



A Torah Study Guide  
for the Young  
& Young at Heart

by  
Ya'acov Natan Lawrence  
& his kids

PARASHAT  
SHOFTIM  
פרשת שופטים

Deuteronomy  
16:18-21:9

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

### Great Discoveries In This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 16:18 The Establishment of a Just Legal System
- 17:1 Blemished Sacrifices Are an Abomination
- 17:2 Idol Worshipers Are to Be Put to Death
- 17:8 Listen to and Obey the Decisions of the Judges of Israel
- 17:14 The Future King in Israel
- 18:1 Gifts Given to the Priests to Help Support Their Ministry to the People
- 18:9 Do Not Learn the Ways of the Heathen
- 18:15 A Prophet Like Moses (the Messiah) to Arise out of Israel in the Future
- 19:1 Cities of Refuge for Those Who Accidentally Kill Someone
- 19:14 Do Not Move Property Boundaries
- 19:15 Witnesses
- 20:1 Waging War
- 20:11 Peace With the Enemy
- 20:19 Preservation of Fruit Trees During Wars
- 21:1 Dealing With an Unsolved Murder and Atonement Made for Shed Blood

### Exploring This Week's Parashah:

#### 1 A Prophet Like Moses to Come (Deuteronomy 18:15)

- (a) Study Deuteronomy 18:15-19. What do these verses say about this future prophet?
- (b) From your memory, make a list of the outstanding accomplishments of Moses? What kind of special relationship did YHVH have with him? How did YHVH communicate with Moses? What kind of leader of the people was he? What was his relationship

to the Torah?

-  (c) Can you think of anyone who came along later who might have been like a second Moses who led YHVH's people out of sin, pointed them toward the Torah-Word of Elohim and who had a very special relationship with Elohim?

In a sense, all the biblical prophets fit this description, but just as Moses was unique as a prophet (he stood out from all the other prophets), so this Second Moses to come would stand out above anyone else.

-  (d) Out of what nation was that prophet suppose to come? (See Deuteronomy 18:15.) Could he have come from India, Arabia, or China? Could he have been an Arab like Mohammed, or a Nepalese like Buddha, or an Indian like Krishna—all of whom were leaders or founders of other world religions?

-  (e) At Mount Sinai, how did YHVH communicate with the Israelites when he gave them the Torah? Did they want him to communicate with them like that again? (Read Deuteronomy 18:16.) This time, YHVH promised to speak to them in a different way. How was that? (Note verse 18.)

Instead of a thundering voice from heaven, the Second Moses would be a human-born prophet who would come out of Israel.

-  (f) What did YHVH promise he would do with that prophet? What would be that prophet's mission and how were the people of Israel to respond to that prophet? (See verse 18.)
-  (g) What would be the fate or end result of all those who would refuse to listen to and follow that prophet? (Read verse 19.)

At the same time, we are warned that many false prophets would come up as well, all claiming to be that Second Moses. (Read verses 20-22.)

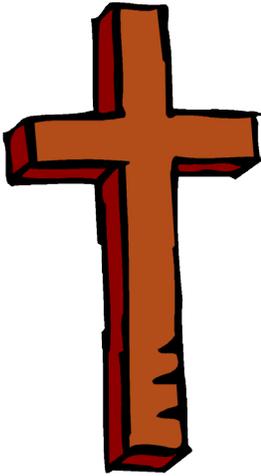
-  (h) What did Yeshua say about false prophets? (Look at Matthew 24:11.) Have there been false prophets who have started other religions and led many people astray claiming to be like Yeshua, but who are really fakes and counterfeits?



## 2 Prophecies Pointing to Yeshua in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)

Let's now look at some of the prophecies found in the Hebrew Scriptures that clearly point to Yeshua and were fulfilled by him. All of these prophecies were written down by YHVH's prophets hundreds of years before the birth of Yeshua the Messiah. No other Israelite prophet has ever come along that fulfilled all of these prophecies except Yeshua. The record of history shows us that no one before or after Yeshua has even come close to fulfilling them! Only Yeshua of Nazareth did.

- Genesis 3:15 speaks of one who would be born of a woman who would defeat the serpent who led man into sin and rebellion against YHVH. Galatians 4:4 and Matthew 1:20 shows the fulfillment of this prophecy.
- Isaiah 7:11 and 14-16 speaks of a special child whose origins would be heavenly, yet who would be born of a woman, yet who would have no human father. This would be a miraculous sign and though born of a woman, his name would be Immanuel, meaning "El (God) with us." This prophecy was not fulfilled by anyone except Yeshua as shown in Matthew 1:18, 24, 25 and Luke 1:26-35.
- Psalms 2:2-3 speaks about the kings of the earth coming against the Messiah/the



Anointed One. No king of Israel had all the earthly kings coming against them, so they weren't the ones who fulfilled this prophecy. Then in verse 7, YHVH speaks about his Son who he has begotten (or brought forth) who will rule the heathen of the earth with a rod of iron (verses 8-9). Again, no king of Israel—even the mighty King David—fulfilled this prophecy. Yeshua fulfilled part of this prophecy at his first coming (Matthew 3:17; John 3:16) and will fulfil the rest of it at his second coming (Revelation 17:14; 19:15).

