

Parashah Behar / Bechukotai

פרשה בהר - בחקותי

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32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d

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Can you lose your salvation?

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Leviticus 25:1-27:34,
הפטרה: Jeremiah 16:19-17:14, 32:6-32:27
הברית: Luke 4:16-21, Matthew 21:33-46,
החדשה: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

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Reading through the Torah portion for this week, I always had difficulty on how to properly understand the command for monetary value that is placed upon people, land, animals, etc. After praying about these scriptures I feel there are a couple of important points to be made regarding the valuation and ransom of something that had been consecrated to the Lord. In addition to this, *Vayikra / Leviticus 27:28-29* is especially significant. Verse *27:29* says that no man who has been set apart may be ransomed, that he shall surely be put to death. In Hebrew it says “mot yumat” meaning “to die the death.” Why do the Scriptures say that a man may not be ransomed and that he shall surely be put to death? Earlier on in the scriptures (see *Vayikra / Leviticus 27:1-9*) a value is placed upon a man's vow at fifty shekels of silver, however, here in *27:29* if a man sets himself apart for the Lord he may not be ransomed.

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ויקרא 27:25-29

25 אֲחֻזַּת הָאָרֶץ: וְכָל־עֶרְכָּךָ יִהְיֶה בְשֵׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ עֶשְׂרִים
26 גֵּרָה יִהְיֶה הַשֶּׁקֶל: אֶךְ־בְּכֹר אֲשֶׁר יִבְכַּר לַיהוָה
בְּבִהְמָה לֹא־יִקְדֹּשׁ אִישׁ אֹתוֹ אִם־שׂוֹר אִם־שֶׂה לַיהוָה
27 הוּא: וְאִם בְּבִהְמָה הַטְּמֵאָה וּפְדָה בְּעֶרְכָּךָ וַיִּסַּף חֲמִשְׁתּוֹ
28 עָלָיו וְאִם־לֹא יִנָּאֵל וְנִמְכַּר בְּעֶרְכָּךָ: אֶךְ כָּל־חֵרֶם אֲשֶׁר
יִחְרַם אִישׁ לַיהוָה מִכָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ מֵאָדָם וּבְהֵמָה וּמִשְׂדֵּה
אֲחֻזּוֹ לֹא יִמָּכַר וְלֹא יִנָּאֵל כָּל־חֵרֶם קֹדֶשׁ־קֳדָשִׁים הוּא
29 לַיהוָה: כָּל־חֵרֶם אֲשֶׁר יִחְרַם מִזֵּה־הָאָדָם לֹא יִפְדָּה מוֹת
30 יוּמָת: וְכָל־מַעֲשֵׂר הָאָרֶץ מִזֵּרַע הָאָרֶץ מִפְּרֵי הָעֵץ לַיהוָה

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The difficulty in understanding these scriptures is a result of the absence of a Beit HaMikdash (Temple) and a system of korbanot (sacrifices). Today because there is no longer a korban system or a Beit HaMikdash for them to be

Vayikra / Leviticus 27:25-29

27:25 'Every valuation of yours, moreover, shall be after the shekel of the sanctuary. The shekel shall be twenty gerahs. 27:26 'However, a firstborn among animals, which as a firstborn belongs to the Lord, no man may consecrate it; whether ox or sheep, it is the Lord's. 27:27 'But if it is among the unclean animals, then he shall redeem it according to your valuation and add to it one-fifth of it; and if it is not redeemed, then it shall be sold according to your valuation. 27:28

'Nevertheless, anything which a man sets apart to the Lord out of all that he has, of man or animal or of the fields of his own property, shall not be sold or redeemed. Anything devoted to destruction is most holy to the Lord. 27:29 'No one who may have been set apart among men shall be ransomed; he shall surely be put to death. (NASB)

