

**Torah:** D'varim (Deuteronomy) 29:9(10)-31:30  
**Haftarah:** Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 61:10-63:9  
**B'rit Hadashah:** Matityahu (Matthew) 21:9-17  
 Yokhanon (John) 12:41-50

	yr. 1 29:9-30:14	yr. 2 30:1-31:6	yr. 3 31:7-30
1	29:9 – 11	30:1 – 3	31:7 – 9
2	29:12 – 14	30:4 – 6	31:10 – 13
3	29:15 – 28	30:7 – 10	31:14 – 19
4	30:1 – 3	30:11 – 14	31:20 – 22
5	30:4 – 6	30:15 – 20	31:22 – 24
6	30:7 – 10	31:1 – 3	31:25 – 27
7	30:11 – 14	31:4 – 6	31:28 – 30

You all are standing this day all of you / before ADONAI your God / your leaders, your tribes, your elders, your officers / all the men of Israel	<i>atem nitzaviym hayom kul'khem lifney ADONAI Eloheykhem rasheykhem shivteykhem zikneykhem ve'shotreykhem kol ish Yisra'el</i>	אַתֶּם נִצְּבִים הַיּוֹם כָּלְכֶם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם רִאשֵׁיכֶם שְׁבִטֵיכֶם זִקְנֵיכֶם וְשׁוֹטְרֵיכֶם כָּל אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל:
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Our parashah focuses on entering into the covenant with Adonai. This is timely as we enter the Fall Holy Days. In the next few weeks we will be before the Lord affirming, not only that we believe in Him, but that He alone is our God and King - that we belong to Him. This is the covenant Adonai established with Israel and with the myriads of others throughout time - who would choose life. L'khaim! (לחיים) To Life!

The haftarah, the seventh Consolation of Isaiah, is full of themes of victory and rebuilding.

### Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

- De. 29:9-11** A “formal” standing; being fully presenting; presenting all of yourselves. Every individual community member takes part to affirm the covenant. See also De. 31:10-13, 12:12, 18, 16:11, 14 for similar emphasis on full participation. A broad range of foreigners are included. The covenant is guarded by curse (*alah* – אָלָה).
- De. 29:12-14** The purpose of this ceremony is the establishment of a people of HaShem as promised to the forefathers (Ge. 17:7-8, Ex. 6:7, Le. 26:12). The mutual commitment made here is binding and available to future generations (Ro. 11:29).
- De. 29:15-28** There is no substance to foreign gods. The curse comes from turning away from HaShem described in metaphors of poison (*rosh* – רָאֵשׁ) and wormwood (*la'anah* – לְעֵנָה).
- De. 30:1-3** Recall obedience that leads to success, not only disobedience/disaster. The blessings and the curse are set before you (De. 11:26, 30:15, 19). Commanding a feeling (“with all your heart”) is a Torah principle that shows emotional attachment is expressed in action. HaShem himself accompanies and suffers with Israel in exile, and returns with them when he brings them back.
- De. 30:4-6** HaShem is the gatherer. Circumcision of the heart is something both HaShem (De. 30:6) and we (De. 10:16) do.
- De. 30:7-10** A reiteration of the promises made in De. 28:11, and reversal of the punishment in 28:63.

7. **De. 30:11-14** HaShem's Torah is not unintelligible, esoteric, inaccessible or unknowable. Observing it will show wisdom to the world (De. 4:6).

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**Thought Focus**

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**Torah of the heart (De. 30:14):** The Hebrew concept of “by mouth” is parallel to the English concept of “by heart” which is understood as “from memory.” The Torah world was predominantly an oral culture. The Sh'ma literally says “recite them to your children and you shall talk about them...” (De. 6:7). So then to know Torah “by heart” in the Hebraic sense is to internalize it in such a way as to observe it (Josh.1:8). The “new” covenant of Jeremiah 31:30 is actually a “renewed” covenant when the revelation of Torah would be written on the heart and lived by the people of HaShem.

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**Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application**

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1. (29:9) Do stand alone, or are you a member of His people? With whom do you join your voice? (Exo 19:8, Exo 24:3, Jos 24:1, Eze 10:7, Neh 9:1, Mat 23:39, Isa 62:1,6, Eze 3:17-21)
2. (29:12) How do you view others that are culturally different? Are you different? (Isa 56:6-7, Rev 5:9-10, Rev 14:6, 2Pe 3:9, Col 1:5-6, Joh 10:14-16)
3. (30:7) Do you bless Israel today? Why or why not? If you do, how do you do it? (Gen 12:3, Gal 3:7-8, Zec 2:8, Psa 122:6-7, Dan 9:16-19, 1Jo 3:14-16)
4. (30:8) Is there anything in your life for which you should repent? (Mat 3:2, 4:17, Isa 30:15, Act 3:19-20, Joe 2:12-14, Rom 2:4)
5. (30:15) Choices always have consequences. What choices are you facing today? What are the consequences? (Phil 2:12, Eze 33:18-19, Isa 66:3-4, Mat 16:25-26)