

Torah: D'varim (Deuteronomy) 11:26 – 16:17
Haftarah: Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) 66:1-24
B'rit Hadashah: Yochanan (John) 6:35-51

	<i>yr. 1 11:26-12:28</i>	yr. 2 12:29-14:29	yr. 3 15:1-16:17
1	11:26 – 31	12:29 – 13:1	15:1 – 6
2	11:32 – 12:5	13:2 – 6	15:7 – 11
3	12:6 – 10	13:7 – 12	15:12 – 18
4	12:11 – 16	13:13 – 19	15:19 – 23
5	12:17 – 19	14:1 – 8	16:1 – 8
6	12:20 – 25	14:9 – 21	16:9 – 12
7	12:26 – 28	14:22 – 29	16:13 – 16

see, I set before you the day blessing and curse	<i>re'eh anokhi noten lifneykhem ha'yom berakha uk'lalah</i>	ראה אנכי נתן לפניכם היום בְּרָכָה וּקְלָלָה:
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This portion speaks about the daily choice between blessing and curse, to turn towards HaShem or away from him. Where and how offerings must be brought. Identifying false prophets who lead people to worship other gods. Identifying what is food and what is not. The rules of Sh'mittah – remission of debts and freeing of indentured servants in the seventh year. It closes with mention of the three pilgrimage festivals: Pesakh, Shavu'ot and Sukkot.

The haftarah is the third Consolation of Isaiah. This passage reassures the children of Israel that they will be established through righteousness, be safe from oppression, and live without fear.

Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

1. **De. 11:26-31** All that has been said in the preceding chapters now culminates in a choice between two possible futures: one of blessing (material well-being) as a result of covenant obedience to HaShem, or, one accursed (misfortune), as illustrated in chapter 28. A dramatic, public ceremony on two opposing mountains will reaffirm commitment to the covenant upon entering the land at the same place Avram passed (Ge. 12:6).
2. **De. 11:32-12:5** Canaanite worship places and devices were not to be repurposed. HaShem will specify the place (*ha'maqom* – הַמָּקוֹם) where his name will dwell, a place to be sought (*darash* – דָּרַשׁ) and a place to go (*bo* – בֹּא), where national corporate worship will take place.
3. **De. 12:6-10** Animal sacrifices, taxes on agricultural products, voluntary offerings, and first-born offerings are to be brought to The Place, which is to be a center of joy (*samakh* – שָׂמַח). This centralized worship was to take place once the people had entered the land and rested from their enemies, which was accomplished under Joshua (Joshua 21:42) at Shiloh.
4. **De. 12:11-16** Another mention of “joy.” Eating meat usually meant special occasions with large groups. Prohibition on eating blood remained effective.
5. **De. 12:17-19** Not only is sacrifice limited to The Place, so also the eating of it. The emphasis is on celebration/joy in the greater community, with the Levites and in the presence of HaShem.
6. **De. 12:20-25** Expansion of territory possessed (De. 7:22) is expected, resulting in distance from center. What is “too far” is not defined in the text. Not eating blood reiterated (Acts 15:20, 28).
7. **De. 12:26-28** Reiteration of sacrificial slaughter rules and how they differ from secular slaughter. “Every man what is right in his own sight” is contrasted with the ways of HaShem in the land.

Thought Focus

The Place - HaMaqom: Only “his name” dwells here (De. 12:5). Other passages paraphrase this concept by saying that the place is “called by” his name (e.g. 1Ki. 8:29, 43, 9:3). The site is not named in Torah. It is to be sought after, and is a place to go. All of this engages relationship – with HaShem and with each other. Perhaps man’s ability to choose is patterned after that of HaShem.

Book of Joy: The Hebrew word for “joy” (*simkha* – שמחה) does not appear in Genesis. In Exodus 4:14 we see its first and only use in Exodus. It is only used once in Leviticus 23:40 regarding the seven days of Sukkot. But it is used TEN TIMES in Deuteronomy (12:7, 12, 18; 14:26; 16:11; 24:5; 26:11; 27:7, 33:18), six times in this weeks’ portion!

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (11:26) There are only two choices - “our” way, or God’s way. Which do you choose? (Mat 7:13-14, Jos 24:15, 2Pe 3:9, Rut 1:15-18)
2. (12:11) Where does God’s name dwell today? Are you drawn to come to this “place?” (Deu 16:16, Joh 1:14, Col 1:19, Col 2:8-10, Heb 1:1-3, Joh 12:32)
3. (12:30) What attracts and tempts you? How do you avoid being “snared?” (Rom 7:8-11, 24-25, Heb 12:2, Psa 17:13-15, Isa 45:22-25)
4. (14:1) Cutting (dividing) the “body” has a corporate application. What role do you play in “uniting” the body of Messiah? (1Co 3:4-7, Luk 11:3, Mar 9:40, Heb 10:25, Gal 3:26-29, Isa 55:10-11)
5. (14:22) Tithing was to be on a cash-basis; a definite, structured, planned, consistent process. How do you handle your giving, and why? (2Ch 31:5, Mal 3:10, 1Co 16:2, 2Co 9:6-11, Neh 10:34-39, Deu 14:29)
6. (15:1) God offers release for everyone who will receive it. Have you received it? Are you proclaiming this? (Isa 61:1-3 / Luk 4:16-19, 2Pe 3:9, Isa 40:2-10, Rom 10:14-15, Joh 3:16)
7. (16:1) How does keeping God’s annual calendar help us understand the times in which we live? (Joh 4:35, Mar 4:26-29, Mat 9:37-38, Mat 13:24-30, Hos 6:11, Rev 14:19)