

Shavua Tov



A Rood Awakening! Torah Commentary
By Glenn Mc Williams

Torah Portion: *Re'eh* האר "Behold"

You can therefore see that I am placing before you both a blessing and a curse

Re'eh anochi noten lifneychem hayom berachah uklalah

Scripture for Study:	<i>Devarim</i> (Deuteronomy)	11:26 - 16:17
Haftorah Portion:	<i>Yeshayahu</i> (Isaiah)	54:11 - 55:5

The great revelation discerned from the spiritual battle with Balak and Balaam¹ is the truth that both Israel's strength and weakness are rooted in its relationship with YHWH ELOHIM.² Moses clearly understood this reality; therefore from the beginning of the book of Devarim we have witnessed Moses' efforts to establish the fact that there is only ONE ELOHIM in Israel, and that Elohim is YHWH. Moses affirmed this truth in many and various ways, including the repeated use of relational phrases such as, "YHWH **thy** Elohim,"³ "YHWH **your** Elohim,"⁴ and "YHWH **our** Elohim."⁵ Moses likewise reminded the children of Israel through the use of historical narrative of all that YHWH alone had done for them. Everything they had experienced for the last forty years had been by the grace, mercy, and love of YHWH. For forty years, from Mount Sinai to the border of Canaan, YHWH ELOHIM provided, protected, and led the children of Israel to the land promised to their fathers. The idea that there is but one Elohim in Israel in many ways reached its climatic expression in the creedal formula:

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: YHWH is our Elohim, YHWH is ONE.

The visible proclamation of this faith statement would demand its expression through the purging of the land of Israel of all idols, idolatry, and idol worshippers. We have already witnessed that these wicked, lewd, and lascivious idol worshippers were under the judgment of YHWH ELOHIM and were to be spewed from the land of promise.

Leviticus 18:24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: ²⁵and the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.

Deuteronomy 9:5 Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations YHWH thy Elohim doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which YHWH sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Not only are the inhabitants of the land to be driven from the land, but every last vestige of their cultic practices is to be expunged from the land as well lest they become a temptation and snare to the children of Israel. In the following verses let us take note of the warnings, prohibitions, and remedies given to the children of Israel affirming the truth that there is but ONE ELOHIM in Israel; and that their health, strength, and life in the land are contingent upon their exclusive relationship with Him.

Deuteronomy 5:6 I am YHWH thy Elohim, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. ⁷Thou shalt have none other elohim before Me. ⁸Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth: ⁹thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I YHWH thy Elohim am a jealous Elohim, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me, ¹⁰and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My commandments.

Exodus 23:13 And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other elohim, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.

Exodus 34:12 Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: ¹³but ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves.

Numbers 33:52 Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: ⁵³and ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it.

Deuteronomy 6:14 Ye shall not go after other elohim, of the elohim of the people which are round about you.

Deuteronomy 7:2 And when YHWH thy Elohim shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: ³neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. ⁴For they will turn away thy son from following Me, that they may serve other elohim: so will the anger of YHWH be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly. ⁵But thus shall ye deal with

them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

Deuteronomy 7:21 Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for YHWH thy Elohim is among you, a mighty Elohim and terrible. ²²And YHWH thy Elohim will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee. ²³But YHWH thy Elohim shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed. ²⁴And He shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them. ²⁵The graven images of their elohim shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to YHWH thy Elohim. ²⁶Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

Deuteronomy 8:19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget YHWH thy Elohim, and walk after other elohim, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. ²⁰As the nations which YHWH destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of YHWH your Elohim.

Deuteronomy 11:16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other elohim, and worship them.

Deuteronomy 12:2 Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their elohim, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree: ³and ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their elohim, and destroy the names of them out of that place. ⁴Ye shall not do so unto YHWH your Elohim.

Deuteronomy 12:30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their elohim, saying, How did these nations serve their elohim? even so will I do likewise. ³¹Thou shalt not do so unto YHWH thy Elohim: for every abomination to YHWH, which He hateth, have they done unto their elohim; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their elohim. ³²What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Let us note that this purging of the land of idols, idolatry, and idol worshippers is to be extremely thorough. The idols and those who worshipped them were to be utterly destroyed. It is forbidden by the Torah to incorporate pagan practices into the worship of YHWH. The very names of the pagan elohim were never to be found on the lips of the children of Israel, and were in fact to be removed from the land. We should likewise note that even the silver and gold used to make the idols were forbidden to the children of Israel, lest someone say that the idols made them rich. This purging was to be done even among the children of Israel. Moses warned the children of Israel against false prophets and false brethren.

