

Parashat Bechukotai - בְּחֻקֹּתַי

"in my statutes"

Torah portion:

Leviticus 26:3 - 27:34

Haftarah portion:

Jeremiah 16:19 - 17:14

Brit Chadashah/New Testament portion:

Matt. 21:33-46

We often read surrounding N.T. scripture because it is such a blessing to do so.

*In 2015, 2017, and 2018, Bechukotai was read with Behar.

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**The Gospel stands by itself.**

And this scripture surrounds this week's Parashat:

**1 PETER 1:1** Peter (an) apostle of-Jesus Messiah **to-chosen resident-aliens** of-dispersion of-Pontus, of-Galatia, of-Cappadocia, of-Asia and of-Bithynia,

["**to-chosen resident-aliens of-dispersion**"; thus this speaks to **Jewish (the chosen) believers** (see next verse) in the Diaspora, as **Gentile Christians** would not be called "resident-aliens" there. On the other hand, note that in Ch2 vs 11 that two groups are addressed; "dwellers abroad AND resident aliens", wherein the former might be understood as **Gentile Christians**. Primarily, the book appears to be addressed to **Jewish Christians**, although of course much still applies to **Gentile Christian life in Messiah**, wherein both **Jew** and **Gentile** are "**one new man**" (compare Eph. ch2).

v2 **According-to knowledge-before of-God Father, in holiness of-spirit**, with-reference-to obedience and sprinkling of-blood of-Jesus Messiah; may **favor to-YOU and peace** be-multiplied.

v3 **Blessed the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Messiah**, namely-the-one **having-begotten us again** according-to his much mercy with-reference-to (a) living hope through resurrection of-Jesus Messiah out-of dead(s).

v4 With-reference-to (an) inheritance imperishable and undefiled and unfading, having-been-kept-and-still-being-kept in (the) heavens with-reference-to YOU

v5 **The (ones) being-protectively-guarded in power of-God through trust** with-reference-to (a) **salvation** prepared to-be-uncovered in (the) last season.

v6 In which YOU-are-exulting, (a) little-bit just-now if **it-is-essential having-been-grieved in Various trials**,

v7 In-order-that **the means-of-proving YOUR trust** much-more-price [than] gold being-perished, but through fire being-proved, it (your trust) might-be-found with-reference-to laudation and glory and honor (price) in **uncovering of-Jesus Messiah**;

[note trials are essential for the believer to prove their trust. These trials are **not** defined as **only** physical trials (physical pain)...]

Cont. **1 Peter 1:8** Whom not having-seen YOU-are-cherishing, with-reference-to whom just-now not seeing but trusting, YOU-are-exulting with-joy unspeakable and with-having-been-and-still-glorified.

**Jesus** taught that the first commandment is to love YHVH our God:

**Mark 12:29** But the **Jesus answered** him, That first-of-all of-the commandments, (is) you-be-hearing, Israel, **Jehovah our God Jehovah is one.** v30 And you-will-cherish Jehovah your God out-of your total heart and out-of your total soul and out-of your total intellect and out-of your total strength. This (is the) first commandment.

**Deuteronomy 6:4** Hear, O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah: v 5 and **thou shalt love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.**

Note that in Jesus' later instruction (Torah), he added "and out of your total intellect".

Cont. **1 Peter 1:9** **Obtaining-for-yourselves the finish of-the trust salvation of-souls.**

[This is through trust - which is the work of God -see John 6:29]

[I think **this following passage is very important** concerning the "hierarchy" of the Law and the Prophets in relation to the Good-news of Messiah (the Gospel).]

v10 Concerning of-which salvation prophets sought-out and searched-out, the (ones) having-prophesied concerning of-the favor with-reference-to YOU,

v11 Searching with-reference-to whom or what-sort (of) season was-being-made-evident the spirit of-Messiah in them testifying-beforehand the sufferings with-reference-to Messiah and the glories after these-things.

v12 To-whom it-was-uncovered that not to-themselves but to-YOU they-were-ministering the-things, which now were-told to-YOU through the (ones) having-brought YOU good-news in Holy Spirit having-been-dispatched from heaven, with-reference-to which (things) angels are-desiring to-stoop-alongside.

[**The Gospel - the "good-news" - stands by itself.** Yes, the Law and the Prophets help explain (*the law prophesied about Jesus* (Matt.11:13), and we **should** study them. BUT they are not *necessary* for Salvation. It seems that often Messianics say that the Gospel cannot stand without the law and the prophets. To me, this is akin to taking a tree and placing it upside down, or the pot dictating to The Potter...it's the old "Yea hath God said?" line of thinking outside of Logic (logic is from logos/Word). Noting that on the road to Emmaus the two disciples (first Christians, but not yet called Christians) were Jewish and likely lifelong "Torah Observant"; Jesus was not telling them that they needed "a Hebrew mindset" or Torah, as they already had it. He was opening up these scriptures to them for the first time in their lives of studying them. I think this points to the higher power of the Living Word and/or the Holy Spirit YHVH.]

Cont. **1 Peter 1:13** **On-this-account having-girded-up the loins of YOUR intellects**, being-sober, YOU-hope perfectly on **the favor** being-brought to-YOU **in uncovering of Jesus Messiah**.

\*[Trust is the work of God (Jn.6:29). Trust comes through hearing, and hearing through the saying of Messiah (God, Jn.10:30; Rom.10:17). Therefore we study to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Tim.2:15)...thus as here " **having-girded-up the loins of YOUR intellects**".]

v14 As children of-obedience not configuring-yourself-to-the desires formerly in YOUR ignorance,

[IF 1 Peter is written to Hebrew Christians: their former desire was to do *the works of the law of Sinai*. Of course this would also speak to Gentile Christians, whose former desires were different, but still not to be continued now.]

v15 BUT according-to the holy-(one) having-called YOU also YOU yourselves **become holy in all conduct**,

v16 For-the-reason-that it-has-been-written-and-is-still-written: **YOU-shall-be holy because I (am) holy**.

[Again, this was first written to the Jew. BUT: "To the Jew first - - AND to the Greek".]

v17 And if YOU-are-calling-on (a) Father the-one judging without-respect-to-persons according-to the work-of-each, YOU-turnabout in fear the time of **YOUR dwelling-abroad**,

[again, physically -the Jewish believer, and spiritually - Jew and Gentile believers are currently "dwelling abroad" from YHVH in their physical bodies.]

v18 Knowing-absolutely that YOU-were not **redeemed with**-perishable-things, silver-coin or gold-objects, out-of YOUR aimless conduct given-over-from-(your)-father,

v19 BUT **with-precious blood as of-a-lamb-sacrifice unblemished and without-spot, Messiah**,

v20 On-the-one-hand having-come-to-be-known-before-and-still-known before casting-down of (the) world, on-the-other-hand **having-been-manifested on last of-the times because-of YOU**

**v21 The (ones) through him trusting with-reference-to God the (one) having-raised him out-of dead(s) and having-given glory to-him, so-that YOUR trust and hope be with-reference-to God.**

v22 Having-purified-and-still-purifying YOUR souls in **the obedience of-the truth with-reference-to brotherly-love without-hypocrisy**, YOU-cherish one-another out-of (the) heart earnestly,

**John 14:6 "The Jesus is-saying to-him, I myself-am the way and the truth and the life. No-one is-coming to the Father unless through me."**

v23 **Having-been-begotten-again-and-still-begotten** not out-of (a) perishable thing-sown BUT imperishable, **through (the) living and remaining word of-God**.

v24 For-the-reason-that all flesh as grass, and all its glory as flower of-grass; the grass was-dried-up, and the flower fell-away;

Cont. 1 Peter 1:25 But the saying of Jehovah is-remaining into the age. But this is the saying namely-the good-news-having-been-brought with-reference-to YOU.

[This shows that even IF while some incorrectly think we can't trust the extant Hebrew or Greek texts, we know we can trust **the saying of YHVH**, which saying endures forever. **In this we see that the good-news (the Gospel) supersedes the Mosaic law and the prophets.**]

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**Romans 3:29** "Or (is) the God of-Jews only? NOT also of-nations? Yea also of-nations"

Praise Yah!

And:

This week's portion includes Leviticus 27:1-7, which has been called "God's Silver Table".

Note that infants under one month old are not assigned a valued.

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