

Notes: September 9, 2017

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Praise and Worship Songs
8. Message
9. Aaronic Blessing
10. Kiddush
11. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Ki Tavo – Observe Mitzvot

In this week's Parshah, Ki Tavo, I found something interesting. When I did a word search of observe and mitzvot in the same verse, it appeared 12 times through Torah. Of those 12 times, 8 of them were found in this week's Parshah.

Let's go through them...

Deu 26:17 You are agreeing today that Adonai is your God and that you will follow his ways; observe his laws, mitzvot and rulings; and do what he says.

Deu 26:18 In turn Adonai is agreeing today that you are his own unique treasure, as he promised you; that you are to observe all his mitzvot;

Deu 26:19 and that he will raise you high above all the nations he has made, in praise, reputation and glory; and that, as he said, you will be a holy people for Adonai your God."

Deu 27:1 Then Moshe and all the leaders of Isra'el gave orders to the people. They said, "Observe all the mitzvot I am giving you today.

Deu 27:2 When you cross the Yarden to the land Adonai your God is giving you, you are to set up large stones, put plaster on them,

Deu 27:3 and, after crossing over, write this Torah on them, every word - so that you can enter the land Adonai your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as Adonai, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

Deu 28:1 "If you listen closely to what Adonai your God says, observing and obeying all his mitzvot which I am giving you today, Adonai your God will raise you high above all the nations on earth;

Deu 28:2 and all the following blessings will be yours in abundance - if you will do what Adonai your God says:

Deu 28:9 "Adonai will establish you as a people separated out for himself, as he has sworn to you - if you will observe the mitzvot of Adonai your God and follow his ways.

Deu 28:10 Then all the peoples on earth will see that Adonai's name, his presence, is with you; so that they will be afraid of you.

Deu 28:13 Adonai will make you the head and not the tail; and you will be only above, never below - if you will listen to, observe and obey the mitzvot of Adonai your God

Deu 28:14 and not turn away from any of the words I am ordering you today, neither to the right nor to the left, to follow after other gods and serve them.

Deu 28:15 "But if you refuse to pay attention to what Adonai your God says, and do not observe and obey all his mitzvot and regulations which I am giving you today, then all the following curses will be yours in abundance:

Deu 28:45 "All these curses will come on you, pursuing you and overtaking you until you are destroyed, because you didn't pay attention to what Adonai your God said, observing his mitzvot and regulations that he gave you.

The word observe is translated from the Hebrew word shamar...

שמר

shâmar

shaw-mar'

A primitive root; properly to *hedge* about (as with thorns), that is, *guard*; generally to *protect, attend to*, etc.: - beware, be circumspect, take heed (to self), keep (-er, self), mark, look narrowly, observe, preserve, regard, reserve, save (self), sure, (that lay) wait (for), watch (-man).

Which in essence comes from the root - shama

שמע

shâma'

shaw-mah'

A primitive root; to *hear* intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience, etc.; causatively to *tell*, etc.): - X attentively, call (gather) together, X carefully, X certainly, consent, consider, be content, declare, X diligently, discern, give ear, (cause to, let, make to) hear (-ken, tell), X indeed, listen, make (a) noise, (be) obedient, obey, perceive, (make a) proclaim (-ation), publish, regard, report, shew (forth), (make a) sound, X surely, tell, understand, whosoever [heareth], witness.

Eight times in this parshah alone, observe and mitzvot are connected. We know, when Adonai reiterates something it is for a reason. Ultimately, it is to get our attention.

Comprised in this parshah, Ki Tavo are the blessings and the curses ascribed to Israel as they are being prepared to enter the land, take possession and reside in safety, no longer roaming the desert as nomads. Observance of the mitzvot are directly associated with the blessings...

Deu 28:1 "If you listen closely (shama) to what Adonai your God says, observing and obeying (shamar) all his mitzvot which I am giving you today, Adonai your God will raise you high above all the nations on earth;

Deu 28:2 and all the following blessings will be yours in abundance - if you will do what Adonai your God says:

Deu 28:3 "A blessing on you in the city, and a blessing on you in the countryside.

Deu 28:4 "A blessing on the fruit of your body, the fruit of your land and the fruit of your livestock - the young of your cattle and flocks.

Deu 28:5 "A blessing on your grain-basket and kneading-bowl.

