

**Torah:** B'midbar (Numbers) 25:10 – 30:1  
**Haftarah:** M'lakhim Alef (1 Kings) 18:46-19:21  
 Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 1:1 – 19  
**B'rit Hadashah:** Mark 14:26-50

	yr. 1 25:10-26:51	yr. 2 26:52-28:15	yr. 3 28:16-30:1
1	25:10 – 12	26:52-56	28:16-25
2	25:13 – 15	26:57-62	28:26-31
3	25:16 – 26:4	26:63-27:5	29:1-6
4	26:5 – 11	27:6-14	29:7-11
5	26:12 – 22	27:15-23	29:12-16
6	26:23 – 34	28:1-10	29:17-28
7	26:35 – 51	28:11-15	29:29-30-1

and in the first month  
 on the fourteenth day of the month  
 Passover to HaShem

*u'va'khodesh ha'ri'shon  
 ve'ar'ba'ah asar yom la'khodesh  
 pesakh la'ADONAI*

ובחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן  
 בְּאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ  
 פֶּסַח לַיהוָה:

Many topics in this portion: a commendation of Pinkhas for his actions in last week's portion; an order to defeat the Midianites; a census of each tribe; apportionment of the Land; special consideration for the inheritance for Zelophehad's daughters; Y'hoshua is appointed as Moshe's successor; offerings for each of the appointed times (moediyim). These are broken up into appropriate sections that are read during each of the holidays. Traditionally it is one of the first pages examined when checking a Torah for accuracy because it is the most used page.

The special Haftarah this week is the first of three Haftarahs of Admonition from the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz, when the walls of Jerusalem were breached by the Romans to the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av when the Second Temple was destroyed. Yirmeyahu learns of the disaster coming to the people during the final days of the First Temple.

### Highlights

- Nu. 28:16-25 Pesakh and Unleavened Bread:** Remembering liberation from external bondage.
- Nu. 28:26-31 Feast of Weeks:** Liberation from internal bondage through observing Torah.
- Nu. 29:1-6 Feast of Trumpets:** Sounding the shofar in the 7<sup>th</sup> month. Seven is a prominent number.
- Nu. 29:7-11 Yom Kippur:** The day of atonements – self denial
- Nu. 29:12-16 Feast of Tabernacles (Day 1):** The festival of joy through gratitude.
- Nu. 29:17-28 Feast of Tabernacles (Days 2-5):** More public offerings during this Feast than during all the other festivals combined.
- Nu. 29:29-30:1 Feast of Tabernacles (Days 6-7 and 8): Shemini Atzeret** – the eighth day assembly does not commemorate any event, closing the fall holy day season.

### Thought Focus

**Offerings and Sacrifices:** The sacrifices are discussed here immediately after the census (Ch. 26), apportionment of the land, and the appointment of Yehoshua as Moshe's successor because they define the next stage of Israelite history: Settling the Promised Land. What do the sacrifices mean? 1) Sacrifices provide a physical connection to HaShem on a daily, weekly, monthly and annual basis. HaShem is not physical, but our world is. 2) Human sacrifice was not acceptable. 3) Sacrifices were the most common way to relate to divinity in the ancient world. This system replaced the worship of pagan gods. 4) Most sacrifices were expressions of gratitude to HaShem – how often do you express gratitude?

**The Importance of Rituals:** They provide material and behavioral connection to HaShem. Behaviors shape feelings. Actions bring HaShem into our lives – rituals keep us active and on-track. They maintain values

from generation to generation. They provide tangible, easily understood examples rather than abstract principles. They help to keep memories alive. On the negative side, offerings and sacrifices can become the goal in themselves and devolve into religiosity and competition rather than leading to moral behavior.

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## Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

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1. (25:11) What does “zeal” mean? Is there anything for which you are zealous? (Zec 8:2, Mat 23:37, Tit 2:14, 3:9, Eph 2:10, 1Pe 3:13)
2. (26:5) How are you like your earthly father? You heavenly Father? Do you have an inheritance from your (F)ather? (1Ch 17:13, Hos 6:1-3, Joh 8:18-19, 31-32, 44-47, Joh 10:30, Eph 3:14-19)
3. (26:53) Are you satisfied with what God has allotted to you? Is it fair? (Gen 49:7 Jos 19:9, Gal 3:28, Col 3:11, 1Co 12:12-26, Rom 12:4-8)
4. (27:7) Do the words you speak bear the fruit (acts) of righteousness and truth? (Mat 7:20-24, Phil 3:8-12, 1Pe 1:3-5, Act 5:34-39)
5. (28:2) Over what do you “keep watch?” Has Someone been keeping watch over you? (1Ch 9:22, 23:28-32, 26:32, Act 2:23, 3:18, Rom 5:6, Mat 24:45-46, Gal 4:4-5)
6. (28:19) What do you use to “remember” things (string around your finger, pictures, keepsakes, etc.)? What important remembrance do these items bring to mind? (Eze 45:23, Gen 18:7, Gen 22:13, Gen 30:40, Jos 4:2-7, Lev 26:1, Luk 22:19, 1Sa 7:12-13, 1Co 4:17)
7. (29:12) The instructions of Torah were given in the wilderness, well before the people inhabited the land and built the Temple, well before they could implement many of them. How does this give you hope today? (Exo 19:6, Zec 14:9-16, 1Pe 1:1, 2:9, Rom 11:28-29, 1Co 4:11-13, 1Pe 4:12-13, 1Co 2:6-9, Dan 11:33-35, Psa 66:8-10)