

**Parashat Va'etchanan - וַאֲנִי וְאֶתְּחַנֵּן - "and I pleaded"**Torah ~ *Deut. 3:23-7:11* Haftarah ~ *Jer. 17:21-22; Isa. 40:1-26* Brit Chadashah ~ *Mk. 12:28-34*

Today's portion is the forty-fifth reading from the Torah and the second reading from the book of Deuteronomy (Devarim). In this portion we review how Moshe pleaded with the Lord to let him enter the Land, the cities of refuge and the Ten Commandments. Also in this portion is the greatest commandment which is the Shema.

**The Torah**

*Deut. 5:1-22* ~ The Ten Commandments

*Psalms 19:7* ~ "The law of the Lord is perfect" NKJV

*Psalms 119:97* ~ "How I love your Torah! I meditate on it all day." CJB

*Matt. 5:17* ~ "Do not think I have come to get rid of what is written in the Law or in the Prophets. I have not come to do that. Instead, I have come to give full meaning to what is written." NIRV

*1 Tim. 1:8* ~ "We know that the Torah is good, provided one uses it in the way the Torah itself intends" CJB

*Romans 7:12* ~ "Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good" NKJV

**The Shabbat**

*Deut. 5:12-15* ~ The Sabbath

*Gen. 2:1-3* ~ The Shabbat was given at creation, before the law.

*Exodus 16:22-26* ~ Bread from heaven

*Nehemiah 13:15-19* ~ Buying and selling on the Shabbat

*Matt. 24:20* ~ "Pray that you will not have to escape in winter or on Shabbat." CJB

*Luke 4:16* ~ "And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read" NKJV

*Acts 18:4* ~ "And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks" NKJV

**The Greatest Commandment**

*Deut. 6:4* ~ The Hebrew word shema means to "hear or listen." It is a great example of how the Hebrew language stresses physical action while Greek and English stresses mental activity. So the meaning of shema is better said as "to take action on what you heard". In fact, almost every place we see the word "obey" in the Bible, it is translated from the Hebrew word "shema." The Hebrew word "echad" means a compound unity of more than one.

*Deut. 6:5* ~ Genuine love for God leads us to fulfill all the commandments. Yeshua demonstrated His love for the Father by living a life of total obedience to Him.

*Deut. 6:6* ~ The Torah was written on our hearts when God gave us the Holy Spirit, fulfilling the prophecy of *Jer. 31:33*.

*Deut. 6:8* ~ Tefillin consist of small, hollow, black leather boxes that contain several parchments of relevant Scripture verses: *Exodus 13:1-10; 13:11-16; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:13-21*. The small black boxes are bound on the arm and forehead by means of long, black leather straps, thus literally fulfilling the commandment of binding the Torah on the hand and the forehead. The tefillin boxes bear the Hebrew letter shin ש, a sign indicating God's Name. This has a connection with those passages of Revelation which speak of the saints who bear God's Name upon their foreheads.

*Mt. 23:5* ~ "Everything they do is done to be seen by others; for they make their t'fillin broad and their tzitziyot long" CJB

*Deut. 6:9* ~ The Hebrew word mezuzah literal means "doorpost but traditional refers to a small case placed on the doorpost with scripture inside. The scriptures are *Deuteronomy 6:4-9* and *11:13-21*. The mezuzah also has the Hebrew letter shin ש on it as a sign indicating God's Name.

**In Closing** - King David said in *Psalms 119:97*, "How I love your Torah! I meditate on it all day." CJB

**Aliyah to the Torah**

**Deut. 6:4-9 NKJV**

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one!

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**Ezekiel 36:26-28 NKJV**

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.

28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

**Mark 12:28-31 NKJV**

28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?”

29 Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments *is*: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This *is* the first commandment.

31 And the second, like *it*, *is* this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”