Deu 28:6 "A blessing on you when you go out, and a blessing on you when you come in.

Deu 28:7 "Adonai will cause your enemies attacking you to be defeated before you; they will advance on you one way and flee before you seven ways.

Deu 28:8 "Adonai will order a blessing to be with you in your barns and in everything you undertake; he will bless you in the land Adonai your God is giving you.

Deu 28:9 "Adonai will establish you as a people separated out for himself, as he has sworn to you - if you will observe the mitzvot of Adonai your God and follow his ways.

Adonai has attached their residing in the land as part of the Covenants made through Avraham and Moshe...

To Avraham,

Gen 12:2 I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, and I will make your name great; and you are to be a blessing.

Gen 17:5 Your name will no longer be Avram [*exalted father*], but your name will be Avraham [*father of many*], because I have made you the father of many nations.

Gen 17:6 I will cause you to be very fruitful. I will make nations of you, kings will descend from you.

Gen 17:7 "I am establishing my covenant between me and you, along with your descendants after you, generation after generation, as an everlasting covenant, to be God for you and for your descendants after you.

Gen 17:8 I will give you and your descendants after you the land in which you are now foreigners, all the land of Kena'an, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God."

To Moshe,

Exo 19:5 Now if you will pay careful attention to what I say and keep my covenant, then you will be my own treasure from among all the peoples, for all the earth is mine;

Exo 19:6 and you will be a kingdom of cohanim for me, a nation set apart.' These are the words you are to speak to the people of Isra'el."

Exo 19:8 All the people answered as one, "Everything Adonai has said, we will do." Moshe reported the words of the people to Adonai.

In these verses, Adonai promises to make the nation of Israel, a kingdom of cohanim, a kingdom of priests. A land where they will reside as a nation from generation to generation as an everlasting covenant. Whereby, Adonai conveys to Moshe – if you pay careful attention to what I say and keep my covenant you will be my own unique treasure.

Interestingly enough this same promise appears in Deuteronomy 26:

Deu 26:17 You are agreeing today that Adonai is your God and that you will follow his ways; observe his laws, mitzvot and rulings; and do what he says.

Deu 26:18 In turn Adonai is agreeing today that you are his own unique treasure, as he promised you; that you are to observe all his mitzvot;

Deu 26:19 and that he will raise you high above all the nations he has made, in praise, reputation and glory; and that, as he said, you will be a holy people for Adonai your God."

We see this combination of words four other times in Torah –

- Exodus 15:26
- Exodus 16:28
- Leviticus 26:3
- Numbers 15:22

To where the blessings and curses associated with Torah are connected with the observance of Torah.

To where Nehemiah recognized the reason for Israel's expulsion from the land...

Neh 1:3 They answered me, "The remnant of the exile left there in the province are in great distress and are held in contempt, the wall of Yerushalayim is in ruins, and its gates have been completely burned up."

Neh 1:4 On hearing this answer, I sat down and wept; I mourned for several days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Neh 1:5 I said, "Please, Adonai! God of heaven! You great and fearsome God, who keeps his covenant and extends grace to those who love him and observe his mitzvot!

Neh 1:6 Let your ear now be attentive and your eyes be open, so that you will listen to the prayer of your servant, which I am praying before you these days, day and night, for the people of Isra'el your servants — even as I confess the sins of the people of Isra'el that we have committed against you. Yes, I and my father's house have sinned.

Neh 1:7 We have deeply offended you. We haven't observed the mitzvot, laws or rulings you ordered your servant Moshe.

Neh 1:8 Remember, please, the word you gave through your servant Moshe, 'If you break faith, I will scatter you among the peoples;

Neh 1:9 but if you return to me, observe my mitzvot and obey them, then, even if your scattered ones are in the most distant part of heaven, nevertheless, I will collect them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen for bearing my name.'

In the Haftarah associated with Ki-Tavo, Isaiah 60:1 – 20, speaks of a restored Israel...

Isa 60:1 "Arise, shine [*Yerushalayim*], for your light has come, the glory of Adonai has risen over you.

Isa 60:2 For although darkness covers the earth and thick darkness the peoples; on you Adonai will rise; over you will be seen his glory.

Isa 60:3 Nations will go toward your light and kings toward your shining splendor.

Isa 60:15 "In the past you were abandoned and hated, so that no one would even pass through you; but now I will make you the pride of the ages, a joy for many generations.

Isa 60:16 You will drink the milk of nations, you will nurse at royal breasts and know that I, Adonai, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Ya`akov.

Isa 60:17 "For bronze I will bring you gold, for iron I will bring you silver, bronze in place of wood, and iron in place of stones. I will make shalom your governor and righteousness your taskmaster.

Isa 60:18 Violence will no longer be heard in your land, desolation or destruction within your borders; instead, you will call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.

Isa 60:19 "No more will the sun be your light by day, nor will moonlight shine on you; instead Adonai will be your light forever and your God your glory.

Isa 60:20 No longer will your sun go down; your moon will no longer wane; for Adonai will be your light forever; your days of mourning will end.

Consider Yeshua's revelation to Yochanan...

Rev 21:22 I saw no Temple in the city, for Adonai, God of heaven's armies, is its Temple, as is the Lamb.

Rev 21:23 The city has no need for the sun or the moon to shine on it, because God's Sh'khinah gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

Rev 21:24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

Rev 21:25 Its gates will never close, they stay open all day because night will not exist there,

Rev 21:26 and the honor and splendor of the nations will be brought into it.

Rev 21:27 Nothing impure may enter it, nor anyone who does shameful things or lies; the only ones who may enter are those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Rev 22:5 Night will no longer exist, so they will need neither the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because Adonai, God, will shine upon them. And they will reign as kings forever and ever.

Rev 22:6 Then he said to me, "These words are true and trustworthy: Adonai, God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must happen soon."

Rev 22:7 "Look! I am coming very soon. Blessed is the person who obeys the words of the prophecy written in this book!"

Interestingly, the words of the prophecy written in this book are the words of the Prophets of verse 6...

And what was the message of the Prophets to Israel?

Repent and return to Me.

Mat 19:16 A man approached Yeshua and said, "Rabbi, what good thing should I do in order to have eternal life?" He said to him,

Mat 19:17 "Why are you asking me about good? There is One who is good! But if you want to obtain eternal life, observe the mitzvot."

Mat 19:18 The man asked him, "Which ones?" and Yeshua said, "Don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't give false testimony

Mat 19:19 honor father and mother and love your neighbor as yourself."

Mat 19:20 The young man said to him, "I have kept all these; where do I still fall short?"

Mat 19:21 Yeshua said to him, "If you are serious about reaching the goal, go and sell your possessions, give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come, follow me!"

Mat 19:22 But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he was wealthy.

I consider what Yeshua asked this man to be a test to the question I asked you last week – Where is your heart?

Obedience for the sake of being obedient out of obligation isn't what Torah is about. Sha'ul got this

Rom 10:1 Brothers, my heart's deepest desire and my prayer to God for Isra'el is for their salvation;

Rom 10:2 for I can testify to their zeal for God. But it is not based on correct understanding;

You can say the same about the man in Matthew 19...

It isn't just about being good or doing good...

Rom 10:3 for, since they are unaware of God's way of making people righteous and instead seek to set up their own, they have not submitted themselves to God's way of making people righteous.

Rom 10:4 For the goal at which the Torah aims is the Messiah, who offers righteousness to everyone who trusts.

Rom 10:5 For Moshe writes about the righteousness grounded in the Torah that the person who does these things will attain life through them.

Based on Leviticus 18:5

Lev 18:5 You are to observe my laws and rulings; if a person does them, he will have life through them; I am Adonai.

Righteousness grounded in Torah -

Grounded = well balanced and sensible

Rom 10:6 Moreover, the righteousness grounded in trusting says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend to heaven?' " – that is, to bring the Messiah down –

Rom 10:7 or, " 'Who will descend into Sh'ol?' " – that is, to bring the Messiah up from the dead.

Rom 10:8 What, then, does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart." – that is, the word about trust which we proclaim, namely, (Deuteronomy 30:14)

Deu 30:14 On the contrary, the word is very close to you - in your mouth, even in your heart; therefore, you can do it!

Rom 10:9 that if you acknowledge publicly with your mouth that Yeshua is Lord and trust in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be delivered.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart one goes on trusting and thus continues toward righteousness, while with the mouth one keeps on making public acknowledgment and thus continues toward deliverance.

Luk 24:44 Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the Torah of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled."

Luk 24:45 Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the Tanakh,

Luk 24:46 telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day;

Luk 24:47 and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim.