
WEEK 45 SCRIPTURE READING

5779 / 2018-19

by Roly Buys

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Parashah Vaetchanan | “and I pleaded” | ווטצ'ון

Week 45

NO CALCULATOR, PLEASE

The verse that stands out for me this week is:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2 “Now, Isra’el, listen to the laws and rulings I am teaching you, in order to follow them, so that you will live; then you will go in and take possession of the Land that ADONAI, the GOD of your fathers, is giving you. In order to obey the mitzvot of ADONAI your GOD which I am giving you, **do not add to what I am saying, and do not subtract from it.**



Consider This ...

Do not add to or subtract from!!

Seems rather straight forward doesn't it?

Yet, it seems that this is probably the one Commandment that mankind cannot keep at all very well.

- ◆ Before we look into this in more detail, I suggest that we try to define why this is the case.
- ◆ We are called to be set-apart ... a royal priesthood and a holy nation.
- ◆ Specifically, we are told that in order to be a priest in the Living Stone Tabernacle, that we have to be “clean and holy”.

Although we are sons / daughters of Abraham, we still **retain our own ego ... the “old-man”** that Paul speaks about.

And it is the decisions that we make from this “ego / old-man” that cause all of the problems.

The word “**clean**” simply means:

- have you repented of all wrongdoings?
- have you restored broken relationships?
- have you made restitution?
- it speaks to be in right standing with YHVH

The word that I want to highlight however, is “holy / unholy”.

In simple terms, it is the decisions that we make from the old-man that feed our own desires / pride, and so forth, but which we camouflage under the banner of ...

- ◆ I am doing this for
OR
- ◆ YHVH told me to

Unholy / perverse

These descriptions define actions that are **ego-based**.

- × Twisted
- × Distorted
- × Crooked
- × a slight distortion

(Think about a trip to the moon - a fraction of a degree off course at the beginning and you miss the mark by hundreds of miles).

- × Turning aside from the narrow way

Holy/Pure

These descriptions define a **heart that is circumcised**.

- ✓ Polished
- ✓ Purged
- ✓ Purified by fire and free from mischief and falsehood
- ✓ Made bright

In order to make sure that we realize that this a critical aspect of our walk of obedience, this Commandment is repeated a number of times.

I will highlight only a few, but add a list of other references as well to bring home the seriousness of the matter (**Mark 7:13, Genesis 3:1-4, Matthew 24:24, 1 Timothy 4:1-5, Deuteronomy 12:32, Jeremiah 26:2**).

Matthew 15:3-7 *“He answered, “Indeed, why do you break the Command of GOD by your tradition? For GOD said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’i and ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If anyone says to his father or mother, “I have promised to give to GOD what I might have used to help you,” then he is rid of his duty to honor his father or mother.’ Thus by your tradition you make null and void the Word of GOD! You hypocrites! Yesha’yahu was right when He Prophesied about you,*

Matthew 15:8-9 *‘These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Me. Their worship of Me is useless, because they teach man-made rules as if they were doctrines.’”*

Revelation 22:18-19 *I warn everyone hearing the words of the prophecy in this Book that if anyone adds to them, GOD will add to him the plagues written in this Book. And if anyone takes anything away from the Words in the Book of this Prophecy, GOD will take away his share in the Tree of Life and the holy city, as described in this Book.”*

Galatians 1:6-9 *“ I am astounded that you are so quick to remove yourselves from me, the one who called you by the Messiah’s grace, and turn to some other supposedly “Good News,” which is not good news at all! What is really happening is that certain people are pestering you and trying to pervert the genuine Good News of the MESSIAH. But even if we — or, for that matter, an angel from Heaven! — were to announce to you some so-called “Good News” contrary to the Good News we did announce to you, let him be under a curse forever! We said it before, and I say it again: if anyone announces “Good News” contrary to what you received, let him be under a curse forever!”*

Proverbs 30:5-6 *“Every Word of GOD is pure; He shields those taking refuge in Him. Don’t add anything to His Words; or He will rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”*



There are things that we must add to, and subtract ... however, it is from / to our character.

