

47: August 8, 2026

Shabbat Message

Re'eh / Behold / רֵאָה

Deuteronomy 11:26–16:17

Seeds of Life Series: Torah the Seeds for Life

A Place for Yehovah

Introduction

In this Torah portion we see a vast array of different topics that we can choose from all the way from choosing life or choosing curses. To what to do with idols and eating sacrifices in the place that Yehovah tells us to eat them at. Then Yehovah repeats the Kosher list of things to that are clean and things that are not clean and that are still NOT clean just because we want them too. You can wish a lot of things into existence and that doesn't mean it's going to happen.

Destroy Places of Idol Worship

Deuteronomy 12:2-3

1. The high mountains, the hills and every green tree were sites of pagan worship where the peoples of Canaan built their altars and shrines , though at times they were located even in valleys (2 Kings 23:10; 2 Chron 28:3).
2. Groves of trees or even single trees also marked sacred places because their luxuriant growth. The surrounding area that had sparse vegetation symbolized the gods' fertility (1 Kings 14:23; 2 Kings 16:4; Jer 2:20).
3. The sacred pillars and groves were stone and wooden columns that represented respectively

Seek the Place that He Chooses

Deuteronomy 12:5

1. Israel must seek Yehovah at the place He chooses to put His Name. In the wilderness this was at various altars (Exod 20:24), but once in the land only one central sanctuary would qualify.
2. At first this was Gilgal, then Shechem, then for many years at Shiloh, and finally Jerusalem, the location of Solomon's Temple.

3. This place alone came to be recognized as Yehovah's habitation though Solomon himself realized that it could only symbolically be such because in reality even heaven cannot contain the omnipresent Elohim (1 Kings 8:27).

Tithes and Heave Offerings

Deuteronomy 12:6-7

1. Tithes and heave offerings are essentially synonymous the former being a generic term for mandatory gifts to Yehovah and the latter a subset of offerings designated to the religious personnel, especially the priests and Levites (Lev 7:32,34).
2. A tithe is a tenth. All such gifts must be given to Yehovah at the central sanctuary and then redistributed to meet the needs of those who served Him there.
3. Those who worship at the central sanctuary must share their freewill offerings with one another before Yehovah. Sometimes Yehovah Himself was perceived as participating in a common meal with His worshippers. This would of course be symbolized by the offerings to Him (Exod 24:5-8, 11).

Everyone Right In His Own Eyes

Deuteronomy 12:8-9

1. An individual Israelite doing whatsoever is right in his own eyes does not mean that

religious anarchy prevailed as in the days of the judges (Judg 21:25).

2. In this context it speaks to the lack of a single central sanctuary site in the wilderness.
3. The whole reason being was because they weren't in their inheritance yet so they could do what they wanted to do individually.

The Sanctuary of Yehovah

Deuteronomy 12:10-14

1. The first permanent central place of worship was Shiloh, in the center of the land (Jer 7:12).
2. The tabernacle remained there for nearly 300 year, from the latter days of Joshua until the early years of the prophet Samuel.
3. The prohibition against worship in every place must be understood as distinguishing between private worship and the corporate worship of all Israel. The principle behind this whole section of Deuteronomy is the recognition of Israel as a single entity, Elohim's Covenant people.

Take Away

1. We are not to imitate the nations around us and participate in their pagan ways.
2. Tithes and Offerings were to take care of the Priests, the Poor and the Widow and Orphans. Nothing has changed.
3. The first permanent central sanctuary was in Shiloh and now we are looking at Jerusalem

now.

Application

1. I will shun idols in my life and completely cling to Yeshua HaMashiach!
2. Right now I rejoice that I am a personal sanctuary and dwelling place for His Ruach (Spirit).
3. I will be faithful in my giving back what Yehovah has given so freely to me.

Beth Ohr Messianic Congregation

Torah Cycle 2025-2026