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30 offered in, many believers think that the “sacrificial system” has been done away
with. However, what is overlooked is that Yeshua is now our “once and for all
korban (sacrifice).” He is now in Heaven and sitting at the right hand of the
Father, if we sin, confess, and call upon His name, then Yeshua becomes the
appropriate korban for the sin we have committed. Essentially the korban system
35 is still in operation as it had been in the second temple period, confession
followed by repentance and then the offering of the korban. The offering of the
korbanot was not optional during the Mishkhan (Tabernacle) and Beit HaMikdash
(Temple) periods, so too today confession and repentance, with the incorporation
of Yeshua the Messiah as our once and for all Korban, He is not optional either
40 for salvation. Believers must live a life of confession and repentance and when
we do sin (*Ecclesiastes 7:20, Romans 3:23*) we must bring an acceptable korban
to the Lord and that is Yeshua the Messiah, His shed blood. It is through the
blood we ask G-d for the forgiveness of our sins.

Now understanding that the korban system is still in operation today even
45 in the absence of a Beit HaMikdash, it is still difficult to understand how the
scripture portion for this week may apply to us. While reading through the parsha
and reading *Vayikra / Leviticus 27:29* that states that “... *no one who has been set
apart among men shall be ransomed, he shall surely be put to death*” is certainly
a very difficult Scripture verse for us, however, something from the Ketuvei
Shelachim (Apostolic Writings) comes to mind from the book of *Hebrews*
50 chapters *5* and *6*. Below I have quoted the verses from the New American
Standard Bible (NASB).

Ivrit / Hebrews 5:11-6:8

55 *5:11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since
you have become dull of hearing. 5:12 For though by this time you ought
to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the
elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need
milk and not solid food. 5:13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is
not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. 5:14 But
60 solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses
trained to discern good and evil. 6:1 Therefore leaving the elementary
teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a
foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 6:2 of
instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of
65 the dead and eternal judgment. 6:3 And this we will do, if God permits.
6:4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have
tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy
Spirit, 6:5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the
age to come, 6:6 and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them
70 again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God
and put Him to open shame. 6:7 For ground that drinks the rain which
often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake
it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; 6:8 but if it yields thorns
and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being
75 burned. (NASB)*

A search on the internet of these verses brings up an abundance of web pages discussing the topic of salvation. The majority of the internet deals with “eternal security” which means that “once one is saved he/she is always saved.”

80 The idea behind this doctrine is that you or I cannot lose our salvation. The English definition of “lose” is to be deprived of or cease to have or retain something. The problem with this doctrine is that failing to keep possession of something is much different than making a conscious decision to walk away from something. The “eternal security” people suggest that believers who are born new
85 (*John 3:3*) it is impossible to reject Yeshua as Messiah, Savior, and Lord of their lives. The “eternal security” teaching therefore suggests that once one is saved by faith in Yeshua and His shed blood then, the believer suddenly becomes incapable of denying G-d and turning from the faith. I have a problem with the eternal security doctrine because it suggests that we no longer have the ability to make
90 important spiritual decisions once we have placed our faith in the Messiah. In addition to that, I believe that it is possible to at one point in one’s life to be saved in the blood of Yeshua, and then as a result of becoming intertwined with this world, becoming deceived; it is possible to turn and completely walk away from Yeshua and salvation. I have personally witnessed a number of friends (former
95 friends now) who began on fire for the Lord, believing that Yeshua is the Son of G-d and the Messiah, to then turn around and state that He was not the Son of G-d and not the Messiah, just a man who taught good things.

I believe the Scriptures warn us of the possibility of deception that can lead to one turning from salvation in Yeshua the Messiah. Many references and
100 warnings to “be not deceived” found in the Scriptures, even Yeshua’s words suggest that deception is possible. If salvation is “eternally secure” why are there be so many warnings? Let’s have a look at some of these warnings.

Matthew 24:3-4

105 *24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. (KJV)*

110 Yeshua begins with a sobering warning saying “do not allow yourself to be deceived.” Religious deception is very prevalent today. Though many of you know or are familiar with Yeshua’s words here, are you aware of the warning signs that Yeshua gave when confronted with them?