- ◆ We are formed by the home that we are raised in,
- ◆ by the community values that we see daily,
- ◆ by the culture of our people group,
- ◆ by the laws that govern the land that we live in

As a result our character does not always measure up to the benchmark which defines the lifestyle of a true son / daughter of Abraham.

So we MUST subtract:

- × bad attitudes / bad moral behavior
- × the works of the flesh

Galatians 5:19-21 *“And it is perfectly evident what the old nature does. It expresses itself in sexual immorality, impurity and indecency; idol-worship and misuse of drugs in connection with the occult; in feuding, fighting, becoming jealous and getting angry; in selfish ambition, factionalism, intrigue and envy; in drunkenness, orgies and things like these. I warn you now as I have warned you before: those who do such things will have no share in the Kingdom of GOD!”*

Colossians 3:5-8 “Therefore, **put to death the earthly parts of your nature** - sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed (which is a form of idolatry); for it is because of these things that GOD’s anger is coming on those who disobey Him. True enough, you used to practice these things in the life you once lived; but now, put them all away — anger, exasperation, meanness, slander and obscene talk.”

And we **MUST ADD ...**

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 “But the Fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self control**. Nothing in the Torah stands against such things.”

However

When the “subtract from and add to” **applies to the way that we interpret the Torah ...**

- ◆ how we apply these principles, and more importantly,
- ◆ how we enforce these on others,
- ◆ either by the role model that we reveal or the authority that we command,
- ◆ then we are placing our interpretation FULLY on YHVH’s WORD **only**.

Let us just name a few “additions and subtractions” that are common place today:

- ◆ Infant baptism as opposed to a mikveh
- ◆ Sunday (1st day of the week) as the set-apart day, instead of Saturday (7th day)
- ◆ Easter / Christmas and other pagan holidays instead of YHVH’s Feasts.
- ◆ The length and colour of your tassels
- ◆ And there are many examples where Y’shua deals with the religious leaders of the day - where He defines their rules ... their fences around the Torah, as man-made traditions that have no standing in Heaven.
- ◆ Head coverings¹ is not a Commandment in the Torah but **tradition**

Another pertinent example is the story of Balaam ... he added the desire for silver and gold to the prophetic word and tried to manipulate YHVH in the process.

Why is it so important that we understand the importance of this Commandment?

¹ Complete study 119 Ministries <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxuMnunngg8>
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Other than the fact that this becomes a **benchmark** which we can use to test the level of our actions of obedience against the norm of what YHVH considers Holy, the Torah wants to teach us something:

1. YHVH is pure

YHVH's Word, His Principles, His Values **are the absolute norm** ... they define the life of a renewed man (see also **Psalm 12:6**, and **1 Corinthians 2:13**).

- ◆ We may not develop our own standard at all - it will always be corrupted by our own egos.
- ◆ In addition, the circumstances of life would also have just as big an impact on our values... the moment the world economy falls, then we find all sorts of man-made values appearing e.g. it suddenly becomes acceptable to offer bribes in order to gain a business contract!!!
- ◆ In another example ... various governments have used their interpretation of the Bible to justify racism.
- ◆ And today, those same governments use human rights and tolerance to justify actions, such as the right to abortion.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *"All Scripture is GOD-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living; thus anyone who belongs to GOD may be fully equipped for every good work."*

