



PARASHAT
VAYELEKH
פרשת וילך

Deuteronomy 31:1-30

by
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& his kids

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):

- 31:1 Moses at 120 Years Old Prepares to Exit the Stage
- 31:7 The Limelight Shifts to Joshua
- 31:9 The Torah Is Recorded in Writing and Given to the High Priest
- 31:9 Torah to Be Read Every Seven Years at Sukkot
- 31:14 Moses' Death Draws Near
- 31:19 The Torah Is a Witness Against the People

Exploring This Week's Parashah:

1 We're going to do something a little different this week. Since YHVH's fall holy (set-apart) days (appointed times or moedim) are nearly upon us, we are going to offer a brief discussion on each of these special biblical holidays. Though they do not directly relate to this week's Parashah, they specifically relate to the season of the year in which we find ourselves. Today we will discuss Yom Teruah or the Day of the Awakening Blast, Shouting or Shofar Blowing.

2 Exploring of the Day of the Awakening Blast or Yom Teruah

This is the fourth set-apart day of YHVH Elohim and hence the fourth step in his plan of salvation.

 (a) What were the first holy days? In what time of the year do they occur? (Explore Leviticus 23 for the answers.)

Yom Teruah (in Jewish circles it is referred to by the non-biblical name, "Rosh Hashana") occurs in the late summer or early fall season of the year. The three spring set-apart days (what are their names?) all relate to the work Yeshua accomplished on the earth at his first coming, while the fall set-apart days (of which Yom Teruah is the first) picture the work he will do on earth prior to and after his second coming.

The time leading up to Yom Teruah pictures the beginning of great tribulation (a time of great trials and suffering for all humans) that is to come upon this earth just before the

return of Yeshua the Messiah. The tribulation will help to prepare the saints for their coming Messiah by forcing them to repent of their sins (Torahless ways) and causing their hearts to become totally focused on Yeshua. This will be a time when lukewarm believers (those who are not really serious about serving YHVH) will have to choose whether to follow and to obey Yeshua and his Torah with their whole hearts or not. It is a time for all believers to repent of sin and to get right with YHVH. It is a time to turn our focus away from the things of this world and on to the things of YHVH.

The sound of a blowing shofar is unlike any other sound. It touches people deeply in their hearts. It can awaken something deep inside of us and stir us to turn back to YHVH and to love him more. It is a special, heavenly sound. The sound of some shofars (for example, the Yemenite shofar) make us want to rejoice, praise YHVH and dance. Other shofars (such as the ram's horn shofar) have a sad sound that almost seem to pierce the heart of a sinner and make him want to repent. Whatever the type of shofar that we may hear, and whatever effect it has on our hearts, the sound of the shofar is a wake-up call. It is almost as if YHVH in heaven is calling to his children on earth to come closer to him.

And indeed, Yom Teruah is the day when the saints on earth will meet their Maker in heaven. On the actual Day of the Awakening Blast, if our understanding is correct, the resurrection of the righteous saints will occur, and they will receive their glorified spirit bodies at the sound of the last trumpet or shofar blast and will then meet Yeshua in the heavenlies, where they will prepare to return with him to this earth (1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Revelation 11:14-18 and 12:10; 19:1-9).

What an exciting day this will be for all those who know Yeshua and who have repented of their sins and placed their faith in him, and love him by keeping his Torah commands (John 14:15).

Every year, when we observe or celebrate Yom Teruah, we think of these things, and we prepare for the time when we will actually receive our glorified bodies and meet Yeshua in person!



3 Let's Explore Yom Teruah a Little More

Believe it or not, there are only two passages in the Bible that mention this important set-apart day or moed of YHVH. They are Leviticus 23:24-25 and Numbers 29:1.

-  (b) Please read these passages now. Let's learn all that we can about Yom Teruah from these two brief scriptures. What month of the biblical calendar is Yom Teruah in and on what day of the month is it? (Read Leviticus 23:24.)

All biblical months begin when the new moon appears. The Bible has a special name for this day, which is Rosh Chodesh meaning "the head of the month." The moon is new when a small sliver first appears after the moon cannot be seen at the end of its cycle. This marks the beginning of the month. Our English word "month" comes from the word "moon," although the months on our worldly (non-biblical) calendar do not begin when the new moon arrives.

Shuva L'YHVH

Return to YHVH



 (c) Look at Leviticus 23:4 again. What is the next piece of information that the Bible tells us about this day? What is a Sabbath? Most of you probably already know about the weekly seventh-day Sabbath. This is the day each week, which is called Saturday, when YHVH's people stop working and rest. If you have a job, you don't do your job on this day. If you're a student, you don't go to school on this day. You also don't do your normal chores around the house, such as mowing the grass, washing the clothes or going shopping. It is a day of complete rest when all work ceases. Well, Yom Teruah is also called a Sabbath, which means it is a day of rest—NO WORK! In verse 5, we read that you are not to do your regular work that you would normally do on the other work days of the week. Guess what? You get to sleep in on this day! Yeh!!



 (d) What is the next piece of information we can learn about Yom Teruah from Leviticus 23:24? (This little verse is packed with many clues about this day!) What is a "memorial/reminder of blowing of trumpets/shofars"? The literal Hebrew here means "reminder of a signaled holy gathering." In other words, ram's horns shofars are blown to signal the people to gather for a special or holy gathering or meeting on the first day of the seventh month when the new moon has been seen.



Yom Teruah is a time to awake spiritually.

 (e) Now let's read the other verse in the Bible that speaks about Yom Teruah. It is Numbers 29:1. This verse repeats the information in Leviticus 23:24, except that it adds an additional detail. It tells us the name of the day: "Yom Teruah," which in Hebrew means "the day of the awakening blast, shouting or shofar blast."

Here are some fast facts about Yom Teruah:

- It marks the beginning of the fall festival and harvest season.
- It occurs on the first day of the seventh month (the first month of the biblical calendar begins in the spring time just before Passover).
- This day is a Sabbath when no work is to be done.
- It is a day for YHVH's people to gather for a special meeting.
- It is a day to blow shofars.

But the big event that Yom Teruah helps to prepare the way for has not happened yet—the second coming of King Yeshua, the Messiah. We'll look at this and the Day of Atonement in next week's Torah Explorers.



HAPPY
YOM TERUAH!