

Torah: D/varim (Deuteronomy) 3:23 – 7:11

Haftarah: Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) 40:1–26

B'rit Hadashah: Mark 12:28-34

	yr. 1 3:23-5:18	yr. 2 5:1-6:25	yr. 3 5:1-7:11
1	3:23 – 25	5:1 – 18	5:1 – 18
2	3:26 – 4:4	5:19 – 24	5:19 – 24
3	4:5 – 14	5:25 – 30	5:25 – 6:3
4	4:15 – 20	6:1 – 3	6:4 – 9
5	4:21 – 40	6:4 – 9	6:10 – 19
6	4:41 – 49	6:10 – 19	6:20 – 25
7	5:1 – 18	6:20 – 25	7:1 – 11

and I entreated for grace with ADONAI
at that time saying...

*va'et-khanan el ADONÁI
ba'et hahiv lemor*

וַאֲתַחֲנַן אֶל־יְהוָה
בְּעֵת הַהוּא לֵאמֹר:

Moshe continues reviewing the journey of the children of Israel to the Promised Land, emphasizing the giving of the Torah at Horev also know as Mount Sinai. He expresses the importance of the commandments, especially the rules against idolatry and graven images. All of The Ten Words (Commandments) are reiterated. The portion includes the first paragraph of The Sh'ma - the most important Torah commandment.

The haftarah is the first of the Consolations of Isaiah, read after the fast of Tisha B'Av (9th of Av). Isaiah speaks of comfort, emphasizing the power of HaShem and the assurance that all that has been destroyed will most certainly be rebuilt.

Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

- De. 3:23-25** Moshe says that he humbly pleaded with HaShem, based on his incredible attributes, to cross over (*avar* – עָבַר) the Jordan River and experience the good (*tov* – טוֹב) land.
- De. 3:26-4:4** HaShem's response to Moshe's request is, "enough!" (*rav-lakh* – רַב־לָךְ – lit. *much to you*), ironically echoing those same words to Israel in De. 1:6 and 2:3. Moshe encouraged the people to "go up" and take possession of the land, and here HaShem commands Moshe to "go up" to see the land he cannot enter, and to appoint Y'hoshua to lead the people into the land. Following the commandments of HaShem, clinging (*davaq* – דָּבַק) to him, is necessary not only to successfully possess the land, but also to live.
- De. 4:5-14** The commandments are uniquely just. Observing them brings closeness with HaShem that will bring admiration from the nations who will see Israel as a wise and discerning people. What was learned and experienced must be taught to future generations, perpetuating the benefits of faith and observance.
- De. 4:15-20** The commandments are contrasted with idolatry: worshipping and serving created things.
- De. 4:21-40** Artificial gods can never take the place of HaShem. Exile from the land will be the result of disobedience. Distress will result in return to HaShem through remembrance of HaShem's presence at the Mt. Sinai experience and in the Exodus from Egypt. There is no God but HaShem.
- De. 4:41-49** Three cities of refuge are established. "This is the Torah..." begins Moshe's second discourse describing when and where it was given
- De. 5:1-18** HaShem is the author of the laws. The Decalogue, first presented in Sh'mot/Exodus 20, is stated to Israel as individuals and as a nation (in the singular but in public). In the first two, HaShem speaks in the first person. In the remaining, HaShem is spoken of in the third person, resolving the face-to-face vs. through-an-intermediary contradiction.

Thought Focus

You don't always get what you ask for: Why does Moshe plead with HaShem to let him cross over into the Land? Perhaps it is because he knows that he is compassionate and gracious (Ex. 33:19). Yet he is sternly refused. Moshe's response is to teach the people, warning them of the obstacles that they may encounter entering and living in the Promised Land.

The Obstacle is The Way: Isaiah 40:3 says to "clear a road" and "level a highway" for Adonai. What does that look like, spiritually speaking? Is this what Moshe is doing teaching the people? What if the obstacles are not *on the way*, but *are the way*? If so, does that change your perception of obstacles?

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (3:23) Does God give you everything you ask? Do you have the freedom to express your desires to Him? Does He give freely? (Mat 7:7-11, Luk 11:13, Joh 1:16, Rom 8:32, Psa 1:1-3, Eph 1:7-14)
2. (4:5) Did Moshe and Yeshua teach the same things? Are you sure about what you have learned? Are you teaching them to others? (Eze 2:1-7, Mat 5:17-19, Heb 3:2-6, Heb 4:15, Mat 28:19-20, Tit 2:1-10)
3. (4:41) How are you at decision-making, and following through by taking action? (Isa 50:5-9, Luk 9:51, 12:50, Joh 17:4, acts 4:18-20)
4. (5:1) Learning and doing are two different things. Are you taking care to "do" what you learn? (Joh 14:14-15, Rom 2:13, Jam 1:22-26)
5. (5:19) Do you live your life based on every word spoken by God? (Mat 4:4, Mat 5:17-19, Rom 17:12, Isa 40:8, Deu 12:32, Pro 30:5-6, 1Ti 1:8, Jer 31:33, 2Co 3:2, 1Co 3:10-15, Rev 22:18-19)
6. (6:4) Has Adonai revealed Himself to you? Is He your God? Do you call on His Name? (Mat 11:27, Phil 2:10-11, Zep 3:9, Zec 13:2, 14:9, Joh 1:14, Joh 14:8-10, Rom 10:12-13)
7. (7:2) Are there things in your life that still need to be "driven out?" (Exo 33:21, Deu 20:16-17, Jos 11:11-15, Rom 6:1-2, 12-13, Col 3:8-10, Eph 4:17-24, 5:3)