Deuteronomy 13:1 *If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, ²and the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other elohim, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; ³thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for YHWH your Elohim proveth you, to know whether ye love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴Ye shall walk after YHWH your Elohim, and fear Him, and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, and ye shall serve Him, and cleave unto Him. ⁵And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from YHWH your Elohim, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which YHWH thy Elohim commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.*

This evil of idolatry was to be removed from Israel regardless of where it was found; whether among the heathen inhabitants, a false prophet, a dreamer of dreams, a kinsman, or even a city of Israel.

Deuteronomy 13:6 *If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other elohim, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; ⁷namely, of the elohim of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; ⁸thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: ⁹but thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. ¹⁰And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from YHWH thy Elohim, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. ¹¹And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.*

Deuteronomy 13:12 *If thou shalt hear say in one of thy cities, which YHWH thy Elohim hath given thee to dwell there, saying, ¹³Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other elohim, which ye have not known; ¹⁴then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought among you; ¹⁵thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword. ¹⁶And thou shalt gather all the spoil of it into the midst of the street thereof, and shalt burn with fire the city, and all the spoil thereof every whit, for YHWH thy Elohim: and it shall be an heap for ever; it shall not be built again. ¹⁷And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that YHWH may turn from the fierceness of His anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as He hath sworn unto thy fathers; ¹⁸when thou shalt hearken to the voice of YHWH thy Elohim, to keep all His commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of YHWH thy Elohim.*

Deuteronomy 17:2 *If there be found among you, within any of thy gates which YHWH thy Elohim giveth thee, man or woman, that hath wrought wickedness in the sight of YHWH thy Elohim, in transgressing His covenant, ³and hath gone and served other elohim, and worshipped them, either the sun, or moon, or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded; ⁴and it be told thee, and thou hast heard of it, and enquired diligently, and, behold, it be true, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought in Israel: ⁵then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die.*

Deuteronomy 18:20 *But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other elohim, even that prophet shall die.*

Note once again the clear instruction that no one was to benefit in any way from the idols or even the spoil of the idol worshippers. By this thorough purging of the land and people, Israel was to protect the sovereignty of YHWH in the land of Israel. Remembering that Israel voluntarily committed itself to being the expressed image of YHWH in the world by living according to the exclusive Word of YHWH explains the severity of YHWH'S warnings against violating this covenant.

Deuteronomy 8:19 *And it shall be, if thou do at all forget YHWH thy Elohim, and walk after other elohim, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. ²⁰As the nations which YHWH destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of YHWH your Elohim.*

Deuteronomy 28:14 *And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other elohim to serve them. ¹⁵But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of YHWH thy Elohim, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee.*

Deuteronomy 28:36 *YHWH shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other elohim, wood and stone.*

Deuteronomy 28:64 *And YHWH shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other elohim, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.*

Deuteronomy 29:26 *For they went and served other elohim, and worshipped them, elohim whom they knew not, and whom He had not given unto them: ²⁷and the anger of YHWH was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book: ²⁸and YHWH rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.*

Deuteronomy 30:17 *But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other elohim, and serve them; ¹⁸I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.*

Deuteronomy 31:16 *And YHWH said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the elohim of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake Me, and break My covenant which I have made with them. ¹⁷Then My anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our Elohim is not among us? ¹⁸And I will surely hide My face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other elohim.*

We should note here that if Israel chooses to worship other elohim, they shall also serve them. This implies that Israel will find itself in bondage again to a pagan culture without YHWH. This is so because Israel is the very one that was chosen, and agreed, to be the manifest presence of YHWH in the world. If Israel fails in this calling, then people shall indeed live in a world without the presence of YHWH. No other nation has been chosen to be the bearer of the image of YHWH. Israel alone has been afforded this great honor and responsibility. The Torah was given to Israel. Israel is to be the bearer of the message to the world.

Psalm 147:19 *He sheweth His word unto Jacob, His statutes and His judgments unto Israel. ²⁰He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye YHWH.*

If Israel falters or fails in this calling, the image of YHWH is desecrated. If Israel adds to or diminishes from the revelation of YHWH, a false image of YHWH is manifested to the world.

