**פרשה וזאת הברכה / Parashat Vezot Ha’Bracha**

Shabbat Tishrei 23, 5769, October 10, 2009

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

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**Be on guard for your faith!**

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| **השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week’s Reading** |
| **תורה:****הפטרה:****הברית:****החדשה:** | Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12Joshua 1:1-18Acts 27-28 |

How does one determine the meaning of words? The answer may be simple enough, the meaning of a word is established by the community of speakers in a given time period. However, this is where it gets a little more complicated. When the words begin to develop a wider range of nuances or become more specialized and achieve idiomatic status within the community of speakers trying to understand language and the meaning of words gets more difficult. While trying to interpret the word within a specific context, one cannot view the term in isolation, but must be aware of the various contextual and linguistic factors. This week’s parsha, Parashat Vezot Ha’Bracha, words are used to describe how G-d blesses the children of Yisrael and how they following in His ways. “*The blessing with which Moshe the man of G-d blessed the sons of Yisrael.” “He loves the people; All Your holy ones are in Your hand, And they followed in Your steps.”* Being so far removed from the ancient days of the writing of the scriptures, how the early body of believers lived out their faith, trying to following in G-d’s ways according to the Torah has become a dangerous path especially when the belief that in order to accurately follow in G-d’s ways is achieved by following rabbinic Judaism. Following rabbinic Judaism as a path to G-d leads to destruction; following in the ways of the Lord by the use of rabbinic Judaism, one is unknowingly and slowing becoming deceived as the one true path through faith in the Messiah Yeshua becomes more and more skewed. As we start another year of Torah study, we need to be on guard for our faith in Yeshua.

**Devarim / Deuteronomy 33:1-5**

33:1 Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the sons of Israel before his death. 33:2 He said, ‘The Lord came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them. 33:3 ‘Indeed, He loves the people; All Your holy ones are in Your hand, And they followed in Your steps; Everyone receives of Your words. 33:4 ‘Moses charged us with a law, A possession for the assembly of Jacob. 33:5 ‘And He was king in Jeshurun, When the heads of the people were gathered, The tribes of Israel together. (NASB)

**33:1-5 דברים**



As we enter the New Year, we must be on the defensive against false teaching for our spiritual well being. Peter says the method of false teaching is deceptive words, which could also be translated as "cunningly forged arguments." *2 Peter 1:16 For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. (NASB)* The Scriptures are quite clear concerning deception, and I have seen in many positions of leadership, HaSatan is deceiving by drawing believers away from hearing the Lord. How is it possible to draw a believer away from hearing the Lord? It is possible by minimizing time spent studying the Word of G-d. We must spend time in the Word of G-d if we want to draw near to Him. It is imperative that we remain in the word. King David said *Tehelim / Psalms 1:2 Their delight is in ADONAI's Torah; on his Torah they meditate day and night. (CJB)* How else are we to be instructed in the way of the Lord if we stop studying the Bible?

We must be very careful, everything we see with our eyes and hear with our ears, we must compare with the G-d’s Word and be careful not to believe those things which do not line up. According to G-d’s plan, we learn to get our guidance through the Ruach HaKodesh (The Holy Spirit), which is only accomplished when we diligently seek Him and wait on Him. Just as it is written that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (see *Hebrews 11:6*) and will not let us down if we patiently wait for him. The key is finding the correct path by which we should walk.

Contextual factors provide us the answer to the question of the correct path. The bible should be used as our contextual base text for determining the correct path by which we should be walking. Following the Lord and walking after Yeshua is much broader than simply adopting Jewish practice. Discipleship should be known as the art of emulation as the scriptures say:

***1John 2:5-7***

*2:5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. 2:7 Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. (NASB)*

***Luke 6:40***

*6:40 ‘A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher. (NASB)*

 The moment we stop spending time in the Word of G-d is the moment we stop moving forward in or walk with God and the flesh begins to move us backwards. To stay spiritually in shape, we need to press forward every day in the Word. If we remain in the Word, we will be upright, and remain strong in our faith in Yeshua the Messiah. If we are spiritually lazy, we will allow the flesh to rule us and pull us away from hearing the Lord. In this new year of Torah study, keep in mind how G-d has made a way for redemption for us through the death and resurrection of His righteous Son, Yeshua the Messiah. Everyone who places faith in Yeshua receives redemption, forgiveness, and salvation. We are promised faith, love, and hope; this is the hope of our faith, the forgiveness of sins through faith in Yeshua.

**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