

פרשה ראה / Parashat Re'eh

Shabbat Av 25, 5769, August 15, 2009
32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d
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What is your focus?

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

הפטרה: Isaiah 54:11-55:5

הברית: John 7:37-52, 1 John 4:1-6

החדשה

10 In Parashat Eikev we talked about leadership and the role leadership
played in causing the people to sin against the Lord. Essentially, the children of
Yisrael were tested through their leadership. HaShem was testing them and they
failed according to the retelling of the story of Yisrael sinning before the Lord and
subsequent warning Moshe gives to the people. This week's parsha, Parashat
15 Re'eh (*Devarim / Deuteronomy 12:29-14:29*) Moshe is further warning the
people.

Devarim / Deuteronomy 13:1-4

20 *13:1 'If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you
a sign or a wonder, 13:2 and the sign or the wonder comes true,
concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods
(whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' 13:3 you shall not
listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord
your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all
25 your heart and with all your soul. 13:4 'You shall follow the Lord your
God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His
voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.*

30 Moshe instructs the people to be careful if false teachers should arise from among
them and to be diligent to remain faithful to HaShem to fear Him, to keep His
mitzvot, to listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. These verses provide
for us a fundamental underlying warning to be careful to guard our faith from
being undermined or shaken. HaShem warns us and instructs us that he is going
to test us in order to see that we do not waver but remain persistent in the truth
35 that has been delivered to us in the Word of G-d. Rav Shaul (Paul) suggests that
this is true, the Word of G-d arms us against all forms of temptation so we are not
tossed to and fro and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the slight of
men, etc.

40 *Ephesians 4:10-15*

*4:10 He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the
heavens, so that He might fill all things.) 4:11 And He gave some as
apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as*

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pastors and teachers, 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, (NASB)

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דברים 11-13:1

יג את כל־הדבר אשר אנכי מצוה אתכם אתו תשמרו
 לעשות לא־תסור עליו ולא תגרע ממנו:

2 כִּי־יָקוּם בְּקִרְבְּךָ נְבִיא או חלם חלום ונתן אליך אות ׀
 3 או מופת: וְכָא הָאֹת וְהַמוֹפֵת אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר אֵלֶיךָ לֵאמֹר
 נִלְכֶה אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אַחֲרִים אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יְדַעְתֶּם וְנַעֲבֹדֵם:
 4 לֹא תִשְׁמַע אֶל־דִּבְרֵי הַנְּבִיא הַהוּא או אֶל־חֹלֵם
 הַחֲלוֹם הַהוּא כִּי מִנְסֶה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם אֶתְכֶם לְדַעַת
 הַיֹּשְׁכֶם אֱהָבִים אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם בְּכֹל־לְבַבְכֶם
 5 וּבְכֹל־נַפְשְׁכֶם: אַחֲרֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם תֵּלְכוּ וְאִתּוֹ
 תִירְאוּ וְאֶת־מִצְוֹתָיו תִּשְׁמְרוּ וּבְקִלּוֹ תִשְׁמְעוּ וְאִתּוֹ
 6 תַעֲבֹדוּ וְכוּ תִדְבַקוּן: וְהַנְּבִיא הַהוּא או חלם החלום
 הַהוּא יוֹמֵת כִּי דִבַּר־סָרָה עַל־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הַמוֹצִיא
 אֶתְכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וְהַפְדֶּךָ מִבֵּית עַבְדִּים לְהַדְיִיחֶךָ
 מִן־הַדָּרֶךְ אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לָלֶכֶת בָּהּ וּבַעֲרַת
 7 הָרַע מִקִּרְבְּךָ: כִּי יִסִּיתֶךָ אֲחֵיךָ
 בְּדֹאמָה או־בְנֵךְ או־בְתֶךָ או אִשְׁתְּ חִיקֶךָ או רֵעֶךָ
 אֲשֶׁר כְּנַפְשֶׁךָ בְּסַתֵּר לֵאמֹר נִלְכֶה וְנַעֲבֹדָה אֱלֹהִים
 8 אַחֲרִים אֲשֶׁר לֹא יָדַעְתָּ אֹתָהּ וְאַבְתִּיךָ: מֵאֵלֶיךָ הַשָּׁמַיִם
 אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבֹתֶיכֶם הַקְרִבִים אֵלֶיךָ או הַרְחִיקִים מִמֶּךָ
 9 מִקְצֵה הָאָרֶץ וְעַד־קְצֵה הָאָרֶץ: לֹא־תֹאבְדָה לוֹ וְלֹא
 תִשְׁמַע אֵלָיו וְלֹא־תַחֹס עֵינֶךָ עָלָיו וְלֹא־תִחַמְלֵם וְלֹא־
 10 תִבְסֶה עָלָיו: כִּי הֲרֹג תִּהְרַגְנוּ יָדְךָ תִּהְיֶה־כּוּ בְרֵאשׁוֹנָה
 11 לְהַמִּיתוֹ וַיַּד כָּל־הָעָם בְּאַחֲרָנָה: וְסִקְלֹתוֹ בְּאַבְנִים וּמָת
 כִּי בִקֵּשׁ לְהַדְיִיחֶךָ מֵעַל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ הַמוֹצִיאֶךָ מֵאֶרֶץ
 12 מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עַבְדִּים: וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׁמְעוּ וַיִּרְאוּ וְלֹא־

