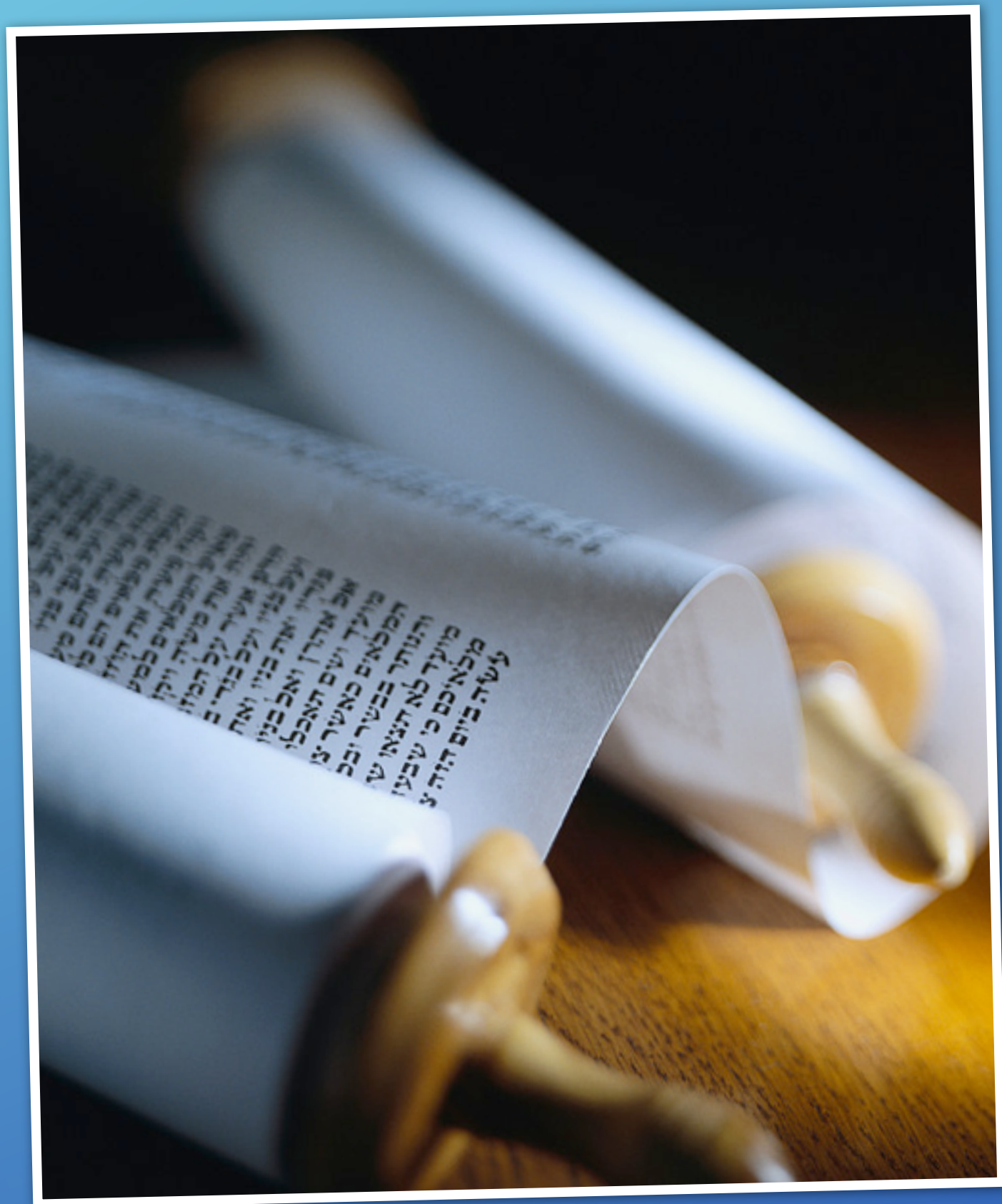




*BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: WEEKLY SCRIPTURE  
READING*

---Roly Buys---

# Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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## *PLEASE JUST DON'T MESS IT UP THIS TIME*

This week's portion comes from **Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22; Isaiah 1:1-27; and John 15:1-11.**

### **Summary**

Thirty eight (38) years have passed by. The older generation that was afraid of the giants has died. The next generation is ready to enter the Land, and Moses decides to retell the story.



How often will we hear of someone who has so much potential, so much talent, so much personality and where we will be told of the great expectations that parents / teachers and other leaders have for them.

Years later, if we run into one of those leaders again, we remember to enquire about that talented individual that we all had such expectations for, and we will be told the sad story: He started out so strong...then unfortunately he got involved with bad friends and into alcohol / drugs / unethical business practices—and now is to be found deep down in the gutter.

This is not an uncommon story. Fame / riches / the glitter of the world, and so forth, seems to deaden the brain and the Spirit-man.

The main message from Moses:

- Do not deviate from GOD (YHVH)'s path—
- Please, just as you start the journey, so too, finish the journey.

John the Apostle records the Words of Y'shua / Jesus.

He says the exact same thing, **but just in different words**. And it is these words that we should meditate on:

***Stay united with Me - a concept of complete joining - a concept of connectedness.***

We connect in so many ways, by telephone, by email, by having an address book with contact details. But that's a worldly system.