Deuteronomy 4:2 *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of YHWH your Elohim which I command you.*

Deuteronomy 12:32 *What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.*

To add to the Word or diminish from it is to create a false image. This false image is an idol; therefore those who follow the additions and subtractions of the rabbis or the church are serving an idol. We may also remember here the words of the psalmist who warned against the impotency of idols and those who serve them.

Psalm 115:4 *Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. ⁵They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: ⁶they have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: ⁷they have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. ⁸They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.*

Clearly we, as the children of Israel, should fear living in a world without the manifest presence of the living Elohim. We can not overemphasize the importance of learning, understanding, and especially LIVING the Torah in our world today. We likewise cannot overemphasize the need to distinguish between the “traditions of the elders” and the actual Torah. This same message is clearly at the very heart of the teaching of Messiah Yeshua, as is evidenced by his many conflicts with the Pharisees.

Matthew 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. ¹⁸For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. ¹⁹Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Without question Yeshua is declaring that he has come to keep, fulfill, live, and teach the Torah and the Prophets. Yeshua is teaching that he has come to give meaning and substance to the Torah. Messiah Yeshua came to embody the Torah (the Word made flesh⁶). Throughout his ministry he warns against the Pharisees’ additions and reforms to the Torah. The Pharisees constantly challenge Yeshua’s authority to teach others to walk contrary to their self-appointed authority and translation of the Torah.

Matthew 15:1 Then came to Yeshua scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, ²Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. ³But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of Elohim by your tradition?

Matthew 15:6 Thus have ye made the commandment of Elohim of none effect by your tradition. ⁷Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, ⁸This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. ⁹But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Mark 7:7 Howbeit in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of Elohim, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. ⁹And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of Elohim, that ye may keep your own tradition.

Matthew 16:6 Then Yeshua said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Matthew 16:11 How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? ¹²Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Matthew 23:1 Then spake Yeshua to the multitude, and to his disciples, ²Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: ³all therefore whatsoever he bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their enactments⁷ and precedents:⁸ for they say, and do not. ⁴For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. ⁵But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, ⁶and love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, ⁷and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. ⁸But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Messiah; and all ye are brethren. ⁹And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. ¹⁰Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Messiah.

Yeshua repeatedly warns against the corruption of the Torah by man-made traditions and interpretations. To change the Torah is to change the revelation of YHWH; so Messiah Yeshua teaches the pure Torah purged of all the Pharisaic enactments, rulings, traditions, and precedents. Yeshua invites all who desire to serve YHWH to learn Torah from him. Messiah teaches Torah as Moses received it, free of man's inventions.

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

It is unfortunate that the true message of Messiah has also been subverted and perverted by a pagan Christianity that has turned the Torah-embodying Yeshua into a Torah-breaking idol named "Jesus." In truth, we must confess that the Torah-breaking "Jesus" of the church is nothing at all like the Torah-observant and Torah-teaching Yeshua of the Brit Chadasha. It is this idol "Jesus" that has become a stumbling block to faith for our brethren from the house of Judah. At the same time, our exiled brethren from the house of Israel continue to blindly defile themselves through the worship and practices of this pagan idol "Jesus."

Unfortunately, many of us must confess that we are indeed living in this pagan culture because our ancestors failed to keep the Torah. Our ancestors did not protect the Torah, but instead began adding to it and subtracting from it. It was idolatry that caused the Sovereign of Israel to scatter the House of Israel to the nations. While many of us are in fact living and serving in pagan cultures because of our sinfulness, we still may manifest the image of YHWH by simply embodying the Torah in our lives. While we may not be able to manifest the whole image of YHWH outside the land of Israel due to the lack of the Temple, we may still manifest a small glimpse of YHWH as a ray of light in our ever-darkening culture.

Moses understood the very nature of the calling upon the children of Israel. Moses realized that the children of Israel were to embody the Word and revelation of YHWH for the sake of the redemption of the whole world. Moses therefore not only commands the complete purging of the land and people from all idols, images, groves, poles, and even the names of pagan elohim; he also commands that Israel build a single altar to YHWH Elohim. Just as there is ONE Elohim in all of Israel, so there should be only ONE Temple, ONE altar, and ONE faith.

