

Torah Portion #49: Ki Tetze (כִּי תְצַא) "When you go out"

Torah ~ Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19 | Haftarah ~ Isaiah 54:1-10 | Brit Chadashah ~ Mt. 27:35-50; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; Gal. 3:7-14

The Curse of Deuteronomy 21:23

We are now in the month of Elul on the Biblical calendar. Elul is known as the month in which we reflect upon the choices that we have made and repent of our sins. It is tradition to read Psalm 27 during the month of Elul. Sin is any departure from God's Torah in our actions, our words, and even our thoughts. To repent means to turn away from sin, quit breaking God's commandments and return to His Torah.

According to the Torah, when we sin we are under the curse that comes from breaking God's Torah which is death.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 "(19) I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life if you and your offspring would live (20) by loving the LORD your God, heeding His commands, and holding fast to Him" JPS 85'

Deut. 27:26 "Cursed be he who will not uphold the terms of this Teaching and observe them." JPS 85'

We read in the Torah that God provided a way to remove the curse with a sin sacrifice to die in our place. On Yom Kippur there were two goats used as the sin sacrifice, one for the payment of sins and the other to remove the sins (*Lev. 16:1-34*).

The Tanakh speaks of a time in *Isaiah 53* when the suffering Messiah will receive this curse for our sin in place of us.

Isaiah 53:5a "But he was wounded because of our sins, Crushed because of our iniquities" JPS 85'

Isaiah 53:6b "And the LORD hath made to light on him The iniquity of us all." JPS 17'

Isaiah 53:8b "For he was cut off out of the land of the living, For the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due." JPS 17'

The prophet Daniel says that the Messiah must be cut off before the destruction of the Temple which occurred in 70 AD.

Daniel 9:26a "And after the threescore and two weeks [62 wks.] shall an anointed one [Messiah] be cut off, and be no more; and the people of a prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary [Temple]" JPS 17'

The Talmud records that a scarlet cord was tied around the neck of the Yom Kippur scapegoat and on the door of the Temple. If the Lord accepted the atonement then the scarlet cord would turn white. But forty years before the destruction of the Temple the scarlet cord stopped turning white. This was the time that Yeshua was cut off (crucified) on the tree.

In this week's Torah portion we read in *Deuteronomy 21:22-23* that the man who is hung on a tree is cursed.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 "(22) If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, (23) his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God." Hebrew-English Bible

Galatians 3:13 "Christ [Messiah] has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree)" Hebrew-English Bible

Another example of this is in *Numbers 21:5-9* where Moses lifted up on a pole (tree) the serpent that was a curse to the people. The Israelites would be saved from death when they looked up at the very thing that had cursed them with death.

Numbers 21:8-9 "(8) And the LORD said unto Moses: 'Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he seeth it, shall live.' (9) And Moses made a serpent of brass, and set it upon the pole; and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked unto the serpent of brass, he lived." JPS 17'

John 3:14-15 "(14) And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up (15) that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." Hebrew-English Bible

So let us turn to Messiah Yeshua (Whose Name means salvation) during this month of Elul. For He has paved the way for our sins to be forgiven and be removed so that we can be saved from the curse that comes from breaking God's Torah.

Aliyah to the Torah

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Torah ~ *Deuteronomy 21:22-23* Hebrew-English Bible

22 ‘If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree,
23 his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do
not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is
accursed of God.

Haftarah ~ *Isaiah 54:4-5* Hebrew-English Bible

4 ‘Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For
you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood
anymore.
5 For your Maker is your husband, The Lord of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of
Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

Brit Chadashah ~ *Galatians 3:9-13* Hebrew-English Bible

9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.
10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone
who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”
11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.”
12 Yet the law is not of faith, but “the man who does them shall live by them.”
13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written,
“Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree)”