

Week 44: Devarim 'Words': Deuteronomy 1 - 3:22; Isaiah 1:1-27; Acts 7:2-60; 9:1-21

EIGHTH EDITION TORAH TO THE TRIBES PARASHAH

D'VARIM דברים words Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

Devarim/Deuteronomy - the book of ethics, the ultimate book of ethical guidance throughout our generations. Devarim = Torah's "mouth", a summarizing of all that has happened before in "the main body." דברים

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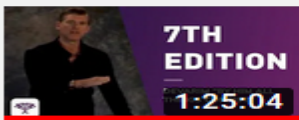


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Summaries and Insights by Libby Lingenfelter

Deuteronomy 1

Author: Moses wrote the Book of Deuteronomy, which is in fact a collection of his sermons to Israel just before they crossed the Jordan. "These are the words which Moses spoke" (1:1). Someone else (Joshua, perhaps) may have written the last chapter.

Date of Writing: These sermons were given during the 40-day period prior to Israel's entering the Promised Land. The first sermon was delivered on the 1st day of the 11th month (1:3), and the Israelites crossed the Jordan 70 days later, on the 10th day of the 1st month ([Joshua 4:19](#)). Subtract 30 days of mourning after Moses' death ([Deuteronomy 34:8](#)), and we're left with 40 days. The year was 1406 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: A new generation of Israelites was about to enter the Promised Land. This multitude had not experienced the miracle at the Red Sea or heard the law given at Sinai, and they were about to enter a new land with many dangers and temptations. The book of Deuteronomy was given to remind them of God's law and God's power. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-Deuteronomy.html>

The Opening Setting:

Deu 1:1 These are the words which Mosheh spoke to all Yisra'ël beyond the **Yardĕn in the wilderness**, in the desert plain opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, and Laḅan, and Ḥatsĕroth, and Di Zahab,

Deu 1:2 eleven days' *journey* from Ḥorĕḅ by way of Mount Sĕ'ir to Qadĕsh Barnĕa.

The first sermon was delivered on the 1st day of the 11th month (1:3), and the Israelites crossed the Jordan 70 days later, on the 10th day of the 1st month ([Joshua 4:19](#)).

Deu 1:3 And it came to be in the **fortieth year**, in the **eleventh new moon** [month], on the **first day of the new moon**, that Mosheh spoke to the children of Yisra'ël according to all that יהוה had commanded him concerning them,

Num 33:38 Then Aharon the priest went up to Mount Hor at the mouth of יהוה, and died there in the **fortieth year** after the children of Yisra'ël had come out of the land of Mitsrayim, on the **first day of the fifth new moon**.

Jos 4:19 And the people came up from the Yardĕn on **the tenth day of the first new moon**, and they camped in Gilgal on the east border of Yeriḥo.

Subtract 30 days of mourning after Moses' death ([Deuteronomy 34:8](#)), and we're left with 40 days. The year was 1406 B.C.

Deu 34:8a And the children of Yisra'ël wept for Mosheh in the desert plains of Mo'ab **thirty days**

Deu 1:4 after he had stricken Siḥon sovereign of the Amorites, who dwelt in Ḥeshbon, and Oġ sovereign of Bashan, who dwelt at Ashtaroth in Edre'i.

Deu 1:5 Beyond the Yardĕn, in the land of Mo'ab, Mosheh undertook to declare this Torah, saying,

Deu 1:6 “יהוה” our Elohim spoke to us in Ḥorĕḅ, saying, ‘You have dwelt long enough at this mountain.

Deuteronomy 1:6 Moses recalls the journey when leaving Mount Horeb [Sinai].

They came to Sinai in the third month after their departure from Egypt, [Exo 19:1](#), [Exo 19:2](#); **and left it the twentieth of the second month of the second year**, so it appears they had continued there nearly a whole year. [Excerpt Adam Clarke Commentary]

YHWH had wanted them to go forward and possess the lands He had given them. We know from our past studies, that there were battles on the east side of the Jordan and on the west side of the Jordan.

Deu 1:7 Turn and set out on your way, and go into the mountains of the Amorites, and to all the neighbouring places in the desert plain, in the mountains and in the low country, and in the Negeb and on the seacoast, to the land of the Kena'anites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the River Euphrates.

Deu 1:8 See, I have set the land before you. Go in and possess the land which יהוה swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Yitshaq, and to Ya'aqob, to give to them and their seed after them.'

Leaders Appointed

Deu 1:9 "And I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I am unable to bear you by myself.

Deu 1:10 יהוה your Elohim has increased you, and see, you are today as numerous as the stars of the heavens.

Deu 1:11 יהוה Elohim of your fathers is going to add to you a thousand times more than you are, and bless you as He has spoken to you!

Deu 1:12 How do I bear your pressure and your burden and your strife, by myself?

Deu 1:13 Choose men, wise and understanding, and known to your tribes, and let me appoint them as your heads.'

Deu 1:14 "And you answered me and said, 'The word which you have spoken to us to do is good.'

Deut. 1:8-1:19 Moses recalls the appointment of judges and tribal leaders to assist him with the administration of such a large people group. These were proven individuals known for being wise.

Deu 1:15 "And I took the heads of your tribes, wise men and known, and made them heads over you, leaders of thousands, and leaders of hundreds, and leaders of fifties, and leaders of tens, and officers for your tribes.

Deu 1:16 "And I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'When hearing between your brothers, judge righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him.

Deu 1:17 Do not show partiality in right-ruling, hear the small as well as the great. Do not be afraid of anyone's face, for the right-ruling belongs to Elohim. And the case which is too hard for you, bring it to me, and I shall hear it.'

Deu 1:18 "And I commanded you at that time all the words which you should do.

Israel's Refusal to Enter the Land

Deu 1:19 “Then we set out from Hōrēḇ, and went through all that great and awesome wilderness which you saw on the way to the mountains of the Amorites, as יהוה our Elohim had commanded us. And we came to Qadēsh Barnēa.

Epic Failure at Kadesh Barnea

Deu 1:20 “And I said to you, ‘You have come to the mountains of the Amorites, which יהוה our Elohim is giving us.

Deu 1:21 See, יהוה your Elohim has set the land before you. Go up and possess it, as יהוה Elohim of your fathers has spoken to you. Do not fear, nor be discouraged.’

Moses sends the spies to search out the land and they return saying the land is ‘good’; but ten of the twelve spies gave an evil report to the congregation.

Deu 1:22 “And all of you came near to me and said, ‘Let us send men before us, and let them search out the land for us, and bring back word to us of the way by which we should go up, and of the cities into which we would come.’

Deu 1:23 “And the matter was good in my eyes, so I took twelve of your men, one man from each tribe.

Deu 1:24 “And they turned and went up into the mountains, and came to the wadi Eshkol, and spied it out.

Deu 1:25 “And they took some of the fruit of the land in their hands and brought it down to us. And they brought back word to us, saying, ‘The land which יהוה our Elohim is giving us is good.’

Deu 1:26 “But you would not go up and rebelled against the mouth of יהוה your Elohim

Deu 1:27 and grumbled in your tents, and said, ‘Because יהוה was hating us, He has brought us out of the land of Mitsrayim to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.

