

Torah Portion #44: Devarim (דברים) "Words"

Torah ~ Deut. 1:1-3:22 | Prophets ~ Psalm 119:105-109; Isa. 1:1-27 | New Covenant ~ John 1:1-18; Heb. 3:7-19

Faith in the Word

The Hebrew title for the book of Deuteronomy is Devarim, which means "Words." Another ancient name for the book of Deuteronomy is *Mishnah HaTorah*, which means "repetition of the Torah." This is similar to the Greek Septuagint name *Deuteronomos*, which means "second law", from which we get our English title.

The English term "Word" can be translated from two different Greek terms, "logos" and "rhema". Rhema is understood to be the direct spoken Word from God (command) to an individual or to a group of people. Logos is understood to be the written Word of God, the total message of God to man, which includes Commandments, history, etc.

In this Torah portion Moses repeats the "Words" (Devarim) of God to the people of Israel because it is a new generation that is now about to go into the Promised Land. At this point, Moses is only thirty-seven days away from his death. Throughout this portion we can see Israelites either having faith in God's "Word" or lack of faith in God's "Word".

Romans 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." MEV

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." NIV

Hebrews 11:3a "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God" TLV

2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we live by faith, not by sight." NIV

Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in Adonai with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding." TLV

Habakkuk 2:4b "but the righteous shall live by his faith" ESV

In *Deuteronomy 6:8-9*, God was so serious about the remembrance of His "Word" that He commanded the Israelites to "(8) Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. (9) Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." NIV * Pictures

Faith in God's Word and the Tallit

God commanded us to wear garments with tzitzit in *Numbers 15:37-41*, which was to remind us of His "Word". A woman who had been bleeding for twelve years was healed in *Luke 8:43-48* when she touched the hem (tzitzit) of Yeshua's tallit. She believed that Yeshua was the Messiah and had faith in all of God's promises written in His "Word". She must have read of the promise of healing in *Proverbs 4:20-22*.

Faith in God's Word put to Action

In *Genesis 22:1-19*, Abraham showed his faith in God's Word when he was tested with the command to sacrifice Isaac.

A widow in *2 Kings 4:1-7* was able to pay off her debt through her faith in the Word of God which came from Elisha.

In *John 9:6-7*, a blind man is healed through his faith in Yeshua's Words.

James 1:22 "Don't deceive yourselves by only hearing what the Word says, but do it!" CJB

James 2:14-26 says that our outward actions (works) shows the faith that is inside of us.

The Hebrew word "Shema" in *Deut. 6:4* is a perfect example of this. It is normally translated as "hear or listen", but its full meaning is "to take action on what you have heard". When we hear God's Word, we should obey by taking action.

In Closing: We must have faith in the Living Word

In John's vision of the return of Yeshua in *Revelation 19:11-13*, Yeshua's name will be "*The Word Of God*".

John 1:14 "So the Word became human and made his home among us." NLT

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." NLT

1 Peter 1:23 "For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God." NIV