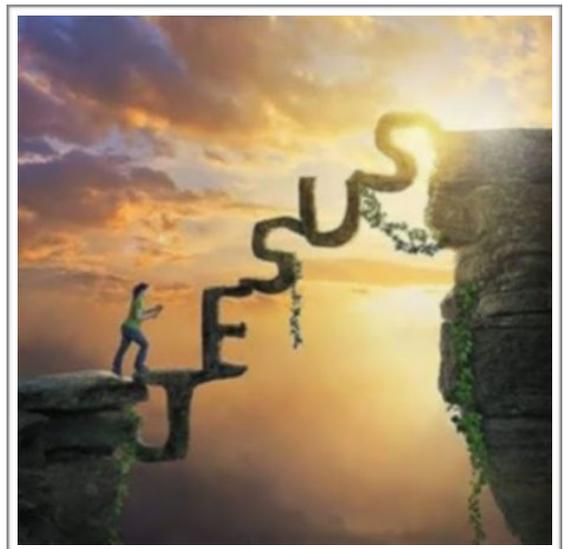
2. YHVH is trustworthy

YHVH is faithful!

- ◆ He remains the stronger Partner in the Covenant.
- ◆ His Commitment to mankind has been proved over and over again.
- ◆ What we know today is that mankind generally fails in that value ... the Holocaust has raised many questions, especially for those who suffered, and then the children of those who survived, but were too traumatized by real role models.

Someone once asked a Rabbi ... **how can you trust YHVH?**

His answer: *"I trust YHVH always, but mankind - never again"*



Romans 10:17 *"So trust comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through a Word proclaimed about the Messiah."*

3. Man cannot be trusted

Mankind's deeds have been recorded over the centuries.

- ◆ The History books are full of descriptions where man has abused others - corrupted systems and generally made sure that he only looks after himself.
- ◆ We can understand (but not condone) people tramping all over others in the effort to become the “*king*” (power), to make the most money, and so on.
- ◆ What we cannot understand, nor accept, is that kind of behavior within the Body of believers ... all too often we find “*church*” leaders focused on money, power and prestige. Even more acceptable, are the revelations of church leaders abusing children over long periods of time and then finding out that these dark deeds had been covered up.

Romans 3:4 *“Heaven forbid! God would be true even if everyone were a liar! - as the Tanakh says, “so that You, God, may be proved right in Your Words and win the verdict when You are put on trial.”*

Acts 17:13 *“But when the unbelieving Jews of Thessalonica learned that the Word of GOD had been proclaimed by Sha’ul in Berea as well, they went there too to make trouble and agitate the crowds.”*

4. YHVH will judge deeds that potentially lead others astray

Paul's words are few, but direct, they add to the discussion, and they are all about the actions of leaders / teachers and prophets. People who stand in an office and then with that authority, give direction to others that is not within the bounds of YHVH's Intentions.

As soon as it appears that you have more learning / training / education (attending college etc) and when you carry the title of leader ... then your character will influence many.

An arrogant, dogmatic, angry leader will only abuse the sheep.

Galatians 1:9 *“We said it before, and I say it again: if anyone announces “Good News” contrary to what you received, let him be under a curse forever!*

Galatians 1:10 *“Now does that sound as if I were trying to win human approval? No! I want GOD's approval! Or that I'm trying to cater to people? If I were still doing that, I would not be a servant of the MESSIAH.”*

WHAT WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THIS WEEK?

1. **What man-made traditions are we following daily that do not reflect the Light of YHVH? Can we make a decision to change?**
2. **Are we allowing the world system to intimidate us? ... have we accepted and condoned the practice of pagan feasts and other deeds that should not be allowed in our homes?**
3. **Where, during this week, have we prevented the Holy Spirit from speaking the Truth and the Life? How do we reverse the consequences of our actions?**



A FINAL THOUGHT

- ❖ This is a word for leaders.
- ❖ **Fathers are the most important leaders in the world.**
- ❖ They hold the potential of the next generation, as well as , the following generations in their hands ... the role model that they reveal will still be evident in the grandchildren even if this man has passed on.

Make a decision ... let's only pass the pure Word and Image of YHVH onto the next generation.



BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-27

“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.
May YHVH bless you and keep you.

Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.
May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.
May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:27 *“In this way they are to put My Name on the people of Isra’el, so that I will Bless them.”*