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Devarim / Deuteronomy 13:1-11
 13:1 'If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 13:2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,' 13:3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 13:4 'You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. 13:5 'But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the Lord your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you. 13:6 'If your brother, your mother's son, or your son or daughter, or the wife you cherish, or your friend who is as your own soul, entice you secretly, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods' (whom neither you nor your fathers have known, 13:7 of the gods of the peoples who are around you, near you or far from you, from one end of the earth to the other end), 13:8 you shall not yield to him or listen to him; and your eye shall not pity him, nor shall you spare or conceal him. 13:9 'But you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. 13:10 'So you shall stone him to death because he has sought to seduce you from the Lord your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 13:11 'Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such a wicked thing among you. (NASB)

60 Moshe's statement in 13:1 *"if a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder,"* suggests that this warning is related to falsities and errors which appear in the body of believers. HaShem's Torah is meant to keep His people in the purity and integrity of the faith. The purpose is to present ourselves as a chaste virgin to His obedience and not allow ourselves to be withdrawn from the simplicity of the faith by seductions from others. *2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. (NASB)* HaShem espoused his ancient people to Himself and warned to guard against false teachers, the seducers of HaSatan tempting them to violate the sacred bond of marriage (the covenant relationship).

70 ***2 Peter 2:1-3***

75 *2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2:2 Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 2:3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. (NASB)*

80 There is a system of rewards and punishment not just in the Torah (and all of the Tanach) but also in the Ketuvei Shelachim (Apostolic Writings). In fact, this system of rewards is stressed by Yeshua himself. It is clear our reward in the Olah Habah (World to come) is based on our obedience to the Lord and His mitzvot (commandments). Let's see what Yeshua had to say:

85 ***Matthew 5:19***

'Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (NASB)

90 ***Matthew 19:17***

19:17 And He said to him, 'Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.' (NASB)

95 ***Luke 12:47-49***

100 *12:47 'And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, 12:48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more. 12:49 'I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled! (NASB)*

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John 14:15

14:15 'If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. (NASB)

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John 14:21

14:21 'He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.' (NASB)

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John 15:10

15:10 'If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. (NASB)

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Revelation 12:17

12:17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. (NASB)

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Revelation 14:12

14:12 Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. (NASB)

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Revelation 22:14

Rev22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. (KJV)

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These are only a few scriptures from the Ketuvei Shelachim selected for illustration purposes. The real question is “what is His Mitzvot (Commandments)? It should be kept in mind the Ketuvei Shelachim did not exist in the first century outside of being a few letters circulated which later were collected and placed under one cover as the Ketuvei Shelachim. It is from the Tanach (Torah, Neviim, v’Ketuvim) that the Messiah and Apostles drew their authority from in their teachings. We are going to be rewarded in the Olam Habah based on a system of rewards and punishments founded by G-d himself. The motivation behind our doing good things should not be simply to receive rewards but to obey from a desire to please G-d and out of a love for our Father in Heaven. False teachers today may lead us to believe that our primary focus should be on keeping the mitzvot in the Torah. I have always been led to teach that we should do these things out of a love for our Father in Heaven. Obeying G-d is a natural consequence of our having been changed, renewed, restored, forgiven, and saved in the blood of Yeshua the Messiah. We still struggle with the flesh and the desires of the flesh however we have placed inside of us a new heart and a new spirit by G-d along with the guidance of the Ruach Hakodesh we are led back to repentance and return to the ways of the Lord. Our focus should be on Yeshua the Messiah, and how well we reflect His image in the world. His image is that love covers a multitude of sins.

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155 Reading further in this week's parsha we see a list of clean and unclean animals juxtaposed to the verses warning us against false teachers. Is there a connection here? What we eat and don't eat is not as important as how we treat others who are made in the image of G-d who we claim to love. I have seen horrible hatred spoken against our brothers and sisters in Yeshua for not keeping kosher, not observing the Torah, etc. A false teacher in this instance is promoting observance of the kashrut laws and a spirit of murder (hatred, lack of love) for others. I have written before about hateful teachings and the spirit of murder which I will not go into here, however, teaching hatred for our brothers and sisters who error in interpretation is in fact instilling a spirit of murder into the congregants. I believe it is better to error on the side of love and mercy when dealing with others than to be into doing things just to do them. Observing the dietary laws needs to come from a desire to please the Holy One because we love Him. I don't eat meat cooked in milk but I do serve dairy at the same meal. I eat biblical kosher and am not bothered by eating in a non-kosher restaurant as long as what I do eat is not from an unclean animal. We try to live in a manner that brings glory and honor to HaShem. Does promoting hatred, anger, lack of love towards others bring glory and honor to HaShem?

170 I write a commentary on the Torah and try to discuss how we should be living, how we are supposed to walk according to the ways of the Lord. What you do with the teaching is up to you. When we begin to think everyone has to do what we think is right there is a serious problem and we are not thinking correctly. There is enough for each of us to do in our own lives that we shouldn't have to worry about what others are doing or not doing in their lives. Don't fall prey to false teachers, prophets, dreamers, etc who attempt to make the focus of their teachings and studies all about doing over against showing mercy and love to others. (For additional reading Tim Hegg wrote a good article on the sufficiency of scripture that fits well with our discussion this week on false teachers here at http://www.torahresource.com/Bible_is_Sufficient.html)

180 I believe this is a significant negative feature of the messianic community whose focus is not correct. The problem results when the rulings of men becoming so intertwined with the written Torah that for all practical purposes the two become one (i.e. Rabbinic versus Biblical Torah). The natural consequence of this intertwining is demonstrated when one neglects the traditions of the Sages it is viewed as a neglect of the Torah, I know people online who hold this view. The implication then is to throw off the traditions is to cast away the Torah, this focus is not correct. Our focus needs to be upon Yeshua and how well we reflect His image in the world. We need to cling to G-d by faith in His Messiah, Yeshua.

190 How well do you reflect the image of the Messiah in your life?

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