Deuteronomy 12:5 But unto the place which YHWH your Elohim shall choose out of all your tribes to put His name there, even unto His habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: ⁶and thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks: ⁷and there ye shall eat before YHWH your Elohim, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein YHWH thy Elohim hath blessed thee. ⁸Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes.

Deuteronomy 12:11 Then there shall be a place which YHWH your Elohim shall choose to cause His name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto YHWH: ¹²and ye shall rejoice before YHWH your Elohim, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that is within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you. ¹³Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest: ¹⁴but in the place which YHWH shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

Here we witness YHWH'S prohibition against personal altars and sacrifices. By forbidding personal altars and sacrifices, YHWH is prohibiting yielding to the temptation to worship the pagan elohim of the forests, fields, vineyards, etc. Since it was a pagan practice to have little shrines and altars in all these places, Israel would be avoiding even the appearance of scandal by worshipping only in that place where YHWH would place His name. As the apostle Shaul later taught,

1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

By prohibiting all private altars, sacrifices, temples, and shrines, YHWH is commanding the children of Israel to avoid both the temptation to idolatry as well as the appearance of idolatry. Since Israel's calling is to be the manifest image of YHWH for the sake of the nations, it is paramount that Israel neither intentionally nor unintentionally give witness or credit to any other elohim. The very existence of Israel in the land is to be a testimony of the power and glory of YHWH to the world. No other elohim can prevail against the sovereign Elohim of Israel.

A second reason for the lone, centralized altar is that it is a means of unity for the children of Israel. Israel is not simply a nation of individuals that all happen to independently worship the same deity. Israel has been called to be the very embodiment of the one true Elohim of the universe. Israel is called not so much to be a people but a person. Israel is to be the many-membered body of Messiah, the embodiment of the Spirit of Elohim. While Israel as a nation is made up of many gifted individuals, their calling is to be the ONE. This purpose would be accomplished through the ONE Torah, ONE altar, ONE *Cohen Gadol*,⁹ and ONE Temple. The apostle Shaul clearly understood this calling when he wrote:

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of YHWH, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ²with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; ³endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of

peace. ⁴There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Adonai, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one Elohim and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Messiah. ¹³For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many.

1 Corinthians 12:18 But now hath Elohim set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him.

1 Corinthians 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. ²⁶And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. ²⁷Now ye are the body of Messiah, and members in particular.

Let me see if I can bring even further clarity to this particular point. Yeshua taught us that Elohim is Spirit.

John 4:24 Elohim is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

The Hebrew word or title *mashiach* (Mem, Shin, Yud, Chet) means “anointed one.” This title is in reference to those on whom the oil of anointing had been poured. This ritual of pouring anointing oil upon a person was in recognition of the reality of the Spirit of the Holy One being upon them in some manner or fashion for a particular purpose or calling. The kings, the prophets, and the priests of Israel were all considered to be *meshichim*¹⁰ in Israel. It is important to realize that this word or title was not unique to Yeshua. We will talk more about this in a moment, but for now let us clearly understand that the oil of anointing was poured upon those who were understood to be a repository of the Spirit of the Holy One. We have already witnessed how YHWH poured out spiritual giftings upon workmen, leaders, and others to fulfill His calling and purposes.

Exodus 28:3 And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto Me in the priest's office.

Exodus 35:21 And they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing, and they brought YHWH'S offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation, and for all His service, and for the holy garments.

Exodus 35:30 And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, YHWH hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; ³¹and He hath filled him with the Spirit of Elohim, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship.

Numbers 11:25 And YHWH came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease. ²⁶But there remained two of the men in the camp, the name of the one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad: and the Spirit rested upon them; and they were of them that were written, but went not out unto the tabernacle: and they prophesied in the camp.

Numbers 11:29 And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would Elohim that all YHWH'S people were prophets, and that YHWH would put His Spirit upon them!

Numbers 27:18 And YHWH said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay thine hand upon him.

Deuteronomy 34:9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as YHWH commanded Moses.

Here we see that there were many *meshichim* in Israel. The difference between all of these *meshichim* and Yeshua the *Mashiach* is made clear through the comparison of a few specific texts.

1 Corinthians 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵And there are differences of administrations, but the same Adonai. ⁶And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same Elohim which worketh all in all. ⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Adonai, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one Elohim and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. ⁷But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Messiah. ⁸Wherefore He saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Messiah: ¹³till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of Elohim, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Messiah.

