

**Torah:** D'varim (Deuteronomy) 11:26 – 16:17  
**Haftarah:** Y'eshayahu (Isaiah) 54:11-55:5  
**B'rit Hadashah:** Yochanan (John) 6:35-51

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

when HaShem your God has cut off the nations / whom you are about to go there to disposes them from before you / and you have dispossessed them and you live in their land...	<i>kiy-yak'riyt ADONAI Eloheykha et-ha'goyim ashér atah va'-shámah la'réshet 'otam mipanékha ve'yarash'tá otam ve'yashav'tá be'ar'tzam</i>	כִּי־יִכְרִית יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶת־הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה בֹא־שָׁמָּה לְרִשְׁתָּ אוֹתָם מִפְּנֵיךָ וַיִּרְשָׁתָּ אֹתָם וַיֵּשְׁבֶתָּ בְּאַרְצָם:
---	--	---

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 2 Aliyah Highlights

- De. 12:29-13:1** Transition between two principles 1) Do not worship HaShem in the same way as the other nations described in chapter 12, and 2) do not add or subtract from HaShem's commandments, described in chapter 13. Both principles relate to both chapters, no more, no less. Watch out for traps!
- De. 13:2-6** Three cases of instigation to worship other gods. **Case 1:** Public claim to one prophetic authority, supported by "signs."
- De. 13:7-12** **Case 2:** Secret claim by those close to / valued by you (hard to resist), to follow non-ancestral gods. Tendency is to cover it up, take no action against the instigator, listed in descending closeness.
- De. 13:13-19** **Case 3:** Everyone's doing it – a whole city has succumbed.
- De. 14:1-8** Laws of Holiness: Forbidden practices of 1) self-mutilation (Le. 19:27-28), and 2) eating unclean animals, both associated with pagan practices (Is. 65:3-4, 66:3, 17). Land animals addressed.
- De. 14:9-21** Water animals, winged animals and other restrictions. Aliens (*ger* - גֵר) were often in poor economic status, while non-resident foreigners (*nak'ri* - נִכְרִי) were present for trade/profit.
- De. 14:22-29** Traditional interpretation understands that the second of three tithes is described here, which is take from the 90% after the first tithe given to the Levites. It is to be used to celebrate pilgrimage festivals (Le. 27:32-33), except every 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year when it is given to the local poor and Levites. There are difficulties between different tithe laws in Torah, but it is clear that they include supporting both the service of worship and humanitarian need, providing a means of connecting laity to the sanctuary.

---

**Thought Focus**


---

**Worship of “other” gods:** Each of the three cases above refer to gods that Israel has not “known” (v. 3, 7, 14 – see Hos. 13:4). Each is characterized by straying from HaShem or his path (v. 6, 11, 14). Each has an effective punishment (v. 6, 12, 18) intended to remove evil, deter wrongdoing, and to protect the entire community’s relationship with HaShem.

**What is food?** Limitations on diet – man’s appetite - are fundamental to a proper way of life (Ge. 2:16-17, 3:6, 9:3, 12:23-25, Le. 11:43-45, Le. 20:24-26)

**Not boiling a kid in its mother’s milk:** (De. 14:21, Ex. 23:19, Ex. 34:26) Mother’s milk is the source of nourishment and life, similar to how the land produces life-sustaining crops. This may be a lost metaphor of a vivid and culturally relevant way of expressing the importance of honoring HaShem before partaking of a harvest, prioritizing the sacred order of giving back to HaShem before benefiting from his gifts.

---

**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)