115 ***Matthew 24:5***

24:5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (KJV)

Matthew 24:11

120 *24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. (KJV)*

Matthew 24:23-25

125 *24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. 24:25 Behold, I have told you before.*

130 Note also that Yeshua said “many will come and will deceive many” and that “many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” The deception described here suggests that this deception is massive and on a wide scale across the world. These verses I have shown you, I recommend looking them up and study all of these scriptures in your Bible. The words of Yeshua and the Shelachim (apostles) warned of a great religious movement that would lead most of the world astray. If “eternal security” is true then these warnings would be unnecessary because a true believer is incapable of turning away from faith in the Messiah. Rav Shaul (Paul) wrote that deceivers will make themselves look like apostles of the Messiah.

140 ***2 Corinthians 11:13***
11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. (KJV)

145 ***2 Corinthians 11:14-15***
11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 11:15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. (KJV)

150 ***2 Corinthians 11:3-4***
11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. (KJV)

160 ***Galatians 1:6-7***
1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. (KJV)

165 Shaul (Paul) said “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to another gospel.” Is this not also possible for us to do today? Yeshua predicted that some would take His name and claim to represent Him and that those same people would be deceivers. Even in Paul’s day this movement was well under way according to the book of Galatians.

This is a good point to define a couple words “falling away” and “backsliding.” Backsliding is a term used within Christianity to describe a

170 process by which an individual who has converted to Christianity reverts to pre-
conversion habits and practices. Within churches which teach Arminianism,
backsliding is a state in which any free willed being can adopt, which is a doctrine
rejected by Calvinists. Historically backsliding was a trait of biblical Israel which
175 would turn from the LORD to follow idols. When I use the word “backsliding” I
am not referring to that of someone turning and worshiping another religion or an
idol. I am referring to when one falls into sin out of habit or some other reason
but never specifically rejects Yeshua or his/her own salvation. I believe that if we
remain in Yeshua the Messiah, our salvation is “without a doubt” certain but if we
180 walk away from him in deception salvation may be lost. This is the meaning of
the words “falling away” and how we find its usage here in the book of *Hebrews*
in chapter 6. *Ivrit / Hebrews 6:6* says that “*6:6 and then have fallen away, it is
impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to
themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.*” To “fall away” means to
185 turn from salvation, from the fundamental truths concerning Yeshua, read the
context (see *Ivrit / Hebrews 6:1-3*). Falling away from faith in Yeshua leads to
the losing of one’s salvation. Note that in *6:4-5*, the tasting of the truth is not
enough to keep them from falling away from it. Rejecting Yeshua, and then
turning around and wanting to receive Yeshua again is treating Him
contemptuously. Those who sin against Yeshua in this manner have no hope of
190 restoration or forgiveness because they reject Him with full knowledge and
conscious experience. The point being made is that it would be impossible “if a
believer falls away” to then be renewed again to salvation.

The question on “eternal security” depends upon whether you believe that
a “true believer” is capable of rejecting Yeshua and thereby losing their salvation?
195 The reading for this week, specifically *Vayikra / Leviticus 27:28-29* I believe
provides some insight into these verses. Verse *27:29* says that no man who has
been set apart may be ransomed, that he shall surely be put to death. When one
places his/her faith in Yeshua and His shed blood, one is leaving the ways of the
world and entering into a new life. Such a person (you and I) is essentially
200 separating themselves from the world, setting apart your body and your spirit for
the Lord. If you have separated (set apart / consecrated) yourself for the Lord,
you may not be ransomed back. The only option is death.

The scriptures are clear that salvation is secure as long as we remain and
persevere in our faith in Yeshua the Messiah (see *John 10:27-29; Romans 8:35,*
205 *38-39; Philippians 1:6; and 1 Peter 1:4-5*). But if you have set yourself apart
(consecrated) to the Lord by faith in the Messiah Yeshua, is it possible to separate
yourself from the Lord and then renew yourself to Him again? Not according to
the Scriptures. So, can you lose your salvation? If you remain in Yeshua the
Messiah, keep the faith, and persevere in confession, repentance, and faith in Him
210 (the shed blood) until the end you the Scriptures say G-d will forgive you and
salvation is yours. The real question is one of “losing” or “walking away from”
salvation? The possibility of deception is very real; take every safeguard against
falling into deception and falling away from faith in Yeshua, because your eternal
spirit is at stake.

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Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!

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הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,
“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever