

Adonai YHVH (אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה)

This week we begin reading the last book of the *Torah* in Hebrew, *Devarim*, meaning **words**. The English name for the book, *Deuteronomy*, comes from the Septuagint's Greek translation of the Hebrew title as *deutero*-meaning **Second** and *-nomos* meaning **Law**. It reviews important matters with *Bnei-Yisrael* in the forty years after being liberated from Egypt as well as highlighting some parts of Leviticus. This is the book we will be reading from now through September this year. It should be noted that during *Yeshua's* encounter with *Satan* before he formally began his ministry (See Mt. 4 and Lk. 4), he was tempted to do three specific acts to prove himself as the Son of God. In each of the three cases *Yeshua* answered Satan by quoting verses from Deuteronomy. How important did *Yeshua* consider this book to be?

At the very beginning of next week's *Torah* Reading Moses refers to the Almighty as *Adonai* (אֲדֹנָי) *YHVH*, meaning **my Lord YHVH**. Moses acknowledges the Almighty's 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 was *Moses*. From his birth right up to his death every aspect of *Moses's* life was ordained and orchestrated by God. But note the words *Moses* uses – *Adonai* was his personal Lord (**my Lord**) and clearly, he had a **personal relationship with Him**.

The infamous incident in Numbers 14 that Rebbetzin Marilyn spoke about on June 5, 2021, is revisited: "...Then we came to Kadesh-barnea. ²⁰I said to you: 'You have come to the hill country of the Amorites, which Adonai our God is giving to us. ²¹See, Adonai your God has set the land before you—go up, take possession, as Adonai God of your fathers has promised you. Do not be afraid or discouraged.' ²²'Then all of you came near to me and said: 'Let's send men ahead of us to explore the land for us and bring us back word about the way we should go up and the cities we will enter.' ²³'The idea seemed good to me, so I took twelve men from among you—one man for each tribe. ²⁴They turned and went up into the hill country, and they came to the Wadi Eshcol and spied it out. ²⁵They took in their hands some of the fruit of the land and brought it down to us. They also brought back word to us and said, 'Good is the land that Adonai our God is giving to us.' ²⁶'Yet you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of Adonai your God. ²⁷In your tents you grumbled and said: 'Because Adonai hates us, He has brought us out from the land of Egypt to hand us over to the Amorites, to destroy us! ²⁸Where are we going? Our brothers have discouraged our hearts saying, "The people are greater and taller than we are! The cities are great and fortified up to the heavens! Besides, we have even seen the children of Anakim there!"' ²⁹'Then I said to you, 'Don't tremble or be afraid of them. ³⁰Adonai your God, who goes before you, He Himself will fight for you—just as He did for you in Egypt before your own eyes, ³¹and in the wilderness, where you saw how Adonai your God carried you as a man carries his son, everywhere you went until you came to this place.' ³²Yet for all this you did not trust in Adonai your God— ³³the One who goes before you on the way to scout out a place for you to camp and to show you the way you should go, in fire by night and in the cloud by day. ³⁴'When Adonai heard the tone of your words, He was angry and swore an oath saying, ³⁵'Not one of these men of this evil generation will see the good land that I swore to give your fathers— ³⁶except Caleb the son of Jephunneh. He will see it—yet to him and his children I will give the land that he has walked on, because he has followed Adonai wholeheartedly' ... ³⁹'Moreover, your little ones—whom you said would become plunder, and your children who today have no knowledge of good or evil—they will enter there. To them I will give it and they will possess it. ⁴⁰But as for you, turn around and journey into the wilderness by way of the Sea of Reeds" (Deut. 1:19-36, 39-40). We can ill afford to grumble (murmur) and complain and instead we must **BELIEVE, TRUST and DECLARE** the sure promises of God so we can live abundantly.

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: "²⁶But 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.'" *Moses* knew he was wrong regardless of the people's ways in Numbers 21 and perhaps God would have relented on his judgment had *Moses* not dishonored God publicly. But he did dishonor God publicly and God **does not change His mind**. He knew that he was fairly judged. 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?

While our spiritual lives may not be as dramatic as *Moses*'s, you can be certain that as a believer in *Yeshua* having 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 are no chances or accidents for a Believer. If we are walking in the fullness of His *Torah* (which are His teaching and instructions) then everything in our lives is ordained by Him. *Moses* shows us that he understood and recognized this fact. He acknowledges that he knows this intimately, to God and to all generations to come. *Adonai* should be the Lord of our 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. *Adonai* needs to be the king of your life. You must abdicate the throne of your life to Him. Give Him the reigns!

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. God gave *Moses* the 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? *Shabbat Shalom!*