

רֵאֶה

RE'EH/SEE

Devarim/Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

How **closely** are we **living** to **יהוָה's ideal** for us? We know we are **immensely blessed** because we have come to know our **Messiah as Adonai**. But are we **living up to His expectation** for us as **His chosen ones?** **Ephesians** says that there is a **way** that He has "*planned beforehand*" for us:

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of Yah,⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yeshua for good works, which Yah prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Applying the **title** of this parasha, if we were **able to just "see"** (re'eh - רֵאֶה) this **plan....**

The **Gutnick Edition** of the **Chumash** gives some **fascinating insights** into the **Hebrew** word for "**see**" (re'eh - רֵאֶה):

Re'eh means "**See!**" as in the opening verse of our Parsha: "**See! I am giving to you today a blessing and a curse.**"

What, exactly, is the **Torah demanding**, in asking us to "**see**" **God's blessings and curses?**

Broadly speaking, a **person's observance** of the **precepts of Judaism** could fall into one of **three categories**:

- a) **Plain obedience.** At this level, a person is **willing to observe the mitzvos** (commandments) **because he is aware of a Higher Authority**. However, his **observance is not inspired by an understanding or appreciation of the Torah**; he simply "**accepts the yoke of heaven.**"
- b) **Intellectual appreciation.** A higher level is where a **person not only observes the precepts of the Torah out of deference to a Higher Authority**, but he also has an **intellectual appreciation of the importance of observing the mitzvos**, and he **understands the rewards** that **mitzvah-observance** (keeping the commandments) brings. However, even this person has **not yet reached perfection**. For intellectual conviction alone – while immensely powerful – still leaves room to explore other avenues, so it **does not represent an absolute commitment**. Thus the highest level of **mitzvah observance** is:
- c) **Vision.** At this level, one **does not merely appreciate the value of keeping the Torah's precepts, one sees** (re'eh) it. I.e. the **necessity and positive results of observing the mitzvos becomes as clear and self-evident as seeing a physical object with one's eyes.**

And it is this **third level** which **our Parasha commands** – and **spiritually empowers** – every **Israelite to reach**, with the words: "**See! I am giving to you today a blessing and a curse.**"

Obviously, we should be able to **equate** the **expected "good works"** (which are the **will of Elohim**) of **Ephesians 2:10**, with the "**blessings**" associated with **keeping the commandments**. Therefore, once

you have **clear vision** (re'eh - רֵאשׁ), you are able to make a **conscious choice between “blessing and curse”**:

Devarim 11:26 "See (re'eh - רֵאשׁ), I set before you today a **blessing and a curse**:²⁷ "the blessing, if you obey the commandments of יְהוָה your Elohim which I command you today;²⁸ "and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of יְהוָה your Elohim, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

Moshe has **concerns** for the **children of Israel** that they may **succumb** to the **temptation to adopt idolatrous practices** already prevalent in the **Promised Land**. He calls these practices "**abominations**":

Devarim 12:30 "take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.'³¹ "You shall not worship יְהוָה your Elohim in that way; for every **abomination** to יְהוָה which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

Immediately following, Moshe makes one more comment. He warns them to not make ANY changes to the Torah:

Devarim 12:32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

Is Moshe trying to make a **connection between idolatrous practices and changing the Torah?** Moshe knew that there would be a **strong temptation** to follow the other nations and apply their **idolatrous forms of worship** to their own Elohim. What Moshe feared was man's "**emotions**" which drew him to these **alternative forms of worship**. In fact, man functions in two realms:

- His intellect
- His emotions

These final verses in Devarim 12 were intended to teach the Israelites how to deal with their ever-present **emotions**, by living with **uncorrupted Torah truths!** Without these truths, they would eventually follow some erroneous, emotional feeling. The Torah must never be altered! Is this not what Yeshua said?

Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Torah or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish (take away from) but to fulfill (fill up with meaning).¹⁸ "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the Torah till all is fulfilled.