Deu 1:28 Where are we going to? Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying, “The people are greater and taller than we, the cities are great and walled up to the heavens, and we saw the sons of the Anaqim there too.” ’

Though Moses reassured the congregation that YHWH was with them and not to fear; they instead choose to believe the evil report. They chose to believe man and not YHWH who had led them safely to that point; and had led them by a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night.

The penalty for this epic failure of not trusting YHWH doomed that particular generation to the reality that they would NOT enter the promise land [Except for faithful Joshua & Caleb]. Later, we see that Moses would also not enter the promise land. YHWH told that rebellious generation, **that their children would enter the promise land**; despite the rebellious generation saying they would be prey in the promise land. In addition, it would be Joshua, instead of Moses, that would lead them into Israel's inheritance.

Though the people repented, and they changed their minds; **it was too late!** They attempted to go and defeat the Amorites in their own strength and were defeated. Moses had told them not to go because YHWH was not with them, neither was Moses going to leave the camp. Still they went and suffered the consequences for their disobedience. So, they perished in the wilderness journey of 40 years.

What should we take from this? It is NOT wise to 'put off knowing' YHWH! Today, if you hear His voice, go to Him. Remember the story of the 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins that were not prepared nor ready for His coming. Know, He is at the very door!

Mat 25:6 "And at midnight a cry was heard, 'See, the bridegroom is coming, go out to meet him!'

Mat 25:7 "Then all those maidens rose up and trimmed their lamps.

Mat 25:8 "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us of your oil, because our lamps are going out.'

Mat 25:9 "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, indeed, there would not be enough for us and you. Instead, go to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

Mat 25:10 "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was shut.

Mat 25:11 "And later the other maidens also came, saying, 'Master, Master, open up for us!'

Mat 25:12 "But he answering, said, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Mat 25:13 "Watch therefore, because you do not know the day nor the hour in which the Son of Adam is coming,

Deu 1:29 "Then I said to you, 'Have no dread or fear of them.

Deu 1:30 יהוה your Elohim, who is going before you, He does fight for you, according to all He did for you in Mitsrayim before your eyes,

Deu 1:31 and in the wilderness, where you saw how יהוה your Elohim has borne you, as a man bears his son, in all the way that you went until you came to this place.'

Deu 1:32 "Yet in this matter you are putting no trust in יהוה your Elohim,

Deu 1:33 who is going before you in the way to seek out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you the way you should go, in fire by night and in a cloud by day.

The Penalty for Israel's Rebellion

Deu 1:34 “And יהוה heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and took an oath, saying,

Deu 1:35 Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see that good land of which I swore to give to your fathers,

Deu 1:36 except Kalēb son of Yephunneh. He shall see it, and to him and his children I give the land on which he walked, because he followed יהוה completely.’

Deu 1:37 “And יהוה was enraged with me for your sakes, saying, ‘You do not go in there, either.

Deu 1:38 Yehoshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall go in there. Strengthen him, for he shall cause Yisra’el to inherit.

Deu 1:39 And your little ones and your children, who you say are for a prey, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they are going in there. And to them I give it, and they are to possess it.

Deu 1:40 But you, turn and take your journey into the wilderness by the Way of the Sea of Reeds.’

Deu 1:41 “Then you answered and said to me, ‘We have sinned against יהוה. We ourselves are going up, and we shall fight, as יהוה our Elohim commanded us.’ And when each one of you had girded on his battle gear, you were ready to go up into the mountain.

Deu 1:42 “And יהוה said to me, ‘Say to them, “Do not go up nor fight, for I am not in your midst, lest you be smitten before your enemies.” ’

Deu 1:43 “So I spoke to you, but you would not listen and rebelled against the mouth of יהוה, and acted proudly, and went up into the mountain.

Deu 1:44 “Then the Amorites who dwelt in that mountain came out against you and chased you as bees do, and drove you back from Sē’ir to Ḥormah.

Deu 1:45 “And you returned and wept before יהוה, but יהוה would not listen to your voice nor give ear to you.

Deu 1:46 “So you dwelt in Qadēsh many days, according to the days that you dwelt.

Deuteronomy 2

Deuteronomy reminds me of the ‘campfire’ chats we used to have with our dad. He loved to recall the precious memories and the ‘funnies’ he would pull on mom. Most families do have a relative or a friend that loves to tell the old stories of the past, while everyone listens and journeys back with them to that time in history. We probably haven’t done enough of that these days.

Quality time is sharing time. For most, ‘wisdom’ does come with age; especially for those that walk with Him. Our personal testimony of the roads we have traveled bring life lessons to the next generation. Most importantly, we too should be recounting the steps of the exodus generation; just like Moses is doing in Deuteronomy. Why? As a sweet friend recently reminded me, we will know the ‘end’ from the ‘beginning.’

His Word teaches His people in cycles; to PREPARE them for the PRESENT & the FUTURE; by what has already taken place in the PAST. He wants us to know; and what is not clear, He will make clear, ‘just in time.’

Isa 46:9 **“Remember the former events of old, for I am Ēl, and there is no one else – Elohim, and there is no one like Me,**

Isa 46:10 **declaring the end from the beginning, and from of old that which has not yet been done,** saying, ‘My counsel does stand, and all My delight I do,’

So, Moses recounts the wilderness years with the next generation before they enter the promise land. There is always something for us to learn in good times as well as in times of trials. So, Moses begins and tells them about the times...

- They stopped going around the mountain; and move north
- When they were to peaceably pass by the land of Seir; the land of Esau [noting the Horites had dwelt there formerly]
- Passing from Edom/Esau, they came to Wilderness of Moab, again peaceably [noting the Emites had dwelt there formerly]
- From there they had passed over the wadi of Zered [from Kadesh Barnea to the time they passed over the wadi of Zered, **was 38 years – until the men of battle perished among the people.**]
- Then they were to pass peaceably through Ammon [YHWH had given Lot’s descendants the land of Ammon]; [the Rephaites formerly dwelt there but the Ammonites called them Zamzummim]
- Then there is a recalling of the people YHWH had driven out of the lands:
 - Rephaites (the Anaqim)– YHWH destroyed them before them, and they dispossessed them and dwelt in their place (Deut. 2:21)
 - YHWH destroyed the Horites for Esau’s descendants (Deut. 2:22)
- Then YHWH gave His people the land Heshbon of the sovereign Sihon, the Amorite
- YHWH instilled fear of His people, Israel, in the lands
- Moses then recalled the defeat of King Sihon; he recalled Sihon would not let YHWH’s people pass through their land on the highway; YHWH had already

started giving the land as a possession to His people; Sihon had come out to fight with the children of Israel at Yahats; Israel prevailed.

The Wilderness Years

Deu 2:1 “Then we turned and set out into the wilderness, the way of the Sea of Reeds, as יהוה spoke to me, and we went round Mount Sě'ir, many days.

Deu 2:2 “And יהוה spoke to me, saying,

Deu 2:3 You have gone around this mountain long enough, turn northward.

Deu 2:4 And command the people, saying, “You are about to pass over into the border of your brothers, the descendants of Ĕsaw, who live in Sě'ir, and they are afraid of you. So be on your guard.

Deu 2:5 “Do not strive with them, for I do not give you any of their land, no, not so much as one footstep, because I have given Mount Sě'ir to Ĕsaw as a possession.

Deu 2:6 “What food you buy from them with silver you shall eat. And also, what water you buy from them with silver you shall drink.

Deu 2:7 “For יהוה your Elohim has blessed you in all the work of your hand. He has known your wandering through this great wilderness. These forty years יהוה your Elohim has been with you, you have not lacked any matter.” ’

Deu 2:8 “And when we passed beyond our brothers, the descendants of Ĕsaw who dwell in Sě'ir, away from the way of the desert plain, away from Ĕylath and Etsyon Geber, we turned and passed over by way of the Wilderness of Mo'ab.

Deu 2:9 “And יהוה said to me, ‘Do not distress Mo'ab, nor stir yourself up against them in battle, for I do not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.’ ”

Deu 2:10 (The Ĕmites had dwelt there formerly, a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anaqim.

Deu 2:11 They were also reckoned as Repha'ites, like the Anaqim, but the Mo'abites call them Ĕmites.

Deu 2:12 And the Horites formerly dwelt in Sě'ir, but the descendants of Ĕsaw dispossessed them and destroyed them from before them, and dwelt in their place, as Yisra'el did to the land of their possession which יהוה gave them.)

Deu 2:13 “ ‘Now rise up, and pass over the wadi Zered.’ So we passed over the wadi Zered.

Deu 2:14 “And the time we took to come from Qaděsh Barněa until we passed over the wadi Zered was **thirty-eight years**, until all the generation of the men of battle was consumed from the midst of the camp, as יהוה had sworn to them.

Deu 2:15 “And also, the hand of יהוה was against them, to destroy them from the midst of the camp until they were consumed.

Deu 2:16 “And it came to be, when all the men of battle had finally perished from among the people,

Deu 2:17 that יהוה spoke to me, saying,

Deu 2:18 This day you are to pass over at Ar, the boundary of Mo’ab.

Deu 2:19 And when you come near the children of Ammon, do not distress them nor stir yourself up against them, for I do not give you any of the land of the children of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as a possession.’

Deu 2:20 (That was also reckoned as a land of Repha’ites. Repha’ites formerly dwelt there. But the Ammonites call them Zamzummim,

Deu 2:21 a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anaqim. But יהוה destroyed them before them, and they dispossessed them and dwelt in their place,

Deu 2:22 as He had done for the descendants of Ĕsaw, who dwelt in Sě’ir, when He destroyed the Ĥorites from before them. They dispossessed them and dwelt in their place, even to this day.

Deu 2:23 And the Awwim who dwelt in villages as far as Azzah, the Kaphtorim who came from Kaphtor, destroyed them and dwelt in their place).

Deu 2:24 Arise, set out and pass over the wadi Arnon. See, I have given into your hand Siḥon the Amorite, sovereign of Ĥeshbon, and his land. Begin to possess it, and stir up yourself against him in battle.

Deu 2:25 This day I begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the peoples under all the heavens, who, when they hear the report of you, shall tremble and shake because of you.’

The Defeat of King Sihon

Deu 2:26 “Then I sent messengers from the Wilderness of Qeḏěmoth to Siḥon sovereign of Ĥeshbon, with words of peace, saying,

Deu 2:27 Let me pass over through your land on the highway. I shall go on the highway and turn neither to the right nor to the left.

Deu 2:28 What food you sell me for silver I shall eat, and what water you give me for silver I shall drink. Only let me pass over on foot,

Deu 2:29 as the descendants of Ĕsaw who dwell in Sě’ir and the Mo’abites who dwell in Ar did for me – until I pass over the Yarděn to the land יהוה our Elohim is giving us.’

Deu 2:30 “But Siḥon sovereign of Ĥeshbon would not let us pass over, for יהוה your Elohim hardened his spirit and strengthened his heart, to give him into your hand, as it is this day.

Deu 2:31 “And יהוה said to me, ‘See, I have begun to give Siḥon and his land over to you. Begin to possess – in order to possess his land.’

Deu 2:32 “And Siḥon and all his people came out against us to fight at Yahats,

Deu 2:33 and יהוה our Elohim gave him over to us, so we struck him, and his sons, and all his people.

Deu 2:34 “And **we took all his cities at that time**, and we put the men, women, and little ones of every city under the ban, we left none remaining.

Deu 2:35 “Only the livestock we took as plunder for ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we captured.

Deu 2:36 “**From Aro'ër**, which is on the edge of the wadi Arnon, and the city that is by the wadi, as far as **Gil'ad**, there was not one city too high for us. יהוה our Elohim gave all to us.

Deu 2:37 “Only you **did not** go near the land of the children of Ammon – anywhere along the wadi Yabboq, or to the cities of the mountains, or anywhere as יהוה our Elohim commanded us.

Deuteronomy 3

The Defeat of King Og -The defeat of King Og and King Sihon were huge victories given to the children of Israel by YHWH. They are repeatedly referenced throughout Scripture. I'm sure you could hear a pin drop as the next generation listened to Moses recount this mighty battle. This would build up faith and courage in the next generation(s) as they faced the battles in the promise land.

Deu 3:1 “Then we turned and went up the way to Bashan. And Oḡ sovereign of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edre'i.

TSK cross-reference on Deut. 3:1 Bashan: Bashan, one of the most fertile districts of the Holy Land, was bounded on the west by the Jordan and lake of Gennesareth, on the east by Trachonitis, on the south by the brook Jabbok, and on the north by mount Hermon; and seems to have been composed of two or three districts, on the south the land of Gilead, on the north the region of Argob, and east of both, the plain of Hauran. (See note on [Deu 3:13](#), see note on [Deu 3:14](#), and see note on [Deu 3:15](#).) The scenery of this elevated tract is described by Mr. Buckingham as extremely beautiful. Its plains covered with a fertile soil; its hills covered with forests, and at every new turn presenting the most beautiful landscapes that can be imagined.

Og: [Deu 1:4](#), [Deu 4:47](#), [Deu 29:7](#), [Deu 31:4](#); [Num 21:33-35](#); [Jos 9:10](#), [Jos 12:4](#), [Jos 13:30](#); [1Ki 4:19](#); [Neh 9:22](#); [Psa 135:10-11](#), [Psa 136:20](#)

So, Moses recounts one of the best epic action-packed battles of all times, the defeat of Og. The details are recorded in [Deut. 3:2-3:11](#).

The victory included [conquering sixty cities](#), [all the district of Argob](#), the [reign of Oğ in Bashan](#). The cities [were fenced with high walls, gates and bars, besides a great many unwallled towns](#).

Deu 3:2 “And יהוה said to me, ‘Do not fear him, for I have given him and all his people and his land into your hand. And you shall do to him as you did to Sihon sovereign of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon.’

Deu 3:3 “So יהוה our Elohim also gave into our hands Oğ sovereign of Bashan, with all his people, and we struck him until he had no survivors remaining.

Deu 3:4 “And we captured all his cities at that time. There was not a city which we did not take from them: sixty cities, all the district of Argob, the reign of Oğ in Bashan.

Deu 3:5 “All these cities were fenced with high walls, gates and bars, besides a great many unwallled towns.

Deu 3:6 “And we put them under the ban, as we did to Sihon sovereign of Heshbon, putting the men, the women, and the children of every city under the ban.

Deu 3:7 “But all the livestock and the spoil of the cities we took as booty for ourselves.

Deu 3:8 “And at that time we took the land, from the hand of the two sovereigns of the Amorites, that was beyond the Yardēn, from the wadi Arnon to Mount Hermon

Deu 3:9 “(Tsidonians call Hermon, Siryon – and the Amorites call it Senir),

Deu 3:10 all the cities of the plain, all Gil’ad, and all Bashan, as far as Salkah and Edre’i, cities of the reign of Oğ in Bashan.

Og’s bed was kept as a ‘victory trophy.’ Based on the dimensions of Og’s 9-cubit bed, with a cubit being 18 inches, would equal 162 inches or 13.5 feet; then, if you subtract 1 cubit for wiggle room; then Og could have been a giant as tall as 12 feet!

Deu 3:11 “For only Oğ sovereign of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Repha’ites. See, his bedstead was an iron bedstead. [Is it not in Rabbah of the children of Ammon?](#)

Nine cubits is its length and four cubits its width, according to the cubit of a man.

Deu 3:12 “And this land, which we possessed at that time, from Aro’er, which is by the wadi Arnon, and half the mountains of Gil’ad and its cities, I gave to the Re’ubēnites and the Gadites.

Deu 3:13 “And the rest of Gil’ad, and all Bashan, the reign of Oğ, I gave to half the tribe of Menashsheh – all the district of Argob, with all Bashan, called the land of the

Repha'ites.

Deu 3:14 “Ya'ir son of Menashsheh had taken all the district of Argob, as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Ma'aqathites, and called them after his own name: the Bashan of Hawoth Ya'ir, to this day.

Deu 3:15 “And to Maqir I gave Gil'ad.

Deu 3:16 “And to the Re'ubēnites and the Gađites I gave from Gil'ad as far as the wadi Arnon, the middle of the wadi as the border, as far as the wadi Yabboq, the border of the children of Ammon,

Deu 3:17 and the desert plain, with the Yardēn as the border, from Kinnereth as far as the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, below the slopes of Pisgah on the east.

Deu 3:18 “And I commanded you at that time, saying, ‘יהוה your Elohim has given you this land to possess. All you sons of might, pass over armed before your brothers, the children of Yisra'el.

Deu 3:19 But let your wives and your little ones, and your livestock – I know that you have much livestock – stay in your cities which I have given you,

Deu 3:20 until יהוה has given rest to your brothers as to you, and they also possess the land which יהוה your Elohim is giving them beyond the Yardēn. Then you shall return, each man to his possession which I have given you.’

Moses repeats the ENCOURAGING command given to Joshua:

Deu 3:21 “And I commanded Yehoshua at that time, saying, ‘Your eyes have seen all that יהוה your Elohim has done to these two sovereigns. יהוה does the same to all the reigns which you are passing over.’

Deu 3:22 Do not fear them, for יהוה your Elohim Himself fights for you.’

Isaiah Intro

Isaiah is considered the Messianic prophet. Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the New Testament. A [nearly complete copy of the Book of Isaiah](#) was said to be found among the [dead sea scrolls](#).

“**The Great Isaiah Scroll (1QIsa^a) is one of the original seven Dead Sea Scrolls discovered in Qumran in 1947.** It is the largest (734 cm) and best preserved of all the biblical scrolls, and **the only one that is almost complete.** The 54 columns **contain all 66 chapters of the Hebrew version of the biblical Book of Isaiah.** Dating from ca. 125 BCE, it is also one of the oldest of the Dead Sea Scrolls, some one thousand years older than the oldest manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible known to us before the scrolls' discovery. (<http://dss.collections.imj.org.il/isaiah>)”

Some Background:

Author: [Isaiah 1:1](#) identifies the author of the **Book of Isaiah** as the **Prophet Isaiah**.

Date of Writing: The **Book of Isaiah** was written between **739 and 681 B.C.**

Purpose of Writing: The Prophet Isaiah was primarily called to prophesy **to the Kingdom of Judah**. Judah was going through times of revival and times of rebellion. Judah was threatened with destruction by Assyria and Egypt, but was spared because of God's [YHWH's] mercy. **Isaiah proclaimed a message of repentance from sin and hopeful expectation of God's [YHWH's] deliverance in the future.**

More than any other book in the Old Testament, Isaiah focuses on the salvation that will come through the Messiah. The Messiah will one day rule in justice and righteousness ([Isaiah 9:7](#); [32:1](#)). The reign of the Messiah will bring peace and safety to Israel ([Isaiah 11:6-9](#)). Through the Messiah, Israel will be a light to all the nations ([Isaiah 42:6](#); [55:4-5](#)). The Messiah's kingdom on earth (Isaiah chapters 65-66) is the goal toward which all of the book of Isaiah points. It is during the reign of the Messiah that God's [YHWH's] righteousness will be fully revealed to the world.

In a seeming paradox, the **book of Isaiah** also presents the Messiah as one who will suffer. **Isaiah chapter 53 vividly describes the Messiah suffering for sin.** It is through His wounds that healing is achieved. It is through His suffering that our iniquities are taken away. This apparent contradiction is solved in the Person of Jesus Christ [Yahusha HaMashiach]. **In His first advent, Jesus [Yahusha] was the suffering servant of Isaiah chapter 53. In His second advent, Jesus [Yahusha] will be the conquering and ruling King, the Prince of Peace ([Isaiah 9:6](#)).** <https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-Isaiah.html>

Timeline Excerpt: Isaiah had witnessed the **exile of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to Assyria.**

733 BC	King Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria invades Israel and captures Galilee
732 BC	The Israelites from Galilee and Naphtali are deported to Assyria
731 BC	Tiglath-Pileser captures Damascus and kills King Rezin of Syria
724 BC	Shalmaneser V of Assyria seizes Hoshea and lays siege to Samaria
722 BC	Samaria and the northern kingdom of Israel fall to the Assyrians
721 BC	The defeated Israelites are led into exile in Assyria

Prophetic Timeline Excerpt that the **Southern Kingdom of Judah will soon face follows:**

605 BC	Nebuchadnezzar invades Judah and Jehoiakim becomes a vassal king
602 BC	Neco re-takes Gaza and Jehoiakim rebels against Nebuchadnezzar
598 BC	Nebuchadnezzar besieges Jerusalem . King Jehoiachin surrenders
597 BC	Jehoiachin is taken to Babylon and Zedekiah is installed as king

597 BC Ten thousand captives (including Ezekiel) are taken to **Babylonia**

Ezekiel predicts the fall of Jerusalem and speaks about the return of the exiles to Israel.

Daniel is in exile in Babylon at the same time as Ezekiel. He is persecuted for his faith between 598 and 539BC.

589 BC Zedekiah rebels and **Jerusalem** is besieged for over a year and a half

587 BC Jerusalem falls, and the population is taken to exile in **Babylonia**

586 BC The **Temple** and royal palace are burned, and the walls are demolished

*The **Book of Lamentations** is a collection of five poems lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem in 587BC.*

Timeline Excerpts: <https://www.thebiblejourney.org/new-testament-timelines/2-from-the-kingdom-of-israel-to-the-exile/>

Isaiah 1 So we begin Isaiah:

Isa 1:1 The vision of **Yeshayahu [Isaiah]** son of Amots, which he saw concerning Yehudāh [Judah] and Yerushalayim [Jerusalem] in the days of Uzziyahu [Uzziah], Yotham [Jotham], Aḥaz, Hizqiyahu [Hezekiah] – sovereigns [kings] of Yehudāh [Judah].

We will see that the **Kingdom of Judah** will hold out approximately 145 years longer than the **Kingdom of Israel** before they too would be exiled. The Northern Kingdom of Israel had been exiled to Assyria and we will see that the Southern Kingdom of Judah does not repent, and they will be exiled to Babylon.

YHWH spares no words as he gives Isaiah the prophecies to say to the Kingdom of Judah.

Isa 1:2 Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth! **For יהוה has spoken**, “I have reared and brought up children, but they have transgressed against Me.

Isa 1:3 **An ox knows its owner and a donkey its master’s crib – Yisra’ël does not know, My people have not understood.”**

Isa 1:4 Alas, sinning nation, a people loaded with crookedness, a seed of evil-doers, sons acting corruptly! They have forsaken יהוה, they have provoked the Set-apart One of Yisra’ël, they went backward.

Isa 1:5 Why should you be stricken any more? You continue in apostasy! All the head is sick, and all the heart faints.

Isa 1:6 From the sole of the foot, to the head, there is no soundness in it – wounds and bruises and open sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment.

Isa 1:7 Your land is laid waste, your cities are burned with fire, strangers devour your land in your presence. And it is laid waste, as overthrown by strangers.

Adjectives used to describe the Kingdom of Judah: sinning nation; a people loaded with crookedness; a seed of evil-doers; sons acting corruptly; those that forsake and provoke YHWH; apostates; no soundness; no compassion; the city had become a whore; their silver had become dross; their wine was mixed with water; their rulers stubborn and companion of thieves;

Prophecy of their land: land is laid waste; cities burned with fire; strangers devour the land in your presence; the land is overthrown; only a remnant, a booth of the daughter of Zion remains in the besieged city.

Isa 1:8 And the daughter of Tsiyon is left as a booth in a vineyard, as a hut in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

Isa 1:9 Unless יהוה of hosts had left to us a small remnant, we would have become like Sedom [Sodom], we would have been made like Amorah [Gemorrah] .

Isa 1:10 Hear the **word^a** of יהוה, you rulers of Sedom; give ear to the **Torah^a** of our Elohim, you people of Amorah! **Footnote: ^a“Word” and “Torah” (teaching) are used as synonyms.**

Isa 1:11 “Of what use to Me are your many slaughterings?” declares יהוה. “I have had enough of ascending offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats.

Isa 1:12 “When you come to appear before Me, who has required this from your hand, to trample My courtyards?”

Isa 1:13 “Stop bringing futile offerings, incense, it is an abomination to Me. New *moons*, Sabbaths, the calling of gatherings – I am unable to bear unrighteousness and assembly.

Isa 1:14 “My being hates your New *moons* and your appointed times, they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.

Isa 1:15 “And when you spread out your hands, I hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I do not hear. Your hands have become filled with blood.

Isa 1:16 “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Stop doing evil!

Isa 1:17 “Learn to do good! Seek right-ruling, reprove the oppressor, defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Their Fruitless Works:

YHWH takes no delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats; the people trample His courtyards; their futile offerings and incense are an abomination to YHWH; He is unable to bear unrighteousness in their assemblies and gatherings; He hides His eyes from their lifted hands; He does not hear their prayers; their hands are filled with blood.

Solution: Repent; wash yourselves; stop doing evil; seek right-ruling; learn to do good; defend the fatherless; plead for the widow.

The Outcome (would be one of two options):

Option 1 Repent:

Isa 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," says יהוה. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isa 1:19 "If you submit and obey, you shall eat the good of the land;

Option 2 Rebel:

Isa 1:20 but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword," for the mouth of יהוה has spoken.

Have no doubt YHWH will right the wrongs:

The Unfaithful City

Isa 1:21 How the steadfast city has become a whore! I have filled it with right-ruling; righteousness lodged in it, but now murderers.

Isa 1:22 Your silver has become dross, your wine is mixed with water.

Isa 1:23 Your rulers are stubborn, and companions of thieves. Everyone loves bribes, and runs after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, nor does the cause of the widow reach them.

Isa 1:24 Therefore the Master declares, יהוה of hosts, the Mighty One of Yisra'ël, "Ah, I shall be eased of My adversaries, and **I shall be avenged of My enemies.**

Isa 1:25 "And **I shall turn My hand against you,** and **shall refine your dross as with lye, and shall remove all your alloy.**

Isa 1:26 "And I shall give back your judges as at the first, and your counsellors as at the beginning. After this you shall be **called the city of righteousness, a steadfast city.**"

Isa 1:27 **Tsiyon shall be ransomed with right-ruling, and her returning ones with**

righteousness.

1Pe 1:18 knowing that you were redeemed from your futile behavior inherited from your fathers, not with what is corruptible, silver or gold,

1Pe 1:19 but with the precious blood of Messiah, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless,

Isa 1:28 And the destruction of transgressors and of sinners is together, and **those who forsake יהוה shall be consumed.**

2Th 1:8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know Elohim, and on those who do not obey the Good News of our Master יהושע Messiah,

2Th 1:9 who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Master and from the esteem of His strength,

Rev 21:8 “But as for the cowardly, and untrustworthy, and abominable, and murderers, and those who whore, and drug sorcerers, and idolaters, and all the false, their part is in the lake which burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.”

Isa 1:29 For **they shall be ashamed of the terebinth trees** which you have desired. And you shall be **embarrassed** because of the gardens which you have chosen.

Hos 4:13 “They slaughter on the mountaintops, and burn incense on the hills, under oak and poplars and terebinth, because its shade is good. **Therefore your daughters commit whoring, and your brides commit adultery.**

Rom 6:21 What fruit, therefore, were you having then, over which you are now ashamed? For the end thereof is death.

Isa 1:30 For you shall be as **a terebinth whose leaf fades, and as a garden that has no water.**

Mat 21:19 And seeing a single fig tree by the way, He came to it and found naught on it but leaves, and said to it, “**Let no fruit grow on you ever again.**” **And immediately the fig tree withered.**

Isa 1:31 The strong shall be for tow, and his work for a spark. And **both shall burn together, with no one to extinguish.**

Rev 20:10 And **the devil, who led them astray, was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet are.** And they shall be tortured day and night forever and ever.

Acts 7

In Acts 7, Stephen proclaims the perfect Melchizedek Covenant Confirming Gospel message. He starts at the beginning with YHWH's Promise given to Abraham. This chapter is much more than a 'speech', so take your time and hear the message beautifully articulated. These would be some of Stephen's last words and how glorious they are! Stephen is the first martyr to give His life for sharing the message of Yahusha HaMashiach, our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Stephen Testifies

Act 7:1 And the high priest said, "Is this so?"

Act 7:2 **And he replied**, "Men, brothers and fathers, listen: **The Elohim of esteem appeared to our father Abraham** when he was in Aram Naharayim, before he dwelt in Haran,

Was in Mesopotamia - In that part of it where **Ur of the Chaldees** was situated, near to Babel, and among the rivers, (Tigris and Euphrates), which gave the name of Mesopotamia to the country.

Act 7:3 **and said to him, 'Come out of your land and from your relatives, and come here, into a land that I shall show you.'** [Gen 12:1](#).

YHWH gives Abraham His **Unconditional Promise**: Gen. 12:1 – 7. We too are to come out of Babylon, Mystery Babylon.

Act 7:4 "Then he came out of the land of the Kasdim and dwelt in Haran. And from there, after the death of his father, He removed him to this land in which you now dwell.

Act 7:5 "And He gave him no inheritance in it, **not a foot of it.** [Deu 2:5](#) **But He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him,** ^a[Gen 12:7](#), [Gen 17:8](#) when as yet he had no child. Footnote: ^aAlso see [Gen 13:15](#), [Gen 15:4](#), [Gen 15:7](#), [Gen 15:18-21](#), [Gen 24:7](#), [Gen 48:4](#).

Abraham requests a guarantee. YHWH gives Abraham a 'guarantee' to His promise, which attaches a death penalty 'conditional arm.' The guarantee was signified by the flaying of the animals in Gen. 15. Now, if the covenant was broken; someone would have to die. We now know Yahusha would choose to lay down His life for His people and take it back up again.

Act 7:6 "And Elohim spoke in this way: that **his seed would be sojourning in a foreign land, and that they would be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years.** [Gen 15:13](#).

Act 7:7 ‘**And the nation to whom they shall be enslaved, I shall judge,**’ [Gen 15:13](#) said Elohim, ‘**and after that they shall come out and serve Me in this place.**’ [Gen 15:14](#), [Exo 3:12](#).

YHWH gives Abraham the covenant of circumcision. The covenant seed would ‘pass through’ the flayed flesh of Abraham’s circumcision and be conceived in Sarah and she would bear Isaac. Abraham at age 99 and Ishmael at 13 were circumcised on the same day; therefore, the seed that formed Ishmael did not pass through Abram’s circumcised flesh, nor was his mother Sarah.

Act 7:8 “And He gave him **the covenant of circumcision**. And so he brought forth Yitshaq and circumcised him on the eighth day. And Yitshaq *brought forth* Ya’aqob, and Ya’aqob *brought forth* the twelve ancestors.

The following Scriptures relate to the covenant of circumcision.

Gen 17:10 “This is My covenant which you guard between Me and you, and your seed after you: **Every male child among you is to be circumcised.**

Gen 17:19 And Elohim said, “No, **Sarah your wife is truly bearing a son to you**, and you shall call his **name Yitshaq**. And **I shall establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant,** and with his seed after him.

Gen 17:24 And Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. Gen 17:25 And Yishma’el his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. Gen 17:26 Abraham and his son Yishma’el were circumcised that same day.

Stephen tells of the jealousy toward Joseph by his brothers for having the favor of his father Jacob [Israel]. Though Joseph is sold into Egypt, YHWH works everything out for good to preserve the covenant seed of righteousness from the deadly 7-year drought.

Act 7:9 “And the ancestors, **becoming jealous, sold Yosēph into Mitsrayim. But Elohim was with him,** [Gen 37:11](#), [Gen 37:28](#), [Gen 39:2](#), [Gen 39:21](#).

Act 7:10 and delivered him out of all his afflictions, and **gave him favour** [Gen 39:21](#) and wisdom **before Pharaoh, sovereign of Mitsrayim. And he appointed him governor over Mitsrayim and all his house.** [Gen 41:37-46](#).

Act 7:11 “**Then a scarcity of food and great distress came over all the land of Mitsrayim and Kena’an,** [Gen 41:54](#), [Gen 42:5](#) and our fathers found no food.

Act 7:12 “But Ya’aqob heard that there was grain in Mitsrayim, [Gen 42:2](#) and he sent out our fathers the first time,

Act 7:13 and at the second time Yosëph was made known to his brothers, and Yosëph’s race became known to the Pharaoh.

Act 7:14 **“And Yosëph sent and called his father Ya’aqob and all his relatives to him, seventy-five people.”**

Act 7:15 “And Ya’aqob went down to Mitsrayim, and died, he and our fathers, [Gen 46:5](#); [Gen 49:33](#), [Exo 1:6](#).

Act 7:16 and they were brought over to Shekem and laid in the tomb that Abraham bought for a price of silver from the sons of Hamor, *the father* of Shekem.

Egyptian Slavery

Act 7:17 **“But as the time of the promise drew near which Elohim had sworn to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Mitsrayim**

Act 7:18 until another sovereign arose who did not know Yosëph. [Exo 1:8](#).

Act 7:19 “Having dealt treacherously with our race, this one mistreated our fathers, making them expose their babies, so that they should not live.

Birth of Moses

Act 7:20 “At that time Mosheh was born, and he was well-pleasing to Elohim. And he was reared three months in the house of his father.

Act 7:21 “But when he was exposed, the daughter of Pharaoh took him up and reared him as her own son.

Act 7:22 “And **Mosheh was instructed in all the wisdom of the Mitsrites, and was mighty in words and works.**

Act 7:23 “And when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brothers, the children of Yisra’ël.

Act 7:24 “And seeing one of them being wronged, he defended and revenged him who was oppressed, smiting the Mitsrian.

Act 7:25 “And he thought that his brothers would have understood that Elohim would give deliverance to them by his hand, but they did not understand.

Act 7:26 “And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and urged them to peace, saying, ‘Men, you are brothers, why do you wrong one another?’

Act 7:27 “But he who was wronging his neighbour pushed him away, saying, **‘Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?’**

Act 7:28 **‘Do you wish to kill me as you killed the Mitsrian yesterday?’** [Exo 2:14](#).

Moses flees to Midyan

Act 7:29 “And at this saying, **Mosheh fled and became a sojourner in the land of Midyan, Exo 2:15** where he fathered two sons.

YHWH appears to Moses at the burning bush:

Act 7:30 “And after forty years were completed, a **Messenger of יהוה** appeared to him in a **flame of fire in a bush, Exo 3:2** in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.

Act 7:31 “And Mosheh, seeing it, marveled at the sight, and coming near to look, the voice of יהוה came to him,

Act 7:32 saying, **‘I am the Elohim of your fathers, the Elohim of Abraham and the Elohim of Yitshaq and the Elohim of Ya’aqob.’ And Mosheh trembled and did not have the courage to look.**

Act 7:33 **‘But יהוה said to him, “Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is set-apart ground.**

Act 7:34 **“I have certainly seen the evil treatment of my people who are in Mitsrayim, and I have heard their groaning and have come down to deliver them. And now come, let Me send you to Mitsrayim.” ’ Exo 3:6-10.**

Act 7:35 **“This Mosheh** whom they had refused, saying, **‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’ Exo 2:14** – this one Elohim sent to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the Messenger who appeared to him in the bush.

Act 7:36 **“This one led them out,** after he had done wonders and signs in the land of Mitsrayim, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

Moses is raised up to lead the people out of Egypt. Notice the 40/40/40 cycle of Moses. Forty years in Egypt; 40 years in Midyan; 40 years in the wilderness.

The Book of the Covenant, the marriage Ketubah, at Mt. Sinai is given to the people. They accept His proposal; the covenant is blood ratified; they partake in the covenant confirming meal; then 40 days later, they are disobedient by sinning with the golden calf and breaking the covenant.

Act 7:37 “This is the Mosheh who said to the children of Yisra’el, **‘יהוה your Elohim shall raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brothers. Him you shall hear.’ Deu 18:15.**

Act 7:38 **“This is he who was in the assembly in the wilderness with the Messenger who spoke to him on Mount Sinai,** and with our fathers, **who received the living Words to give to us,**

Act 7:39 unto whom our fathers would not become obedient, but thrust away, and in their hearts they turned back to Mitsrayim,

Aaron makes the golden calf as the people requested.

Act 7:40 saying to **Aharon**, ‘**Make us mighty ones to go before us, for this Mosheh who led us out of the land of Mitsrayim, we do not know what has become of him.**’ [Exo 32:1](#), [Exo 32:23](#).

Act 7:41 “And they made a calf in those days, and brought an offering to the idol, and were rejoicing in the works of their own hands.

Act 7:42 “**So Elohim turned and gave them up to worship the host of the heaven,^b** as it has been written in the book of the Prophets, ‘**Did you bring slaughtered beasts and offerings unto Me during forty years in the wilderness, O house of Yisra’el?**’ [Footnote: b Deu 4:19](#), [Deu 17:3](#), [2Ki 23:5](#).

Deu 17:3 and has gone and served other mighty ones and bowed down to them, or to the sun or to the moon or to any of the host of the heavens, which I have not commanded,

Josiah's Reforms

[2Ki 23:1](#) And the sovereign sent, and they gathered all the elders of Yehudāh and Yerushalayim to him.

[2Ki 23:2](#) And the sovereign went up to the House of יהוה with all the men of Yehudāh, and all the inhabitants of Yerushalayim with him, and the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the House of יהוה.

[2Ki 23:3](#) And the sovereign stood by the column and made a covenant before יהוה, to follow יהוה and to guard His commands and His witnesses and His laws, with all his heart and all his being, to establish the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

[2Ki 23:4](#) Then the sovereign commanded Hilqiyahu the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers, to bring out of the Hēkal of יהוה all the objects that were made for Ba'al, and for Ashērah, and for all the host of the heavens. And he burned them outside Yerushalayim in the fields of Qidron, and took their ashes to Bēyth Ēl.

[2Ki 23:5](#) And he put down the **black-robed priests^a** whom the sovereigns of Yehudāh had appointed to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Yehudāh and in the places all around Yerushalayim, and those who burned incense to Ba'al, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the constellations, and to all the host of the heavens. [Footnote: ^aHeb. kemarim.](#)

[2Ki 23:6](#) And he brought out the Ashērah from the House of יהוה, to the wadi Qidron outside Yerushalayim, and burned it at the wadi Qidron and ground it to ashes, and threw its ashes on the burial-sites of the sons of the people.

[2Ki 23:7](#) And he broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes that were in the House of יהוה, where the women wove tapestries for the Ashērah.

Act 7:43 ‘**And you took up the tent of Molek, and the star of your mighty one Kiyyun, images which you made to bow before them. Therefore I shall remove you beyond Babel.**’ [Amo 5:25-27](#).

Implementation of the Book of the Law under the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood: Moses and Joshua were up on the mount and were the only two that were not present with the sin of the golden calf. Moses was still under the Melchizedek Priesthood along with Joshua.

Just 40 days prior, Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu were participating in the Melchizedek Covenant confirming meal in Exodus. 24:9-11. They saw the Elohim of Israel and were not harmed. Now things would be different and much more complicated. The Book of the Law would serve as their tutor and as a witness against them; until Yahusha would come.

Act 7:44 “The **Tent of Witness** was with our fathers in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Mosheh to make it according to the pattern that he had seen,

Act 7:45 which our fathers, having received it in turn, also brought with Yehoshua into the land possessed by the nations, whom Elohim drove out before the face of our fathers until the days of Dawid,

David found favor before Elohim, but Solomon would build the House of Elohim, the temple.

Act 7:46 who found favour before Elohim and asked to find a dwelling for the Elohim of Ya'aqob,

Act 7:47 but Shelomoh built Him a house.

YHWH doesn't dwell in dwellings made with hands. Now, for those that receive Yahusha by faith, His Ruach HaKodesh dwells in them; we are the temple; the living stones being made into the 'one new man' with Yahusha HaMashiach as the head.

Act 7:48 “However, **the Most High does not dwell in dwellings made with hands,**^c as the prophet says: **Footnote:** ^cSee also **Act 17:24.**

Act 7:49 ‘**The heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What house shall you build for Me? says יהוה, or what is the place of My rest?**

Act 7:50 ‘**Has My hand not made all these?’ Isa 66:1-2.**

Act 7:51 “**You stiff-necked Exo 32:9, Exo 33:3, Exo 33:5 and uncircumcised in heart and ears! Lev 26:41, Jer 6:10 You always resist the Set-apart Spirit, **as your fathers did, you also do.****

Act 7:52 “**Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who before announced the coming of the Righteous One, of whom you now have become the**

betrayers and murderers,

Act 7:53 **who received the Torah as it was ordained by messengers, but did not watch over^d it.”**

Footnote: ^dSee [Mat 5:20](#).

The Stoning of Stephen: The council’s response shows the manifestation of the Anti-messiah spirit of influence they were under. Something is terribly wrong when people start gnashing their teeth like a wild animal.

Act 7:54 And hearing this they were **cut to the hearts and gnashed the teeth at him.**

Act 7:55 **But he, being filled with the Set-apart Spirit, looked steadily into the heaven and saw the esteem of Elohim, and יהושע standing at the right hand of Elohim,**

Act 7:56 and he said, **“Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Adam standing at the right hand of Elohim!”** [Psa 110:1](#).

Act 7:57 And **crying out with a loud voice, they stopped their ears, and rushed upon him with one mind.**

Now we see the presence of Paul [Shaul] at Stephen’s stoning. Later, Paul would receive Yahusha and would divinely become YHWH’s chosen vessel. It is believed that Paul never really got over approving the stoning of Stephen. But praise Yah that YHWH used all these things for good in spreading the Good News.

Act 7:58 and **threw him out of the city and stoned him.** And **the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Sha’ul.**

Act 7:59 And they were stoning Stephanos as he was calling and saying, “Master יהושע, receive my spirit.”

Act 7:60 And kneeling down he cried out with a loud voice, “Master, do not hold this sin against them.” And having said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 9**The Conversion of Saul**

Sha’ul [Paul] was very learned in the Tanakh, the Old Testament. He had been schooled by the best of the best and he greatly exceeded. Paul was diligent in knowing and obeying the Book of the Law; yet he initially missed recognizing the Messiah Yahusha.

The worst deception is when a person holds on so tightly to what they believe is truth; that they become closed minded to the actual truth. YHWH is the One that reveals Truth, and He does so in numerous ways.

The believers are now being referred to as those of the ‘Way.’

Act 9:1 But Sha’ul, **still breathing threats and murder** against the taught ones of the Master, **having come to the high priest,**

Act 9:2 asked **from him letters to the congregations of Dammeseq,** so that if he found any who were of **the Way,** whether men or women, to bring them bound to Yerushalayim.

Paul sets out to Damascus

Act 9:3 And it came to be, that as he journeyed, he came near Dammeseq, and **suddenly a light flashed around him from the heaven.**

Act 9:4 And **he fell to the ground,** and **heard a voice** saying to him, “Sha’ul, Sha’ul, why do you persecute Me?”

Act 9:5 And he said, “Who are You, Master?” And the Master said, **“I am יהושע am,”** whom you persecute. It is hard for you to kick against the prods.”

Any device or instrument to keep man or animal under control could be referred to as a prod. A ‘prod’ would only hurt the man or the animal if either would kick against the device. YHWH uses His Word, people, places, and things in our environment to draw us into obedience to Him and into His covenant boundaries. When we kick against those boundaries, pain and regret follows.

Act 9:6 **Both trembling, and being astonished,** he said, “Master, what do You wish me to do?” And the Master *said* to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you shall be told what you have to do.”

Act 9:7 And **the men journeying with him stood speechless, hearing indeed the voice but seeing no one.**

Paul arises from the ground but is blind.

Act 9:8 And Sha’ul arose from the ground, but when his eyes were opened he saw no one. And leading him by the hand they brought him into Dammeseq.

Act 9:9 And **he was three days without sight**, and did not eat nor drink.

Ḥananyah [Ananias] is called by YHWH through a vision; and Paul had seen in a vision that a man named Ananias would come to him and lay hands on him to receive his sight. So far, Paul had been undeniably awakened by a voice and a great light on the road to Damascus; and he was communicated to through a vision. One can only ponder what milder promptings and calls he may have rejected prior.

Act 9:10 And there was at Dammeseq a certain taught one, by name Ḥananyah.^a And the Master said unto him in a vision, **“Ḥananyah!”** And he said, **“Here I am, Master.”**

Footnote: ^aSee Act 22:12.

Act 9:11 And the Master *said* to him, “Arise and go to the street **called Straight**, and seek in the **house of Yehudah for one called Sha’ul of Tarsos**, for look, he is praying,

Act 9:12 and has seen in a vision a man named Ḥananyah coming in and laying his hand on him, so as to see again.”

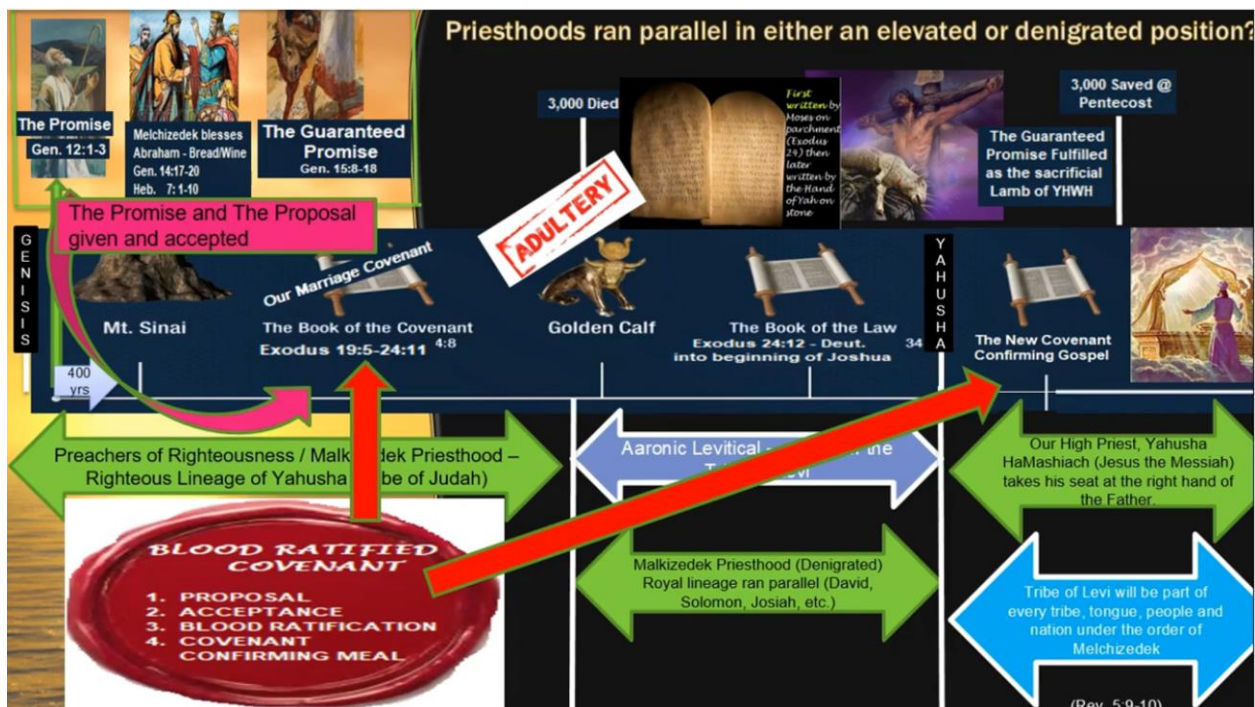
Act 9:13 And **Ḥananyah answered, “Master, I have heard from many about this man, how many evils he did to Your set-apart ones in Yerushalayim,**

Act 9:14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all those calling on Your Name.”

Paul was a chosen vessel of YHWH. YHWH had a major assignment for Paul. YHWH had prepared Paul all his life for this role. Paul would be instrumental in explaining the transference between priesthoods and laws; in which, to this very day, we reap understanding from Paul’s words inspired by the Ruach HaKodesh.

We now know that we are Israel born from above. We know we are His kingdom of priests. We know our High Priest is Yahusha HaMashiach that lives and is reigning at the right hand of YHWH. We know we ARE the temple. We know we are a set-apart people; a holy nation of every tongue, tribe, people, and nation. We know we are His royal ambassadors. We know who we are in Him by FAITH.

What was this shift or transference? It was the shift back to Covenant Torah, once and for all. The Melchizedek Priesthood was back in its reigning position with Yahusha HaMashiach as our High Priest ~ The Melchizedek. It was a shift away from life under the curse of the Book of the Law [Gal. 3:10], administered by the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood. The Book of the Law spared the lives of the Israelites; it was imposed as a tutor; and it stood as a witness against them. Under the Book of the Law, a person was blessed if they obeyed; and cursed if they did not. The Book of the Law was an ungracious schoolmaster assigned to correct their course away from their ingrained paganistic lifestyles. The Book of the Law administered by the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood was a 3-dimensional living parable [Heb. 9:9] that would point to the Messiah.



Act 9:15 But the Master said to him, "Go, for he **is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My Name** before nations, sovereigns, and the children of Yisra'ël.

Act 9:16 **"For I shall show him how much he has to suffer for My Name."**

Act 9:17 And **Hananyah went away and went into the house. And laying his hands** on him he said, "Brother Sha'ul, the Master יהושע, who appeared to you on the way as you came, has sent me, so that you might see again and be filled with the Set-apart Spirit."

Act 9:18 **And immediately there fell from his eyes, as it were scales, and he received his sight. And rising up, he was immersed.**

Paul Proclaims Yahusha in Synagogues

Paul proves to the Yehudim that Yahusha is the Messiah. No doubt, he used the very Scriptures he had memorized all his life.

Act 9:19 And having received food, he was strengthened. And **Sha'ul was with the taught ones at Dammeseq** some days.

Act 9:20 And immediately he proclaimed the Messiah in the congregations, that He is the Son of Elohim.

Act 9:21 And **all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those calling on this Name in Yerushalayim, and has come here for this, to take them bound to the chief priests?"**

Act 9:22 But Sha'ul kept increasing in strength, and was confounding the Yehudim who dwelt in Dammeseq, **proving** that this is the Messiah.

Other Torah Portion Readings:

Mark 14:1-16

John 15:1-11

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Hebrews 3:1-4:11

Be Inspired by the witness to Yahusha through the testimonies of Peter and Paul:

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/KmVtwEauR5Td/>

Shabbat Shalom, Libby