

**Week 51 - Simchat Torah ("Rejoice with the Torah")**  
**Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12**

*This past Thursday 6pm to Friday 6pm was the Celebration of Hosanna Rabbah, the Seventh Day of the Feast of Tabernacles, which Celebrates the "Great White Throne Judgement of God" and ultimately the "Great Day of Salvation", the same day that Jesus was dedicated in the Temple, following Mary's 40-day purification requirement of Leviticus 12:1-4:*

**Hosanna Rabbah - The Great Day of Salvation**

The seventh and last day of the Feast of Tabernacles is marked by a special synagogue service in which **seven** circuits are made by worshippers holding their four species reciting Psalm 118:25. *O LORD, do save, we beseech You; O LORD, we beseech You, do send prosperity!* It appears that the people of God are crying out to Him for salvation for the benefit of all and it corresponds to the time of the Great White Throne Judgment of God.

**Hoshana Rabbah is the day on which the judgment that was sealed on Yom Kippur is "delivered."**

This is what Jesus said on Hosanna Rabbah while He was ministering with His disciples.

*Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39)*

Despite the appeal of Christ and the people of God, there will be those who do not accept His salvation. An example of those who might not, are the participants in the war of Gog and Magog. Immediately following the seven circuits of the synagogue the people beat their willow branches (no fruit - no fragrance) against the ground. This is emblematic of the destruction of people who do not accept the Lord's salvation.

*The Message of The Feast - Dwelling With God, which began this year, last Friday 6pm, and ran for Seven-days through to this past Thursday 6pm to Friday 6pm, which is the futuristic feast of Wedding Supper of the Lamb, which will conclude at the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ, and Culminate in the "Eighth Day", just following the Final Judgment:*

*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." (Revelation 21:1-4)*

*This Saturday 6pm to Sunday 6pm will be the Celebration of "The Eighth Day, the future beginning of a New Heaven and New Earth, following the Millennial Reign :*

**Shemini Atzeret - The Eighth Day**

The "eighth day" stands as an oddity in the "appointed times" of the Lord. It is **connected** to Tabernacles but technically not part of it because the "appointed time" of Tabernacles lasts for only seven days. However, the "eighth day" is a **Sabbath** day.

The mystery of the "eighth day" is this. The number eight represents a **new** beginning. In six days, God created the heavens and the earth and on the seventh day God rested from all His work of creation. The number seven represents the completion of a cycle; therefore, the number eight represents the beginning of a new cycle. Also, when the number 8 is laid on its side ( $\infty$ ) it becomes the symbol for **infinity** (eternal or without end).

While the feast of Tabernacles represents the future reign of Jesus Christ on earth for a 1000-year period, the eighth day begins with the Great White Throne Judgment when heaven and earth pass away and ends with God creating a new heaven and earth. Jesus spoke of this day. *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." (Matthew 24:35-36)*

*Michael Gibson, Key2Changes.com*

Rejoice with us today on the day **"Rejoice with the Torah"** (Simchat Torah)!

This weekend, **the synagogues here in Israel were packed** as the people of God, Israel, read the last pages of *Deuteronomy* (33:1-34:12) and the beginning of *Genesis*.

The reading of the yearly Torah cycle comes to an end with the blessings that Moses pronounces before his death over each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

These blessings echo Jacob's blessings over his 12 sons five generations earlier. **With them Moses prepares each tribe with its role within Israel.**

In this Torah portion for Simchat Torah, which is called **"and this is the blessing"**, Moses ascends Mount Nebo. **From that summit, he is allowed to see the Promised Land, but not enter. He dies in the Land of Moab, and to this day, only God knows where he is buried.**

**Though Moses is not allowed to enter the Promised Land, this Scripture reading testifies to the high calling of Moses:**

*"Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face... For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel." Deuteronomy 34:10, 12*

**Immediately following the conclusion of the Torah cycle, we begin a new one. Hallelujah! Though we cycle through the study of Scripture every year, it always remains fresh and exciting.**

**"Rejoice with the Torah"** (Simchat Torah) services last about three hours, as the men and women delight in the Book given to our people by God Himself through Moses – the most treasured Book in the world – **the Torah** (Five Books of Moses).