Moshe warned against "**taking away**" from the Torah. **Idol worship** can equate to the **abandonment of certain commandments**. And what about "**adding**" to the Torah? The **Israelites** were not

permitted to incorporate any modes of worship employed by the **idolaters** in their own worship of the Almighty. The sages have referred to this as **added “religious zeal”**. A person may **follow his emotions** and feel that he has **discovered a new way in expressing his love towards יהוה**...i.e. he thinks he has a **better way than יהוה!** We cannot pick and choose Torah commandments to follow or add others to Torah. Any commandments that apply to us still **must be obeyed!**

It is **human tendency** to let your **emotions** drive your **actions**. Emotions are the mother of **idolatrous tendencies**. The **warning against additions and subtractions** are pointed specifically at our **emotions!** Only by growing in our understanding of absolute Biblical truths will we be able to discern between what “feels right” and what “is right”. Our **emotions** should **not dictate our actions**. Moshe spoke to the **Israelites** in our parasha:

Devarim 12:8 "You shall not at all do as we are doing here today -- every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes --

Israel's own ideas would continue to be a **stumbling block** for them:

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

There's a **danger in following our own way**:

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

King Solomon also **spoke** about **following your heart**, and **in his wisdom** came back around to the **truthful conclusion**:

*Ecclesiastes 11:9 ...Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these Elohim will bring you into judgment...¹³ Let us hear the **conclusion** of the whole matter: **Fear Elohim and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.**¹⁴ For Elohim will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.*

Returning to our parasha, Devarim 13 continues with a **warning against following a “prophet” or a “dreamer”**:

Devarim 13:1 "If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder,² "and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods' -- which you have not known -- 'and let us serve them,'³ "you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for יְהוָה your Elohim is testing you to know whether you love יְהוָה your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul.⁴ "You shall walk after יְהוָה your Elohim and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

What is this “*test*” about? Why is a “*prophet*” who does “*signs and wonders*” any different from Moshe who also performed “*signs*”? And more importantly, didn’t our Messiah also perform “*signs and wonders*”? Why should they have believed Him?

Acts 2:22 " Men of Israel, hear these words: Yeshua of Nazareth, a Man attested by Elohim to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which Elohim did through Him in your midst....

Rav Sha’ul (Paul) also performed “*signs and wonders*”:

Romans 15:17 Therefore I have reason to glory in Messiah Yeshua in the things which pertain to Elohim.¹⁸ For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Messiah has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient -- ¹⁹ in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of Yah...

Again we ask...who can we believe? We are often warned of “*false prophets*” associated with “*signs and wonders*” in the Brit Chadasha:

Mark 13:22 "For false messiahs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Matthew 24:11 "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.¹² "And because Torahlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.¹³ "But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

Friends, we need to know who we can believe. Our faith is all about truth, proof, and living in obedience to Torah. We know that the events at Mount Sinai took place and nothing can change the truth that was given there. When we love the Almighty, we love the truth. Moshe testified of the truth...the truth of the “*Torah*” at Mount Sinai. Yeshua testified of the same “truth”...and also completely fulfilled (filled up with meaning) the “*truth*” of “*grace*”:

John 1:17 For the Torah was given through Moshe, and grace and truth came through Yeshua the Messiah.

Yeshua’s disciples also did “*signs and wonders*” in accordance with the “*truth*”. This is why we can call them true prophets. Today a prophet must be judged by the same standards. Anyone who leads us away from Torah truths, even though they speak with “*signs and wonders*”, must be immediately eliminated as a true prophet. In 2 Thessalonians, this is said eloquently:

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of Torahlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.⁸ And then the Torahless one will be revealed, whom Elohim will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.⁹ The coming of the Torahless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power,

signs, and lying wonders,¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved...

As you read through the parasha, you will notice that it is all about **choices...obedience or disobedience, life or death, blessing or the curse, worshipping יהוה or worshipping a false god...** Making a right choice is **dependent** on our **discernment of “truth” and our ability to make a decision separate from our emotions.** We have examples of emotion-driven decisions made by the Israelites that caused them to be characterized as “*idolators*”:

1 Corinthians 10:6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.⁷ And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play."⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;⁹ nor let us tempt Messiah, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but Yah is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

Yeshua spoke of emotions as they tied into the keeping of the commandments:

Matthew 5:27 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'²⁸ "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

In Yeshua's explanation of the **parable of the sower**, He warns His **disciples** about what can happen when we **accept the “seed”** (the Word/Messiah) with high emotions versus **understanding and obedience**. Also notice that He refers to His disciples as having “*eyes that see*”...the same “see” (re’eh - **רֵאשׁ**) which we began our commentary with:

Matthew 13:16 "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;¹⁷ "for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.¹⁸" Therefore hear the **parable of the sower:**¹⁹ "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.²⁰ "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;²¹ "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.²² "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.²³ "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Where do these **unstable emotions stem from?** They stem from the **world** and our **earthly nature**. That is why we must **focus on heavenly things** to keep our nature in check:

