

# Parshiot Mattot / Masei

## פרשות מטות / מסעי

Shabbat Tammuz 28, 5770, July 10, 2010

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

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### Abide in the Messiah and be set Free!

#### השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Numbers 30:2-36:13

הפטרה: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3; 2:4-28

הברית: Matthew 5:33-37; James 4:1-12

החדשה

The land that Yisrael is about to enter, whose borders are described in this week's reading (*Bamidbar / Numbers 33:50-36:13*), is the place where the Lord is going to place his name, the place where He will be worshiped, where we will call upon by His name, His house, His dwelling place, His tabernacle, and His temple. The significance of this appointment for Yisrael to destroy the graven images, groves, and high places of pagan worship establishes the one way, the only way for us to approach G-d and to commune with Him. It was absolutely necessary to destroy the places of wickedness in order to ensure the people will follow the one true way and to prevent future idolatry and superstition, which might otherwise very easily creep in and destroy the life and relationship of the believer with G-d. I believe today we are also called to destroy the places of idolatry and wickedness in our lives just like Yisrael was to do when they entered the land of Canaan. If we do not attend to this important task in our lives we will forever have difficulty in our relationship with the Lord. It is sad though that many people openly choose to bring the darkness of this world into their hearts through paths of idolatry and paganism without considering the consequences of their actions.

### במדבר 33:50-53

50 מואב: וידבר יהוה אל-משה  
51 בערבת מואב על-ירדן ירחו לאמר: דבר אל-בני  
ישראל ואמרת אליהם כי אתם עברים את-הירדן  
52 אל-ארץ כנען: והורשתם את-כל-ישבי הארץ מפניכם  
ואבדתם את כל-משפחתם ואת כל-צלמי מסכתם  
53 תאבדו ואת כל-במותם תשמידו: והורשתם את-  
הארץ וישבתם-בה כי לכם נתתי את-הארץ לרשת  
54 אתה: והתנחלתם את-הארץ בגורל למשפחתכם

#### **Bamidbar / Numbers 33:50-53**

33:50 Then the Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan opposite Jericho, saying, 33:51 'Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you cross over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 33:52 then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their figured stones, and destroy all their molten images and demolish all their high places; 33:53 and you shall take possession of the land and live in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it. (NASB)

35 Not knowing the difference between right and wrong will cause one to fall into a  
situation like what happened in Parashat Pinchas where the people united  
themselves with Baal Peor in idol worship or in chapter 7 of Joshua where greed  
caused the people to sin before the Lord by bringing the “accursed thing” into  
their homes. The stern warning in **Bamidbar / Numbers 33:51** ‘Speak to the sons  
of Israel and say to them, 'When you cross over the Jordan into the land of  
Canaan, 33:52 then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before  
you, and destroy all their figured stones, and destroy all their molten images and  
demolish all their high *places*;' is also a warning against bringing the accursed  
40 thing into our heart, mind, and soul that will result in a damaged spiritual  
relationship with the Lord. The Scriptures are absolutely important for a  
believer’s life because it is food for the spirit. Once the Bible becomes less of an  
influence in our lives, other occult activities become acceptable, such as reading  
ones horoscope, numerology, Yoga, etc. As believers we are still capable of  
45 straying into enemy territory and coming under bondage by the evil one. In the  
book of Joshua, the accursed thing brought immediate failure in battle which  
marked the Lord’s judgment of sin. The battle for us today is in our hearts, in our  
imagination, this is one of the reasons why HaShem told us that he will make a  
new covenant with us and write his Torah on our hearts in **Ivrit / Hebrews 10:16**.  
50 Studying the Word of G-d, memorizing scripture, and keeping G-d’s Word hid in  
our hearts will help to overcome sin, and identify the practices that lead up to the  
work of sin in our lives.