In all of the above mentioned texts, including those from the Torah, we note that the Spirit of Elohim was manifested in various and diverse gifts and abilities; thus skill or wisdom to perform a specific function in the body was imparted to a specific individual. No one individual manifested every gift. But concerning Yeshua the *Mashiach* we are told:

John 3:34 For he whom Elohim hath sent speaketh the words of Elohim: for Elohim giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the nature of Elohim bodily.

Here we see that the difference between the many *meshichim* and the *Mashiach* is the degree of the Spirit of Elohim that is embodied in them. In Yeshua the Spirit of Elohim was poured out without measure. From this let us draw two conclusions. First, let us understand that the term *mashiach* means “a repository for the Spirit of Elohim.” Second, let us understand that as all Israel comes together, each functioning in their spiritual gifting, they are the many-membered body of *Mashiach*. To draw out the connection now between the importance of the ONE altar and the ONE Temple in the land of Israel, we must now remember the words of the *Mashiach* who declared to the Pharisee:

John 2:19 Yeshua answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

The evangelist, wanting to be sure that we understood what the Pharisees, scribes, and priests did not, added:

John 2:21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

Here we learn that the body of *Mashiach* is the Temple or dwelling place of YHWH in Israel. If we as the children of Israel are the body of *Mashiach*, then we are likewise the living Temple. As there cannot be more than one body of *Mashiach* in Israel, there cannot be more than one Temple in Israel. This is the motivation for the apostle Shaul’s writings to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of Elohim, and that the Spirit of Elohim dwelleth in you? ¹⁷If any man defile the temple of Elohim, him shall Elohim destroy; for the temple of Elohim is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of *Mashiach*? shall I then take the members of *Mashiach*, and make them the members of an harlot? Elohim forbid. ¹⁶What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith He, shall be one flesh. ¹⁷But he that is joined unto Adonai is one spirit. ¹⁸Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. ¹⁹What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of Elohim, and ye are not your own? ²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify Elohim in your body, and in your spirit, which are Elohim's.

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵And what concord hath *Mashiach* with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And what agreement hath the temple of Elohim with idols? for ye are the temple of the living Elohim; as Elohim hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith YHWH, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith YHWH Almighty.

The ONE altar and ONE Temple in Israel are a shadow picture of the ONE living altar and the ONE living Temple, the body of *Mashiach*, the repository of the Spirit of the Holy One of Israel.

As the body of *Mashiach*, we are not to defile the Temple (which is us) through idols, pagan practices, immoral behavior, or eating abominable things.

Deuteronomy 12:30 Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou enquire not after their elohim, saying, How did these nations serve their elohim? even so will I do likewise. ³¹Thou shalt not do so unto YHWH thy Elohim: for every abomination to YHWH, which He hateth, have they done unto their elohim; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their elohim. ³²What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Deuteronomy 14:1 Ye are the children of YHWH your Elohim: ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead. ²For thou art an holy people unto YHWH thy Elohim, and YHWH hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto Himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth. ³Thou shalt not eat any abominable thing.

So it is that Moses commands the children of Israel not only to remove the idols and idol-worshipping inhabitants from the land of Israel, but also to establish themselves in the land as the ONE living Temple to the ONE living Elohim of Israel. By faithfully keeping the Torah the children of Israel are built up into the body of Messiah, a fit habitation for YHWH in the world.

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of Elohim; ²⁰and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Yeshua Messiah himself being the chief corner stone; ²¹in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in Adonai; ²²in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of Elohim through the Spirit.

SHAVUA TOV !

¹ Numbers 22:1-24:25

² See Torah studies Balak and Pinchas

³ The phrase “YHWH thy Elohim” appears 196 times in the book of Devarim.

⁴ The phrase “YHWH your Elohim” appears 46 times in the book of Devarim.

⁵ The phrase “YHWH our Elohim” appears 22 times in the book of Devarim.

⁶ John 1:14

⁷ *Takanot* are “enactments.” It is the Hebrew word describing the laws enacted by the Pharisees in addition to the written Torah.

⁸ *Ma'asim* are literally “works” or “deeds.” It is a Pharisaic term referring to the precedents of the Rabbis that provide a source for Pharisaic rulings.

⁹ High Priest

¹⁰ *Meshichim*, or “anointed ones,” is the plural of *mashiach*.