Colossians 3:1 *If then you were raised with Messiah, seek those things which are above, where Messiah is, sitting at the right hand of Yah.² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Messiah in Yah.⁴ When Messiah who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*

There is a **battle** in each of us between **our earthly emotions** and **our pursuit of truth** (pursued with “**the mind**”). **Rav Sha’ul** describes the battle in **Romans 7**:

Romans 7:15 *For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the Torah that it is good.¹⁷ But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.¹⁹ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.²⁰ Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.²² For I delight in the Torah of Yah according to the inward man.²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?²⁵ I thank Yah - through Yeshua the Messiah our Adonai! So then, with the mind I myself serve the Torah of Yah, but with the flesh the Torah of sin.*

Earlier in **Romans**, **Sha’ul** gave an **extreme example** of what ultimately happens when people begin to give in to their emotions, putting aside the truth of נָתַן. It speaks to the **fear of Moshe**, as people take the slippery slide, letting their **emotions lead** them into **idolatry**. Sadly, it seems to characterize so much of the **world today**:

Romans 1:24 *Therefore Yah also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of Yah for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.²⁶ For this reason Yah gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain Yah in their knowledge, Yah gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of Elohim, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*

So...what to do? In **Ephesians 4, 5, and 6**, we are given excellent advice. I'd really suggest that you read all the verses. I'll pick out a few for you to chew on:

Ephesians 4:17 This I say, therefore, and testify in Adonai, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of Yah, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;¹⁹ who, having lost all sensitivity, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.²⁰ But you have not so learned Messiah,²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Yeshua:²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to Yah, in true righteousness and holiness...**5:1** Therefore be imitators of Yah as dear children.² And walk in love, as Messiah also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to Yah for a sweet-smelling aroma.³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Messiah and Yah.⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of Yah comes upon the sons of disobedience.⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them.⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in Adonai. Walk as children of light⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to Adonai...¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of Adonai is...**6:13** Therefore take up the whole armor of Yah, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of Elohim;¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints ...

Our hope is in Messiah. When we belong to Him, we are able to set aside our emotions and keep in step with the truth:

Galatians 5:24 And those who are Messiah's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Yeshua is the “*prophet like Moshe*” who we will read about next week in **Devarim 18**. He qualified as a true prophet because He completely taught and lived out Torah truths. When we believe Him and practice what He taught, we will have the truth that we need to give us discernment beyond our emotions necessary for end time trials. Here is advice from the disciple John:

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of Yah; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.² By this you know the Spirit of Yah: Every spirit that confesses that Yeshua the Messiah has come in the flesh is of Yah,³ and every spirit that does not confess that Yeshua the Messiah has come in the flesh is not of Yah. And this

*is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.⁴ You are of Yah, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.⁶ We are of Yah. He who knows Yah hears us; he who is not of Yah does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.*

The world is not going to speak the “truth”. It is imperative that we each are equipped with “truth” so that our emotions will not lead us astray. Rav Sha’ul tells us that there will be even those from our midst who will distort the truth:

Acts 20:30 "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking distortions, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

We need the discernment found by being familiar with the “truths” of Torah. We know that in the end times, there will be “signs and wonders” that will deceive the world:

Revelation 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of El Shaddai.

Yeshua is the “Word” of יְהוָה. It is through Him that every false, idolatrous “sign” will be defeated:

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war... His name is called The Word of Yah.¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations ...¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image (idolators). These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone....

Friend, do not reject the Words of יְהוָה. He desires for us to love Him through our obedience. Anything less than obedience is “arrogance” as we elevate our own way above His. The Scriptures equate this with “idolatry”. This is what happened to King Saul as he responded to his emotions when he “feared the people and obeyed their voice”. The result of Saul’s “rejection of the Word” was that he was “rejected” by יְהוָה:

1 Samuel 15:22 Then Samuel said: "Has יְהוָה as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of יְהוָה? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And arrogance is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the Word of יְהוָה, He also has rejected you from being king."²⁴ Then Saul said

to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of YHWH and your Words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.²⁵ "Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship YHWH."²⁶ But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the Word of YHWH, and YHWH has rejected you from being king over Israel."

Oh please, let's not be guided by our emotions. Let's "choose life" through the pursuit of truth and obedience to His Word!

Devarim 30:19 "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;²⁰ "that you may love YHWH your Elohim, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which YHWH swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Shabbat Shalom!

Ardelle