In every synagogue throughout Israel this morning, the men joyfully **danced around the bema (raised platform for reading the Torah), proudly and joyously holding the sacred Torah Scrolls.**

As the Rabbi and cantor sang from the Holy Word of God, the whole congregation gathered in one accord singing in Hebrew.

All the men took turns reading from the Torah. And the faces of the children, women, and men were beaming with smiles, **rejoicing in the honor of the Holy Book that the One God of Israel entrusted to His Chosen People.**

**Today, here in Israel, it is still both Shmini Atzeret (Eighth Day of Assembly) and Simchat Torah (Joy of the Torah).**

Elsewhere in the world, however, the wonderful holiday of Simchat Torah begins at sunset tonight at the conclusion of **Shmini Atzeret** (Eighth Day of Assembly), a Biblically mandated assembly celebrated the day after Sukkot ends:

**"For seven days present food offerings to the LORD, and on the eighth day hold a sacred assembly and present a food offering to the LORD. It is the closing special assembly; do no regular work." (Leviticus 23:36)**

This past Saturday at around 7:30 p.m., thousands of people will gather in each city and village square, throughout the Holy Land. Hopefully, most of Israel's eight million people will be rejoicing in the Word of God.

**For the second time in 24 hours, they will dance around the Torah Scrolls, this time, throughout the night.**

**"Oh, how I love Your Torah; It is my meditation all the day. You through Your commandments, have made me wiser than my enemies.... Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:97-98, 105)**

**Simchat Torah is a joyous holiday when the Jewish People express their gratitude to God for giving us His great gift of the Torah.**

On Simchat Torah, ALL of the ornately decorated Torah scrolls are taken out of the Ark in which they are safeguarded, in contrast to Shabbat and regular holidays when only two are removed from the Ark.

In the country, **the Jewish People will parade these precious Torah scrolls around their synagogues** in circles called **hakafot**, accompanied by joyful singing and dancing.

In many congregations, the celebrations will spill out of the sanctuary into the street, where participants will dance and sing while carrying the scrolls.

**Simchat Torah: The Beginning and Ending of the Parasha Cycle**

**"Day after day, from the first day to the last, Ezra read from the Book of the Law of God. They celebrated the festival [sukkot] for seven days, and on the eighth day, in accordance with the regulation, there was an assembly." (Nehemiah 8:18)**

The Jewish People have diligently preserved the Word of God for more than 3,000 years, and **Simchat Torah gives jubilant expression to the Jewish People's love of the Torah.**

**Besides rejoicing, another central theme to this special day is the completion of the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings.**

**Today, the last portion of Deuteronomy 34 will be read.**

**But as soon as we end the cycle, we begin anew, and a portion from the first chapter of Genesis is read immediately afterward.**

This serves to remind us that our study of the Torah never ends. It also reminds us that each of us are capable of new beginnings, of leaving following after our own ways and instead following after Adonai.

**Torah Points in the Right Direction**

**What is Torah?**

This Hebrew word **Torah** is often translated in English Bibles as Law; however, this is a rather poor translation.

**The word Torah comes from the roots yarah, which means to shoot, aim, or point to, and morah, meaning teacher.**

**Therefore, the Torah is God's instruction to His people. These instructions teach us how to live on this earth and point us to eternal life through Yeshua (Jesus).**

**So, why do we have a special day just to rejoice in the Torah of God?**

Torah and the Prophets are read.

It's because **the Word of God is a tree of life** for us, and if we would just take hold of it, we would see that **all its paths are pleasant** and will lead us to peace (*Proverbs 3:17; see also Proverbs 16:7 and Psalm 119:165*).

The Torah contains all the wisdom and instruction we need to live healthy, happy, successful, prosperous lives.

\*\*\*\*\* "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the **instructions [Torah]** Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do.