Identifying the way sin works in our lives requires personal reflection  
upon our relationship with the Lord (our spiritual state). Take for example, one  
55 who practices Yoga believing there are no spiritual consequences. People who  
practice Yoga for physical and mental reasons ultimately are victims of a  
“confidence game” in that they are promised better health, etc. Little is actually  
known that Yoga’s goal is to destroy one as a self-thinking individual which  
stands in opposition to the Scriptures. Similarly “contemplative prayer,” taught in  
60 some Christian groups, requires one to empty his or her mind in order to pray.  
Nowhere in the Scriptures are we told to empty our minds. In fact, we are told to  
fill our hearts with G-d’s instruction (**Tehilim / Psalms 1:2**). The word meditation  
has different and sometimes confusing meanings. The type of meditation  
described in Yoga and “contemplative prayer” is that of transcendental meditation  
65 that involves the emptying of the mind of all thoughts and repeating a mantra, a  
Hindu prayer or invocation in the Sanskrit language. This empty headed form of  
meditation is very dangerous since it offers a place for demonic spiritual activity  
to influence the mind. Also, did you know that the occult practice of seeking to  
contact the dead and/or inviting the presence of an inner spirit guide begin with  
70 the emptying of the mind of all thoughts?

The call for the people of Yisrael to drive out the inhabitants of the land  
and to destroy the figured stones, molten images, and the high places is a call by  
G-d to think critically about our lives, the world, and even scripture and its  
application. This is a call for His people to abide in Him and to deepen our  
75 relationship with Yeshua (**John 15:1-17**). How do I live out my faith in a world  
that stands against the Word of G-d? How much of what I look at and listen too  
influences me and my relationship with the Lord? How influential is the spiritual

80 realm in those things that promote sin in my daily life? How do I apply the Scriptures to my life? How do I walk in the ways of the Lord and live a life that is pleasing to Him? The list could go on; the point is that we need to think critically upon everything we do. The secular world tells us that the best life possible comes from living a life separate from G-d, His Word, and His influence. The Scriptures, on the other hand, tell us that a full and fulfilled life, filled with blessing comes from drawing near to the Lord and not being independent of G-d's influence. Have you come to the point in your life where you believe with all your heart that a life lived close to the Lord is a truly fulfilled life?

85 The scripture verse for this week calling Yisrael to destroy the wickedness in the land of Canaan (*Bamidbar / Numbers 33:51-52*) convinces me that we need to have a greater love for G-d than we do for the things of this world. I believe that these scriptures this week are closely tied with something Yeshua taught on abiding in Him in *John 14:1-12*.

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ΚΑΤΑ ΙΩΑΝΝΗΝ

14:1-12

ψυχὴν σου ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ θήσεις ἀμήν ἀμήν λέγω σοι οὐ μὴ ἀλέκτωρ φωνήσῃ ἕως οὗ ἀπαρνήσῃ με τρίς.

Μὴ ταρασέσθω ὑμῶν ἡ καρδιά, πιστεύετε εἰς τὸν θεόν καὶ εἰς 14  
ἐμὲ πιστεύετε. ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ τοῦ πατρὸς μου μοναὶ πολλαὶ εἰσιν, 2  
εἰ δὲ μὴ εἶπον ἂν ὑμῖν πορεύομαι ἐτοιμάσαι τόπον ὑμῖν. καὶ ἐὰν 3  
πορευθῶ καὶ ἐτοιμάσω ὑμῖν τόπον πάλιν ἔρχομαι καὶ παραλήψομαι  
ὑμᾶς πρὸς ἐμαυτὸν ἵνα ὅπου εἰμὶ ἐγὼ καὶ ὑμεῖς ἦτε. καὶ ὅπου 4  
ἐγὼ ὑπάγω οἴδατε καὶ τὴν ὁδὸν οἴδατε, λέγει αὐτῷ Θωμᾶς Κύριε 5  
οὐκ οἶδαμεν ποῦ ὑπάγεις, καὶ πῶς δυνάμεθα τὴν ὁδὸν εἰδέναι.  
λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς Ἐγὼ εἰμι ἡ ὁδὸς καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια καὶ ἡ ζωὴ, 6  
οὐδεὶς ἔρχεται πρὸς τὸν πατέρα εἰ μὴ δι' ἐμοῦ. εἰ ἐγνώκετέ με 7  
καὶ τὸν πατέρα μου ἐγνώκετε ἂν, καὶ ἅπ' ἅρτι γινώσκετε αὐτὸν  
καὶ ἑώρακατε αὐτόν. λέγει αὐτῷ Φίλιππος Κύριε δεῖξον ἡμῖν τὸν 8  
πατέρα καὶ ἀρκεῖ ἡμῖν. λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοσοῦτον χρόνον μεθ' 9  
ὑμῶν εἰμι καὶ οὐκ ἐγνώκας με Φίλιππε ὁ ἑώρακὼς ἐμὲ ἑώρακεν τὸν  
πατέρα, καὶ πῶς σὺ λέγεις Δεῖξον ἡμῖν τὸν πατέρα. οὐ πιστεύεις 10  
ὅτι ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ πατρὶ καὶ ὁ πατὴρ ἐν ἐμοί ἐστιν τὰ ῥήματα ἃ ἐγὼ λαλῶ  
ὑμῖν ἅπ' ἐμαυτοῦ οὐ λαλῶ, ὁ δὲ πατὴρ ὁ ἐν ἐμοὶ **μένων** αὐτὸς ποιεῖ  
τὰ ἔργα. πιστεύειέ μοι ὅτι ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ πατρὶ καὶ ὁ πατὴρ ἐν ἐμοί, 11  
εἰ δὲ μὴ διὰ τὰ ἔργα αὐτὰ πιστεύετε μοι. ἀμήν ἀμήν λέγω ὑμῖν ὁ 12  
πιστεύων εἰς ἐμὲ τὰ ἔργα ἃ ἐγὼ ποιῶ κάκεινος ποιήσει καὶ μείζονα

