

## Torah Portion #41: Pinchas (פנחס) "Phinehas"

Torah ~ Numbers 25:10-30:1 | Prophets ~ 1 Kings 18:46-19:21 | New Covenant ~ John 2:13-25; Acts 3:17-26

**Joshua**

In this week's Torah Portion Moses prays in *Numbers 27:15-23* for a man to be appointed over the congregation. His prayer is answered by God's appointment of Joshua over the congregation of Israel. God takes of the Spirit upon Moses and places it upon Joshua. However, Joshua was destined to die, leaving Israel like sheep without a shepherd once again.

Sheep are basically helpless creatures who cannot survive long without a shepherd, upon whose care they are totally dependent. Like sheep, we are totally dependent upon the Lord to shepherd, protect, and care for us. For Moses' prayer to be answered in its fullest, it was necessary that God appoint a shepherd over Israel who would not succumb to death.

Yeshua our Shepherd

Even though the Lord raised up Joshua after Moses, Yeshua was the ultimate answer to Moses prayer (*Acts 3:17-26*). For Yeshua will never die, therefore making Him forever over the congregation of Israel. In *Deuteronomy 18:18*, the Lord told Moses that He would raise up another Prophet (Leader or Shepherd) in the future for the Israelites.

*Matthew 2:6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."*

*John 10:14 "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me" NIV*

*Colossians 1:18a "He is also head of the body, the church" NASB*

*Ephesians 5:23a "For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church" ESV*

*Psalms 23* is know as the shepherd's psalm. It is the perfect example of the work of Yeshua being our Shepherd.

Without the teaching and guidance of Yeshua, we are like a flock of sheep without a shepherd.

*1 Peter 2:25 "For you like sheep were going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls." TLV*

Other Similarities between Yeshua and Joshua

\* Just like the authority/spirit of Moses was bestowed upon Joshua when he started his ministry, the Holy Spirit of God was bestowed upon Yeshua when He started His ministry at His baptism (*Matthew 3:16*).

\* Jesus' Hebrew name, Yeshua, in it's long form is "Yehoshua", which is Joshua's Hebrew name, meaning "salvation".

*Matthew 1:21 "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." NIV*

*Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." NIV*

\* Joshua led Israel into the promised land (*Joshua 3*), Yeshua will one day lead us into the promised land of Heaven.

*1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 "(16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord." NASB*

\* Joshua appointed twelve men from each tribe in *Joshua 4:4*, Yeshua appointed twelve apostles in *Mark 3:16-19*.

\* Joshua circumcised the Israelites in *Joshua 5:2-8*, our hearts are circumcised through Yeshua (*Colossians 2:11*).

*Romans 2:29 "On the contrary, the real Jew is one inwardly; and true circumcision is of the heart, spiritual not literal; so that his praise comes not from other people but from God." CJB*

In Closing

*John 10:15-16 "(15) just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father. And I lay down My life for the sheep. (16) I have other sheep that are not from this fold; those also I must lead, and they will listen to My voice. So there shall be one flock, one Shepherd." TLV*