"Study this **Book of Instruction [Sefer haTorah]** continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." (*Joshua 1:7-8*) \*\*\*\*\*

### Yeshua's Teaching About the Law

God initially chose to reveal His Torah to the nation of Israel, and He gave them the mission to spread its light and teachings to every nation of the earth.

While Yeshua (Jesus) fulfilled the Torah, God's moral guidelines for mankind to live in righteousness, He also makes it clear that He did not come to abolish it.

"Don't misunderstand why I have come. **I did not come to abolish the Torah of Moses** or the writings of the prophets. **No, I came to fulfill their purpose. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear**, not even the smallest detail of God's Torah will disappear until its purpose is fulfilled.

"So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's Torah and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven." (*Matthew 5:17-19*)

Although Yeshua did not abolish the Law of Moses, He did fulfill its purpose, as well as the prophecies concerning His first coming. (*See Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53; Micah 5:2; Daniel 9:25-26 and hundreds more.*)

Because of Yeshua, the light of the Word of God has spread across the globe.

And yet, despite this, almost every Jewish person here in Israel (99%) still does not recognize Yeshua as the Messiah who fulfilled the writings of the Prophets.

### Torah is an eternal inheritance

Connect the people are engaged to the Land of the Israel are engaged (like marriage – committed – bound to – our inheritance – strike root and bear fruit – it has got to be something that you love) to the Torah; Torah and the Land of Israel are engaged to one another. The Land is procreative with the Torah; That is their fullest and most procreative, the Land is procreative when it has the Torah in it; and the Torah is fruitful when it is in the Land.

### Deuteronomy 33-34

Deuteronomy 33:1-29 – Commissioned  
*Moses' Final Blessing on Israel*

To Inherit the Land, Israel Must Be Obedient and Trust in God's Commands. They do not get special treatment.

This is the blessing of the Womb of His Impregnated Promise He has Spoken for us to See Manifest in our Lives today and on into Eternity, as we Walk in Our Promised Land of God's:

<sup>1</sup> This is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the people of Israel before his death.

He came with the "**Flaming Fire**" of the power, means, and direction of His strength, that we can now "**GO**" with His power, means, and direction as our strength and "**Can Do**", through the "**Flaming Fire**" of God's fiery, purifying, refining teaching and instruction; His burning commandments:

<sup>2</sup> "The Lord came from Sinai . . . with **FLAMING FIRE** at his right hand (**with His fiery/purifying/refining teaching and instruction or burning commandments**).

- His "burning commandment" that **He loves His people, all those who walk in His way, following in His steps, receiving our direction from Him.** (v. 3)

<sup>3</sup> Yes, he loved his people, all his holy ones were in his hand; so **they followed in your steps, receiving direction from you.**

- His "burning commandment" that **He is King, the Word Incarnate, the Torah itself for those His followers, His Little Straight Ones (or little Torah(s) – lights to the nations).** (v. 5)

<sup>5</sup> **Thus the Lord became king** (this king is the Torah itself – there is a law and it is the king) **with in Jeshurun** (my little straight one), when the heads of the people were gathered, all the tribes of Israel together.

- His "burning commandment" that **He is Messiah, Salvation, who laid down His life for those who choose to follow Him, with the promise to Help them toward Victory against their adversaries.** (v. 7)

<sup>7</sup> And this he said of Judah: "**Hear, O Lord, the voice of Judah, and bring him in to his people. With your hands (a hand (the open one – indicating power, means, direction, etc.)) contend for him, and be a help against his adversaries.**"

- His "burning commandment" that **He is Discernment, for those who observe His word and keep His covenant.** (v. 8-9)

<sup>8</sup> And of Levi he said, "**Give to Levi your Thummim, and your Urim to your godly one (discernment/the gift of the Holy Spirit), whom you tested at Massah, with whom you quarreled at the waters of Meribah;** <sup>9</sup> who said of his father and mother, 'I regard them not'; **he disowned his brothers and ignored his children. For they observed your word and kept your covenant.**"

- His "burning commandment" that **We Teach His Rules, Laws, and Commandments, and bring our whole life devotion to serve and intercede as our daily act of Worship.** (v. 10)

<sup>10</sup> **They shall teach Jacob your rules and Israel your law;** they shall put *incense (prayer)* before you and whole *burnt offerings (service and devotion)* on your altar.

