

Torah: D'varim (Deuteronomy) 29:9(10)-31:30
Haftarah: Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 61:10-63:9
B'rit Hadashah: Romans 11:15-36

	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

and it will be when comes upon you all these matters / the blessing and the curse which I have set before you / and you return to your heart among all the nations where HaShem your God scattered you there

ve'hayah kiy-yavo'u aléykha kol-had'variym ha'éleh ha'berakah ve'haq'lalah ashér natátíy l'fanéykha va'hashevatá el-levavékha b'kol-ha'goyím ashér hidíykhakha ADONÁI Elohéykha shámah

וְהָיָה כִּי־יָבֹאוּ עָלֶיךָ כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה
 הַבְּרָכָה וְהַקְּלָלָה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לְפָנֶיךָ
 וְהִשְׁבַּתְתָּ אֶל־לְבָבְךָ בְּכָל־הַגּוֹיִם
 אֲשֶׁר הִדִּיתִיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ שָׁמָּה:

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! (להים) To Life!

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

Year 2 Aliyah Highlights

- 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. This is not just about contrition, but also a change in behavior. HaShem himself accompanies and suffers with Israel in exile, and returns with them when he brings them back. See also De. 4:29-31.
- De. 30:4-6** HaShem is the gatherer (Amos 9:2-3). Circumcision of the heart is something both HaShem (De. 30:6) and his people do (De. 10:16).
- De. 30:7-10** A reiteration of the promises made in De. 28:11, and reversal of the punishment in 28:63.
- De. 30:11-14** HaShem’s Torah is not unintelligible, esoteric, inaccessible or unknowable. Humans cannot ascend to heaven (Pr. 30:4). Torah is *from* heaven, not *in* heaven. Only gods and heroes crossed the sea in ancient literature. Torah is the only revealed form of wisdom, which will be shown to the world (De. 4:6).
- De. 30:15-20** Moshe’s final summons to obey the covenant, invoking heaven and earth as witnesses. The words “life” and “live” are emphasized. Everything in life (including life itself) is a choice. Most people are as happy as they choose to be.
- De. 31:1-3 Epilogue:** (in v.1, “these matters” likely refers to what was previously spoken – see Ge. 20:8, 44:6, Nu. 14:39) Moshe expresses his inability to cross the Yarden and first states that it is HaShem who will lead them and defeat their enemies – that is his role, as it has always been, not Moshe’s or Yehoshua’s.

7. **De. 31:4-6** Moshe reminds them that they are already successful warriors. They are assured victory through the assistance and protection of HaShem.

Thought Focus

Turn/Return (*shuv* – שׁוּב): This word is used in seven clauses in a chiasmic pattern:

- A. You return (*hashevotah* – הִשְׁבֹּתָ) them to heart... and you return (*shavta* – שָׁבְתָ) to HaShem
- B. HaShem will restore (*shav* – שָׁב) your fortunes... and restore (*shav* – שָׁב) your togetherness
- C. You will return (*tashuv* – תִּשׁוּב) to heeding HaShem
- B'. HaShem will return (*yashuv* – יִשׁוּב) to delighting in you.
- A'. You will heed HaShem once you return (*tashuv* – תִּשׁוּב) to him.

What is T'shuva/Repentance? It is more than a religious mending of one's ways. It is a return to one's source, one's roots, the essence of one's being (what "I am"). It is individual, and it is national. It may be helpful to consider some different aspects of T'shuva.

Three Stages of T'shuva:

Natural: A healthy body (physical shape) and mind (a desire to be a good person)

Spiritual: A desire to find favor with HaShem, attachment to Torah / commandments.

Universal: A desire to better the world through love and joy. (Ro. 8:28)

There's Sudden (over night) and Gradual (step-by-step) T'shuva.

There's Specific (tune-up) and General (overhaul) T'shuva

The Heart of the Matter: The Hebraic meaning of the "heart" (*lev* – לֵב) refers to the inner, immaterial nature of humans; the personality functions like emotions, thoughts, will. (Ge. 8:21, Pr. 27:19, Job 15:12, Song 5:2, 1Ki. 3:12)

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

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)