

Torah: D'varim (Deuteronomy) 26:1 - 29:8(9)
Haftarah: Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 60:1 - 22
B'rit Hadashah: Matityahu (Matthew) 5:1-20

	yr. 1 26:1-27:10	yr. 2 26:12-28:6	yr. 3 27:11-29:8
1	26:1 - 3	26:12 - 15	27:11 - 28:3
2	26:4 - 8	26:16 - 19	28:4 - 6
3	26:9 - 11	27:1 - 3	28:7 - 11
4	26:12 - 15	27:4 - 8	28:12 - 14
5	26:16 - 19	27:9 - 10	28:15 - 69
6	27:1 - 4	27:11 - 28:3	29:1 - 5
7	27:5 - 10	28:4 - 6	29:6 - 29:8

When you have finished tithing all of the tithe of your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe / and you shall give to the Levite the stranger, the orphan, and to the widow / so that they may eat inside your gates and be satisfied

kiy t'khaléh la'aser et khol-ma'asar t'vu'at'kha ba'shanah hash'liy'shit sh'nat ha'ma'asér v'na'ta'táh la'Levi la'ger la'ya'tom v'la'al'mana v'akh'lu vish'a'rékha ve'savé'u

כִּי תִכְלֶה לְעֹשֶׂר אֶת-כָּל-מַעְשֵׂר תְּבוּאָתְךָ בַשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁלִישִׁת לְשָׁנַת הַמַּעְשֵׂר וְנָתַתָּה לְלוֹי לְגֵר לִיתוֹם וְלְאֵלְמָנָה וְאָכְלוּ בְשַׁעְרֶיךָ וְשָׂבְעוּ:

Blessings or curses, the choice is ours. Yet, while the choice seems to be a "no brainer" many have been lead into error by supposing that the words written in Torah some how no longer apply to us because of the death & resurrection of Yeshua. In believing these types of teachings, many have unwittingly bypassed the promises of Adonai and have settled for lives that only know the vocabulary of what abundant life is supposed to be without much of the reality. The abundant life we all seek comes from the hand of the Master as we position ourselves and affirm that Adonai is our God and that we will walk in His ways. He in turn, affirms that we are His treasured and holy people!

The haftarah, the sixth Consolation of Isaiah, tells of the end of darkness and the return of light.

Year 2 Aliyah Highlights

- De. 26:12-15 The Tithe Declaration:** A formal declaration is made after the third-year tithe is disbursed (see De. 14:28-29) to the Levite, foreigner, orphan and the widow. It is set aside throughout the year. This declaration emphasizes the effect that the obedience of the individual has on the entire nation. It is implied that this declaration need not be made at the Temple. According to v. 15, the dwelling place of HaShem is "the heavens" (*ha'shamayim* - הַשָּׁמַיִם). See also 2Ch. 30:27.
- De. 26:16-19** Frame begins in 11:32-12:1. Wholehearted obedience to these laws is the duty of all Israel. But they are not just a legal code. They define the mutual relationship established between HaShem and his people. History shows periodic rediscoveries of Torah, such as the days of King Josiah (639-609 BCE - 2Ki. 23:3). Reaffirmation of covenant acceptance is reminiscent of Mt. Sinai.
- De. 27:1-3 Arrival in The Land:** Upon entering the land, *first*, large stone tablets were to be erected on Mt. 'Eival, inscribed with "all the words of this teaching," dramatizing Israel's obligation to live by Torah.
- De. 27:4-8** See 11:29 - A stone altar for peace offerings (shared) was to be erected. Joy was to be had in the presence of HaShem. It was on THIS day, this occasion, that Israel became the people of HaShem - when the Torah, the land, and the people were connected as one.
- De. 27:9-10** For the first time an appeal for silence is ordered before hearing. Thinking is to be suspended while Consciousness absorbs the "becoming" of the people of HaShem.

6. **De. 27:11-28:3** *Second*, the tribes are to proclaim the covenant blessings and curses. *Third*, the Levites and the people affirm punishment on those who commit sins that may be humanly difficult to prosecute. These three ceremonies inaugurate life in the promised land that must be based on obedience to the instructions of HaShem (De. 27:1).
7. **De. 28:4-6** Six concise blessings introduce the results of obedience to the laws of HaShem.

Thought Focus

What is a "tithe?" To "tithe" (*a-sar* – עָשָׂר), is literally, "to take a tenth." It is first mentioned in Ge. 14:20, and again in Ge. 28:22. As Torah law it is discussed in Le. 27:30-32, Nu. 18:21-28, De. 12:6-17, 14:22-28, 26:12. Yeshua affirms tithing in one incident documented in Mat. 23:23/Luke 11:42. The concept of tithing is of considerable importance in theology. But is it relevant in today's non-agrarian, non-Torah world? If so, what is to be tithed? To whom are they to be given? Where? These questions raise complex issues – too many to cover here. But here are some thoughts...

- Many argue for three tithes: for the Levites (De. 14:27, Nu. 18), for celebrating feasts (De. 14:22-26), and for the poor (De. 14:28-29).
- There are two directions for perspectives on tithing: towards HaShem, and towards man. First, tithing was never meant to be an onerous weight but a liberating act of joyful worship (De. 12:12, 2Co. 9:7) represented by giving a proportionally small one-tenth of what is held in trust, a grateful act of submission and dependence on HaShem who, really, owns it all. Second, there is an interdependence within community, a recognition of our need for one another in a synergetic bond.

Perhaps the setting (Acts 4:32-37) and story of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) can help us get to the heart of the matter.

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (26:1) Where are you in the process of "dwelling" in God's promises (you already possess them!)? (Luk 11:24-26, Rom 7:24-25, 1Jo 1:5-10, Hos 14:1-10)
2. (26:12) How do you feel about giving? Is there an "end" or "finish" to your giving? (Psa 112:1-9, Luk 14:13-14, Gal 6:10, 2Co 9:7, Jam 1:27, 2Co 9:6-15)
3. (26:16) Is God's call on your life fresh and new every day? (Hos 6:1-3, Psa 30:1-5, Mat 6:34, Lam 3:22-23, Luk 9:62)
4. (27:1) Unity. Responsibility. Obedience. Where do you stand in your place in the Kingdom? (Deu 27:9, Deu 33:8-10, 1Co 11:16, 1Co 14:33, Joh 15:14-15, 1Co 3:9, Mar 16:20, 1Th 3:1-2, Mat 9:36-38)
5. (27:11) Command, charge, order. How do you respond to these words? (Rom 6:14, Rom 11:29, Exo 31:17, Mat 22:37-40, Deu 6:5, Lev 19:18, Mat 8:9-11, Joh 14:15, Joh 15:10, Joh 13:34, Mat 28:18-20, Rom 7:12, Mat 24:25-26)
6. (28:7) Who defeats your enemies? Do you view this a gift? (Mat 7:11, 1Co 12:31, 1Co 14:1, Jam 1:17, 1Jo 4:19, Amo 3:1-2, Heb 12:3-11)
7. (29:1) What have you seen God do in your life? (Deu 4:9, 1Jo 1:1-3, Act 4:20, 2Pe 1:16)