- His "burning commandment" that **We Accept the Work of His Power, Means, and Direction of His Strength, that He might Crush the strength of the adversaries of those who hate His people, and they not rise again.** (v. 11)

<sup>11</sup> **Bless, O Lord, his substance, and accept the work of his hands (a hand (the open one – indicating power, means, direction, etc.)); crush the loins of his adversaries, of those who hate him, that they rise not again.**"

- His "burning commandment" that **He Inhabits His People, by surrounding His people all day long, as they obey His commandments, resulting in their abiding in His love, causing His commandments to be Easy and their burdens Light.** (v. 12)

<sup>12</sup> Of Benjamin he said, "**The beloved of the Lord dwells in safety. The High God surrounds him all day long, and dwells (abide; those who obey my commandments, abide in my love) between his shoulders (strength, voice (instruction), balance).**"

- His "burning commandment" that **He will Impregnate His People in His designed Dark Times in their lives with the Promise of Wherever their Foot is placed, God will Birth New Beginnings, as His People give their very Best of their very Best of this world and in their abundance of this world, as Agents of Deliverance in this world, with the promise to multiply His People in their afflictions, and promise to cause His people to forget their afflictions; truly becoming Marvelous Lights in the midst of Darkness.** (v. 13-17)

<sup>13</sup> And of Joseph he said, "**Blessed (womb – pregnant) by the Lord be his land (wherever his foot is place, God will give), with the choicest gifts of heaven above, and of the deep that crouches beneath . . .** <sup>16</sup> **with the BEST GIFTS of the earth and its fullness and the favor of him who dwells in the bush. May these rest on the head of Joseph,** on the pate of him who is prince among his brothers. <sup>17</sup> A **firstborn bull (this is Joshua) – he has majesty, and his horns are the horns of a wild ox; with them he shall gore the peoples (the kings of the Land – everyone wants a stake in the Land – its power), all of them, to the ends of the earth; they are the ten thousands of Ephraim (God will multiply you in your affliction), and they are the thousands of Manasseh (God will cause you to forget your affliction).**"

- His "burning commandment" that **We Rejoice in our acquisition of Truth and in knowing God's Appointed Times to draw people back to God.** (v. 18)

<sup>18</sup> And of Zebulun he said, "**Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, and Issachar, in your tents.**"

- His "burning commandment" that **We Sustain Ourselves with the Abundance of His Buried and Resurrected Truth of Eternal Peace and Security.** (v. 19)

<sup>19</sup> They shall call peoples to their mountain; there they offer right sacrifices; for they **draw (to suck, causatively, to give milk, nurse (-ing mother), give, make to suck (-ing child)) from the abundance** of the seas and **the hidden treasures** of the sand."

- His "burning commandment" that **He Impregnate the Vision of Extending the Tent Pegs of His Conceived Promises.** (v. 20)

<sup>20</sup> And of Gad he said, "**Blessed (womb – pregnant) be he who enlarges** Gad! Gad crouches like a lion; he tears off arm and scalp.

- His "burning commandment" that **He will Cause you to Walk Righteously in His Ways, His Truths, and His Life.** (v. 21)

<sup>21</sup> He chose the best of the land for himself, for there a commander's portion was reserved; and he came with the heads of the people, with Israel **he executed the justice of the Lord,** and his judgments for Israel."

- His "burning commandment" that **He will Satisfy any Appetite or Desire Fully, with the fruit of many New Beginnings.** (v. 23)

<sup>23</sup> And of Naphtali he said, "O Naphtali, sated (to satisfy (any appetite or desire) fully; to fill to excess) with favor, and full of the blessing of the Lord, possess the lake and the south."

