

My Lord YHWH – Is He Your Personal Lord of Your Life?

אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה אֵתָהּ הַזּוֹכֵלִת לְהִרְאוֹת אֶת־עַבְדְּךָ אֶת־גְּדֹלְךָ וְאֶת־יָדְךָ הַזּוֹקֵקָה
אֲשֶׁר מִי־אֵל בַּשָּׁמַיִם וּבָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יַעֲשֶׂה כַּמַּעֲשִׂיךָ וּכְגִבּוֹרֹתֶיךָ:

²⁴ ‘O Lord Adonai (Adonai יהוה), You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand—for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do deeds and mighty acts like Yours? (Deut. 3:24)

Last week we began reading the last book of the *Torah*. The name in Hebrew, *Devarim*, means “words”. The common English name for the book, Deuteronomy, comes from the Septuagint’s Greek translation of the Hebrew title, *Devarim*, as “Second” (*deutero-*) “Law” (*-nomos*), and it is not a mere reiteration of everything that has happened to our Jewish people once liberated from Egypt. It is also not a recitation of all the *rules* in Leviticus. This is the book we will be reading from now through September; let’s ponder on the bigger picture.

The key verbs are *hear*, *listen*, and *obey* which are all summarized in one word *sh’ma*. Obedience to *Adonai* – or the lack thereof – creates the backbone of this book. Serving God is the key in dozens of verses here. An important aspect of Hebrew verbs is their emphasis on actual, concrete *action*, not just philosophical thought. Another key verb is to *fear Adonai* (18 times), is to have respectful awe and reverence for Him. This will lead us to love Him, and if we love Him we are happy to serve him. Next, Israel is called “the possession of Adonai” 57 times in Deuteronomy. *Adonai* is presented as a warrior: He is present in battle, fights on behalf of his people, and cuts off their enemies (these are important facts we should remember in the current battles in Israel).

The term *love* appears more times in this book of *the law* than in any other book in the *Tanakh* (17 times). We will also have an emphasis on *remember to remember*. To forget someone or something in Biblical terms does *not* mean that someone did not jog your memory or that your memory failed, as in “Wow, I could have had a V-8!” Forgetting here means *to fail to act for, to abandon, or to forsake*. Conversely, to remember means to act on behalf of someone; for example, *God remembered Hannah*, and acted for good on her behalf by sending Samuel. Remembrance and its inverse concept, to forget, are invoked almost 30 times in Deuteronomy.

During *Yeshua*’s temptation by *Satan* before he formally began his ministry (See Mt. 4 & Lk. 4), he was asked to do three specific acts to prove himself as the Son of God. In each of the three cases *Yeshua* answered him by quoting verses from Deuteronomy. This gives us a hint of how important *Yeshua* believed this book is.

Moses shares valuable insights into his character by sharing his last prayer/plea before the crossing into the Promised Land. He begins by calling *Elohei Abraham, Elohei Yitzhak and Elohei Ya’akov Adonai* (אֲדֹנָי), meaning **my Lord**. In calling Him *Adonai Moses* is acknowledging His supremacy over all the earth. But more importantly he is acknowledging His supremacy over his life! If anyone has ever experienced the hand of God at work in his life, in a consistent and intimate manner, it is *Moses*. From his birth right up to his death every aspect of *Moses*’s life was ordained and orchestrated by God. As far as *Moses* was concerned, God was Lord of his life, in other words, he had a personal relationship with the Almighty and He is in control.

While our spiritual lives may not be as dramatic as *Moses*’, you can be certain that as a believer in *Yeshua HaMashiach* and because you have an intimate relationship with God, there is not a single aspect of your life that takes place without His knowledge and without His approval. There is no such thing as chance or accident for a Believer. If we are walking in the fullness of His *Torah* (teaching/instructions) then everything in our lives is or will be ordained by Him. *Moses* in this opening statement shows us that he understood and recognized this fact. He acknowledges that he knows this intimately, to God and to all generations to come. God should be the Lord of your life. *Adonai* was Israel’s king but it was not until they desired a human king like all the other nations that their spiritual life began to slowly deteriorate. As a believer in *Yeshua HaMashiach* God needs to be the king of your life. You must abdicate the throne of your life to God.

In his travels in the wilderness *Moses* had learned that you cannot fight God and win. He also learned that you cannot out wit, out maneuver, disrespect, disobey or disregard God and succeed. He learned this from his own experience and through witnessing the experiences of others over the years. God gave *Moses* wisdom to be a leader and in giving him wisdom he also allowed him to be a witness of His power and of His ways. That is why *Moses* arrived at the point in of addressing God as, *Adonai* My Lord. *Moses* knew exactly what he was doing. He was about to enter a plea of mercy to the judge of all the earth, a judge who had already found him guilty. He knew who God was and he wanted to make sure that God knew that he knew Who He was.

Do you know who God is? Does your life and your actions demonstrate that you know who God is? Many believers in *Yeshua* choose to invest in lottery tickets. They justify this by saying *How will I know if it is God's will for me to win if I do not buy tickets?* They claim: *Someone has to win so why not me?* The truth of the matter is by gambling you are saying to God: *My life is based on chance and not on God's sovereignty.* Ouch!

The name אלהים is His character. *Moses* makes this evidently clear to us in the balance of the verse where he describes some of the characteristics of God: “*great, strong, supreme, doer of marvelous works and mighty acts.*” You see -- *Moses* knew them because he experienced all of these characteristics of God first hand. That was the kind of relationship he had with His God. He knew whom he was talking to. It was not that he was trying to butter God up, as we sometimes do, he was just really describing who he understood God to be. We may not always feel that God's judgments are fair, but that was not the case with *Moses*. He knew that he was fairly judged and he made that evident in acknowledging God as he did.

Do you acknowledge the character of God in your life? If you are a believer in *Yeshua HaMashiach* then you too must experience God as *Moses* did. Do you always honor God's decisions in your life whether you like them or not? *Moses* said in Deut. 3:26: “²⁶*But Adonai was angry with me because of you, so He would not listen to me. 'Enough!' Adonai said to me, 'Do not speak to Me anymore about this matter.*” In saying “*Adonai was angry with me because of you,*” *Moses* knew he was wrong and perhaps God would have relented on his judgment had *Moses* not dishonored God publicly. But he did and God does not change His mind. Our lives are a public expression of God's character. As a believer in *Yeshua* you and I are to reflect the image of God to everyone we come in contact with. Are you ready to accomplish that great feat? Shabbat Shalom!