative form'* that is most common to the Torah.

A Couple Of Points In Closing

There are a couple of other important points I would like to highlight as we get ready to close our parasha. First, in keeping with the *'theme of teshuvah/repentance'*, it should be noted, this parasha **ALWAYS** comes just around the 9th of Av. This of course has been a *'day of infamy and much sorrow'*. Many of the most *'tragic historical events'* that have *'befallen the house of Jewish Yisrael'* have occurred on this date. The period preceding the 9th of Av on the Hebrew calendar is known in traditional Judaism as *'Bein HaMetzarim/Between the Straits or The Three Weeks of Mourning'*. It is a time of *'intense teshuvah/repentance'* for the house of Yehudah/Judah that *'prepares the way'* for the coming fall *'Mo'edim/Appointed Times and Chagim/Feasts'*. This

'three-week period' begins on the 17th of the Hebrew month of Tammuz. This is historically the day that Moshe came down from Mt. Sinai to find Am Yisrael, the First Generation, 'worshipping the Golden Calf'. In his anger at their idolatry, he 'threw the original tablets' containing the 'Ten Words' down and 'they were broken'. Later in history, the 'destruction of the first Heikhal/Temple' occurred. This was when YHWH 'brought judgment upon the house of Jewish Yisrael' in 586 BC/BCE through King Nevuchadnetzar/Nebuchadnezzar for their sin of not honoring the Shabbat. In 70 AD/CE, **AGAIN ON THE 9TH OF AV**, the second 'Heikhal/Temple' was also destroyed by Rome!

Now you may ask, 'What has this got to do with those of us who are not Jewish?' Through the restoration of the 'Whole House of Yisrael' we have come to learn that being an 'Yisraelite' **IS NOT** merely a 'Jewish reality'. The 'nation of Yisrael' was divided by YHWH's judgment into 'two distinct, separate houses' shortly after the death of Shlomo/Solomon. The 'southern house' made up of 'two tribes' became known as 'Yehudah/Judah'. This is where we get the term 'Jewish' from. The 'northern house' made up of 'ten tribes' retained the name 'Yisrael', but was also known as 'the house of Yosef-Ephraim'. As a result, the 'nation of Yisrael' has both 'Jewish and non-Jewish descendants'. Those of us who are 'not Jewish' but have had our 'partial blindness removed', have come to know our true 'Hebraic identity' as part of the 'scattered, outcast northern house of Yosef-Ephraim'. YHWH has 'revealed this' so we may 'understand the reality' that **WE TOO ARE YISRAELITES!** As a result, there is indeed a 'connection between us' and our elder brother 'Yehudah/Judah'. **WE ARE ALL YISRAEL!** Part of YHWH's 'eternal and redemptive purposes' includes **THE REUNION OF THESE TWO HOUSES. ONE** Mighty One... YHWH. **ONE** Nation... **ONE** House... **ONE** King. There is a 'Hebraic idiom' that states...

Kol Yisrael areivim zeh lazeh...
All Yisrael is responsible for each other

Therefore, we support our elder brother 'Yehudah/Judah' in whatever way we can. This means, that during this 'Three Weeks' we join with him in 'teshuvah/repentance'. After all, Yehudah/Judah is not the only one who has sinned and suffered YHWH's judgment. We, from the 'northern, non-Jewish house of Yisrael, Yosef-Ephraim' have also 'suffered greatly' for our own 'sins of paganism, worship of false idols and sexual immorality'. 2730 years ago, we 'lost our identity' due to that sinfulness. Our avot/fathers were 'taken captive by Assyria and subsequently assimilated into their culture'. In time, we, the northern house, were 'scattered among the nations'. It's only been since the mid 1990's that this judgment has been lifted. Now, we have been able to recover our lost 'Hebraic identity' as a part of the 'Whole House of Yisrael'. ****[Please follow the link below to our study on the 'Restoration of the Whole House of Yisrael'. It will be a great help in your being able to understand and grasp what YHWH is doing in this hour of restoration and how it may affect you-**

[Fundamental-principles-of-the-restoration-of-the-whole-house-of-yisrael'](#)
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Yes, we indeed have things to repent for, even as the 'house of Jewish Yisrael' does. The whole book of D'varim/Deuteronomy is about 'Am Yisrael, the Second Generation', being readied to 'enter The Land and **POSSESS THEIR INHERITANCE**'. We too, as the 'returning house of Yosef-Ephraim', are awaiting our opportunity to 'return to the physical portion of our

inheritance... **THE LAND OF YISRAEL**. Our elder brother, 'Yehudah/Judah', has already been given that opportunity. This 'process' for them began in 1948, when Yisrael became a 'recognized nation' again. We are not merely trying to study about the 'Hebraic roots of our faith'. We also desire to be **REPATRIATED** in every way to be **WHO** we really are... **YISRAEL!** It's why the 'Torah has been returned to us'. Our M'lekh/King, Yeshua HaMashiach/The Messiah is returning to reign over a **RESTORED, UNIFIED HOUSE OF YISRAEL!** The 'Malchut HaShomayim/Kingdom of the Heavens' is close at hand. Only the Torah can 'prepare us for His return' and the dark days of tribulation that will come before. Only the Torah applied by YHWH through His 'HaRuach HaKodesh/The Spirit of His Holiness' can prepare us, both houses, to return to The Land. There needs to be a 'deep sense of teshuvah/repentance' on our part, along with our 'elder/brother Yehudah/Judah'. We should take these 'Three Weeks' to join with our brother in his 'teshuvah/repentance, to turn with him from the sinful behavior of our own generations' that has brought us such judgment.

Lastly, let me give a word of encouragement as we progress in this last sefer/book of the Torah. We are going to find 'prophetic nuggets' along the way which YHWH has 'hidden for us all' through the coming parashot/portions we will be studying. Your heart will be 'greatly encouraged' as these 'secrets' are uncovered. They have been there for ages, but 'now is the time' YHWH has ordained to make them known in their 'proper context and setting of the restoration of the Whole House of Yisrael'. Baruch HaShem YHWH! You alone are 'Neheman V'Rachaman/Faithful and True'!

Chapters 2-3

The words contained in chapters two and three of our parasha cover the past history of Am Yisrael following their deliverance from Mitzrayim/Egypt and their journeys through the midbar/wilderness. It also includes their most recent history preceding their being poised at the river Yarden/Jordan in our present parasha. I am not going to take the time here to cover that at this point. We have just finished doing so in our most recent Torah parasha, 'Massei' at the end of the sefer/book of 'Bamidbar/Numbers'.

May YHWH 'prepare our hearts' as we **HEAR AND SEE** what He did for Yisrael of old. He is certainly 'preparing us today', the **WHOLE HOUSE OF YISRAEL**, in restoration. We too are about to 'cross over into the fullness of our inheritance' in both the 'spirit and in the natural'. Amen!

We say the following blessing as we continue each week's study of Torah...

*Chazak u'Barukh...
Strength and Blessings*

****Click the link below to listen to the mp3 audio-reading of our parasha**

[Parasha 44: D'varim/Words](#)