- In Genesis 22:18, YHVH promised Abraham that through one of his descendants all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Yeshua descended from Abraham (Matthew 1:1), and the Apostle Paul reveals in Galatians 3:16 that Yeshua was the promised future Seed or Son YHVH had promised to Abraham. Indeed, no other son of Abraham has blessed the people of the earth more than Yeshua!
- In the little book of Micah, there is a prophecy about one who would be born in the tiny town of Bethlehem who would be from the tribe of Judah, and who would come from YHVH and would rule Israel, and is One who would come from eternity (or heaven, see Micah 5:2). Only Yeshua fulfilled this prophecy (Matthew 2:1; John 7:42; Colossians 1:17; John 1:1,2).
- Zechariah 9:9 predicted that a prophet-king would arise who would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey or colt, then later on a stallion or war horse. This speaks of the two comings of Yeshua. He fulfilled the first part of this prophecy at his first coming in Luke 19:35-37 and will fulfil the second part of it at his second coming (Revelation 19:11).
- In Psalm 16:10, we read that a "Holy One" would come who would die, but that YHVH would not leave his body in the grave for more than three days—it would not see corruption or start to decay before it came back to life again (or was resurrected from the grave). Yeshua fulfilled this prophecy in Acts 2:31; 13:33; Luke 24:46; Mark 16:6 and Matthew 28:6.
- Isaiah 52 and 53 contains many prophecies that Yeshua fulfilled by his death, burial and resurrection. Isaiah 53:1 speaks of one who IS the arm of YHVH (or who was to be a literal extension of YHVH!) who would die for the sins of the nation of Israel (53:4-5); who would be despised and rejected by men (53:3); whose face would be marred (torn to pieces) beyond recognition, wounded and bruised (52:14 and 53:5); whose blood would be spilled for many nations (52:15); his body would be laid in the grave of a rich man (53:9); and he would resurrect after having become an offering for men's sins (53:10-11). Who else in all of biblical history OR in the history of the whole world ever fulfilled all these prophecies? Only Yeshua did!



These are just a few of the many biblical prophecies that ONLY Yeshua the Messiah and no one else fulfilled. You see, Deuteronomy 18:15-19 was but one of many such prophecies in the Bible concerning the future Messiah, or Anointed One, who would come to be Israel's Savior and Redeemer.

### 3 Who Was the God (Elohim) of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament)?

Who was the God of the Old Testament? We know that his Hebrew name was YHVH (or Yehovah or Yehowah) Elohim and it is found written in most English Bibles as "the LORD God." But WHO was he? Was he the Father part of the "Godhead" or was he part of what

would later become the Son part of the "Godhead"? Many, if not most Christians believe that the "God" of the "Old Testament" was the Father, while the "God" of the New Testament is Yeshua the Son. Is this correct? Let's explore this a little and examine some biblical evidence to see which part or aspect of the "Godhead" revealed himself to the people of Israel.

 (i) Explore 1 Corinthians 10:4 and 9 to find out WHO led the Israelites through the wilderness for forty years, and WHO did the Israelites complain and sin against?

 (j) Explore Acts 7:37-38. There it speaks of an "Angel" who spoke to the Israelites from Mount Sinai when YHVH gave them the Ten Commandments and Torah. The word angel simply means "messenger" and can refer to your typical angel, or it can refer to ANY divine messenger sent from heaven to earth—not just an angel. Was Yeshua the Messenger of YHVH sent from heaven? (Discover the answer in John 3:13, 16, 31; 4:34; 5:30; 6:38.)



 (k) In several places in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), Yeshua when speaking to his disciples talks as if he were the very one HIMSELF who spoke to the Israelites. Read John 14:15 and compare it to Deuteronomy 11:1 and Exodus 20:6. Also compare John 8:58 and Exodus 4:14. From these verses, list some examples of where Yeshua refers to himself as being the "God" to the Israelites.

 (l) WHO was the Word that Elohim sent to this world? (Read John 1:1-2.) Did the Israelites literally hear the Word of Elohim from the mouth of YHVH Elohim at Mount Sinai? (See Deuteronomy 18:16; Exodus 20:19.)

 (m) In the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), especially in the Torah (the books of Genesis to Deuteronomy), there are numerous references to the "Angel" or Messenger of YHVH or Elohim coming and appearing to and speaking with humans (for example, see Genesis 18:1; 22:11; 32:22-32; Exodus 3:2, 13-14; 14:19; 23:20). What did Jacob call this Heavenly Messenger in Genesis 32:30? In Hosea 12:3-5 who was this "Angel"? Now go to Genesis 48:16 where the dying Jacob speaks about the Angel or Messenger of YHVH who redeemed him from all evil in Genesis 31:11-13 and from those who were trying to kill him. What was Jacob trying to tell his grandsons here? He was telling them about a divine Messenger from heaven who would save them from their enemies. We know from other scriptures that we have looked at that this Messenger later became Yeshua. Did Yeshua come to redeem or protect us from our enemies that would try to kill us? (See Titus 2:13-14 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, especially note verses 54-57.)

Therefore, in light of all of these Scriptures, who really was the "God" of the "Old Testament" or Hebrew Scriptures?