95 The author of the gospel of John used the word “menon” meaning “to stay,” “stand fast,” “remain,” or “abide.” The concept of this word is to remain at home or stay where you are and not wonder off. John uses this word 34 times in His gospel and 19 times in his letters. The word “menon” means to abide in unbroken fellowship with someone. To have a friend who will always be there in times of need to help. John tells us that Yeshua said “*I am in the Father and the Father is in me*” that the Father who “remains” (menon) in him does His works through him. This was evident in Yeshua’s character, he spoke what the Father told Him

**John 14:1-12**

14:1 ‘Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 14:2 ‘In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 14:3 ‘If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 14:4 ‘And you know the way where I am going.’ 14:5 Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?’ 14:6 Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. 14:7 ‘If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.’ 14:8 Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.’ 14:9 Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 14:10 ‘Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. 14:11 ‘Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. 14:12 ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. (NASB)

to say (see *John 7:16, 14:10, 12:49-50, and 14:24*) and everything he did was the Father working in and through Him (*John 14:10*). When Yeshua said that  
105 believers must “abide” in Him, He is describing a picture of a relationship that is bound to Him in a union with G-d that will be shown forth in our lives. “Menon” indicates a close, intimate and permanent relationship between the believer and G-d (see *1 John 2:6, 24, 27, and 3:6*). Yeshua wants us to make ourselves available to Him as He made Himself available to His Father. One of the ways for us to  
110 make ourselves available is to break and tear down the strongholds in our lives as the Scriptures say in *Bamidbar / Numbers 33:51-52* to tear down the places of wickedness in the land of Canaan. The tearing down of wickedness is an absolute necessity for us as believers if we are to have an intimate union and harmony with the Father in Yeshua through the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit). *John 15:4, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”* Yeshua is emphasizing the unbroken unity and fellowship with a person who dwells in Him. The point is that believers, you and I, have made our spiritual residence in Yeshua abiding in the Messiah. The house has been cleansed by the blood of Yeshua and  
120 nothing can stand between the believer and the Messiah (Christ). Praise the Lord for in this spiritual unity we also have victory over the strongholds in our lives in His shed blood. I believe this holy fellowship is analogized in the “vine” and “branches” parable; G-d isn’t going to graft in a diseased and contaminated branch. If we are to abide in Yeshua, how much more must we tear down the  
125 places of wickedness in our lives? This can only be done by the help of Yeshua and the indwelling of G-d’s Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit). Ask the Lord today to help you to tear down the places of wickedness in your life so that the land (the land of your life) may be set free from the burden of sin and bear much fruit.

130 **Bamidbar / Numbers 33:51-52**  
33:51 ‘Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you cross over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, 33:52 then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their figured stones, and destroy all their molten images and demolish all their high  
135 *places;*’

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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