- His "burning commandment" that We Walk in the Anointing (or Covering and Power) of the Teaching and Instruction of the Lord, that we become a Sweet Aroma of Hope and Purpose to a world of Hopelessness and No Purpose. (v. 24)

<sup>24</sup> And of Asher he said, "Most blessed of sons be Asher; let him be the favorite of his brothers, and let him dip his foot in oil.

- His "burning commandment" that We Live Securely and Speak Boldly God's Teaching and Instruction of Our Messiah's Power, Means, and Direction of His Strength, that we might too Live Securely and Speak Boldly in Our Messiah's Power, Means, and Direction, as He gives us Strength. (v. 25)

<sup>25</sup> Your bars shall be iron and bronze, and as your days, so shall your strength be.

- His "burning commandment" that He is the God above all gods, who Causes His Ways to Assist and Support His People in times of Hardship and Distress, for His Glory and Redemptive Purposes. (v. 26)

<sup>26</sup> "There is none like God, O Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to your help, through the skies in his majesty.

- His "burning commandment" that He, our Eternal God, is His People's State of Living, under both His Political and Military Authority, to Defend and Protect His People. (v. 27)

<sup>27</sup> The eternal God is your dwelling place (habitation – the state of living), and underneath are the everlasting arms. And he thrust out the enemy before you and said, 'Destroy.'

- His "burning commandment" that He is our Refuge and Confidence, as we wrestle with Him and Man, as well as, Our Freedom from Attack, as He Changes our Name and Destiny. (v. 28)

<sup>28</sup> So Israel lived in safety, Jacob lived alone, in a land of grain and wine, whose heavens drop down dew.

- His "burning commandment" that We be Pregnant with All of His Promises and Purpose today and in the Promise Land to Come. (v. 29)

- His "burning commandment" that He, and no other, Will Save His People in Battle and Cause them to be Victorious. (v. 29)

- His "burning commandment" that He, and no other, Will Be His People's Protector to Assist and Support them in times of Hardship and Distress. (v. 29)

- His "burning commandment" that He, and no other, Will Be His People's Excellence and His Glory in the earth, by His Spoken Word, made evident through their faith and obedience of His Spoken Word. (v. 29)

- His "burning commandment" that We shall Overtake, through Battle, the Exulted Places of the world, with the Exulted Rules, Laws, and Commandments of our God, that He calls Holy and Clean, resulting in God's Promise that Our enemies will begin to display exaggerated flattery and affection towards His Followers. (v. 29)

<sup>29</sup> Happy (blessed – womb – pregnant) are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, the shield of your help, and the sword of your triumph! Your enemies shall come fawning (displaying exaggerated flattery or affection) to you, and you shall tread (overtake, bend like a bow) upon their backs (high places)."

high places, as places of worship, at first on hills and mountains, later on artificial mounds or platforms, under green trees, and in cities; still later for the chapels erected thereon, and once apparently for a portable sanctuary Ezekiel 16:16. The ancient worship of Israel was conducted on these high places. In the times of Samuel and David they ascended to them, descended from them, and offered sacrifices on.

**To Inherit the Land, Israel Must Be Obedient and Trust in God's Commands. They do not get special treatment.**

Point: In essence, transforming the mundane into the Holy. Suddenly eating, sleeping, and living becomes the Promise Land. Not building an alternate existence where you can leave the world and get in contact with the Sacred, but rather we set apart the things of this world that we have been given. It is specifically through the physical that we achieve our mission to walk into the Promise Land, today and on into Eternity.

## Deuteronomy 34:1-12

### The Death of Moses

<sup>1</sup> Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo (a primitive root: to pierce; to be hollow, or (figuratively) foolish – hollow, vain; or hollow, hollow – of altar of tabernacle), to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, <sup>2</sup> all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, <sup>3</sup> the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup> And the Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.'" I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." <sup>5</sup> So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, <sup>6</sup> and he (God) buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. <sup>7</sup> Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor

unabated. <sup>8</sup> And the people of Israel **wept** for Moses in the plains of Moab **thirty days**. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

<sup>9</sup> And **Joshua** the son of Nun was **full of the spirit of wisdom**, for **Moses had laid his hands on him**. So the people of Israel **OBEYED HIM** and **DID AS THE LORD HAD COMMANDED** (Faith = Obedience + Doing) **Moses**. <sup>10</sup> And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face (A New Prophet like Moses: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers – it is to him you shall listen," Deuteronomy 18:15), <sup>11</sup> none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, <sup>12</sup> and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

### New Beginnings, the "Eighth Day":

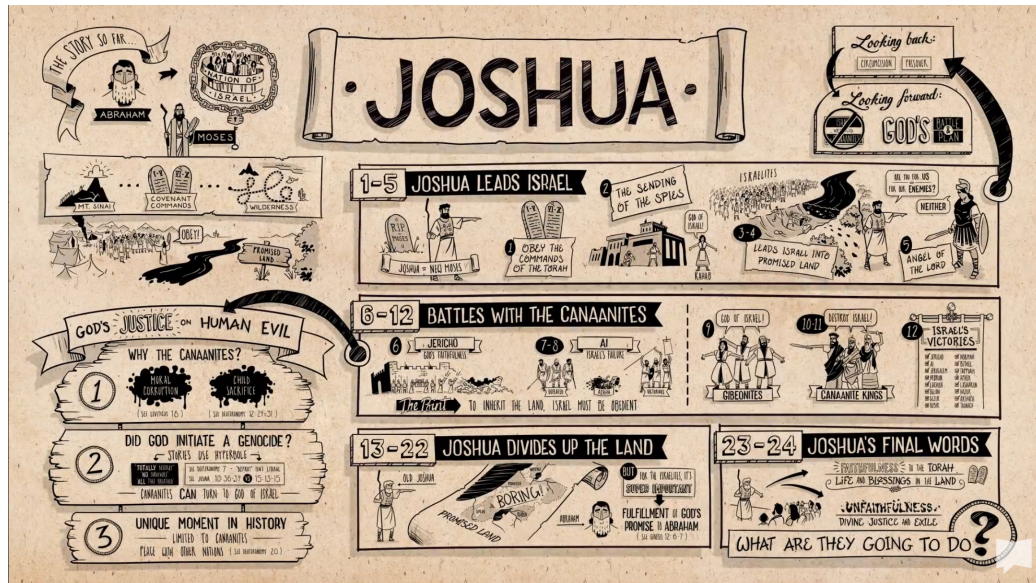
#### Genesis 1:1-5

##### The Creation of the World

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

### Play Video



Joshua - BibleProject

### Abraham's Promise

#### Genesis 12:1-3, 6-7

##### The Call of Abram

<sup>1</sup> Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

### Moses Command – Obey the Commands – Do not acquire the people's practices and gods

#### Deuteronomy 12:1-32

##### The Lord's Chosen Place of Worship

<sup>1</sup> "These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. <sup>2</sup> You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. <sup>3</sup> You shall tear down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and burn their Asherim with fire. You shall chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy their name out of that place. <sup>4</sup> You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way. <sup>5</sup> But you shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there. There you shall go, <sup>6</sup> and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and

**Week 51 - Simchat Torah (“Rejoice with the Torah”)**  
*Deuteronomy 33:1–34:12; Genesis 1:1-2; Joshua 1*  
**“His ‘Burning Commandment’ that . . .”**

of your flock. <sup>7</sup> And there you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

<sup>8</sup> “You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes,<sup>9</sup> for you have not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance that the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>10</sup> But when you go over the Jordan and live in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and when he gives you rest from all your enemies around, so that you live in safety, <sup>11</sup> then to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name dwell there, there you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, and all your finest vow offerings that you vow to the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male servants and your female servants, and the Levite that is within your towns, since he has no portion or inheritance with you. <sup>13</sup> Take care that you do not offer your burnt offerings at any place that you see, <sup>14</sup> but at the place that the Lord will choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I am commanding you . . .

*Warning Against Idolatry*

<sup>29</sup> “When the Lord your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, <sup>30</sup> take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.’ <sup>31</sup> You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the Lord hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.

<sup>32</sup> “Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.