GOD (YHVH)'s idea of connectedness, is a joining so secure that His very life essence can flow from Him to us at ALL times. We, as human beings, battle with that idea. You see, we allow our emotions determine much of the way we think. And when we get hurt or we wound someone else, then we separate. We may not always physically move away, but we move away in our hearts.

Small incidents by the same individual afterwards just cause this gap to grow, until at some point in time, we actually have an expectation that that individual will do something wrong.

So it is imperative that we think differently about staying connected to GOD (YHVH). And Y'shua / Jesus says it so well: ***to stay connected you need to “DO” His Commandments.***

You see something in the Commandments, and our action of ***doing*** helps us to transform our spirit-man continuously towards GOD (YHVH).

***John 15:1-11*** “I am the real vine, and My Father is the Gardener. Every branch which is part of Me but fails to bear fruit, He cuts off; and every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes, so that it may bear more fruit. Right now, because of the word which I have spoken to you, you are pruned. ***Stay united with Me, as I will with you*** — for just as the branch can't put forth fruit by itself apart from the vine, so you can't bear fruit apart from Me. **5** “I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who stay united with Me, and I with them, are the ones who bear much fruit; because apart from Me you can't do a thing. ***Unless a person remains united with Me***, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up. Such branches are gathered and thrown into the fire, where they are burned up. **7** “If you ***remain united with Me***, and My Words with you, then ask whatever you want, and it will happen for you. This is how My Father is glorified — in your bearing much fruit; this is how you will prove to be My talmidim. **9** “Just as My Father has loved Me, I too have loved you; so stay in My love. If you keep My Commands, you will stay in My love — just as I have kept My Father's Commands and stay in His love. I have said this to you so that My joy may be in you, and your joy be complete.

We have a choice to make...

A. Become **more and more connected** to Y'shua / Jesus through a four stage plan—

1. Become grafted in, and
2. stay connected to the source of the Glory
3. produce much fruit and
4. bring a first fruit offering.

**OR**

B. **Move away** from Y'shua / Jesus and do our own thing - the WORD says that when we are no longer united with Him, our branch withers, becomes dry, and is thrown away.



The Book of John says: ***if you remain united with Me.*** Moses says: ***Enter the Land.***

The Book of John says: ***don't dry up and become like a dead branch*** Moses says: ***those who fear the giants will perish.***

## MOSES' SPEECH

He starts to tell the story. Written down many years ago, the events were fresh in his mind at the time, and the events followed a sequence, and a time line of sorts.

Now he is telling the story to a new generation. He does not want to repeat everything - word perfect. In fact, he tells the story as the ideas / concepts and events pop into his mind.

The order is *different, for a reason*. There is a **new generation** standing in front of him that will have to *fight new battles*, with *new techniques* and with a *new leader*.

There's also another reason for the change. Moses has grown older—has experienced many things —seen the glory of GOD (YHVH), fought numerous enemies—made mistakes—but most of all, has successfully brought the next generation to the NEW BEGINNING.

These lessons of life, and experiences of GOD (YHVH)'s faithfulness have brought WISDOM. Whatever else, his dream is that the legacy will grow. And so he welds (connects) a wealth of stories together, memories that should never be forgotten, monuments of GOD (YHVH)'s Covenantal blessings and then, like every father should, stops to encourage.

FATHERS HOLD UP THE HANDS OF THE SONS—watch, and imitate the man MOSES. How do you grow old? What will you pass on to the younger generation as a legacy?

## WE NEED A MEMORIAL OF THE CROSSING OVER

You may think that the memorial of the crossing over was somewhere at the river Jordan - and there is one there to be sure.

The Israelites still have a way to go when Moses starts telling them the story all over again.

GOD (YHVH) allows them to find a memorial in the physical out there in the wilderness. It is called Wadi Zered: Strong's 2218 (today known as Wadi Hasa.)



The Israelites will skirt around the edges / go through the barren stretches of the Land belonging to the Edomites / Moabites.

This Wadi runs for about 80 kilometers through the desert with strong running fresh water and pours itself out near Safi, into Dead Sea.

I find it so interesting that the Bible names an actual place that we can go to look up on a map and verify an existence. Can you think that a story recorded so long ago—has this level of verifiable detail? And, then to discover that the water is fresh!

Does that not say something about GOD (YHVH)?

- We need a fresh washing in the WORD
- We need a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit
- We need a fresh new vision of the future

You see all are on a journey through life. At certain times we reach the end of a particular walk of faith.

*But what lies ahead?*

And that is why we need a refreshing of our faith to believe that as we rest in Him, something new/exciting/challenging will open up for us, just as the Jordan parted.

**Deuteronomy 2:13** *“Now get going, and cross Vadi Zered!” “So we crossed Vadi Zered. The time between our leaving Kadesh-Barnea and our crossing Vadi Zered was thirty-eight years*

**Numbers 21:12-13** *“From there they traveled and camped in Vadi Zered. From there they traveled and camped on the other side of the Arnon, in the desert; this river comes out of the territory of the Emori; for the Arnon is the boundary between Mo’av and the Emori.*

And here at the point of crossing over, of moving ever nearer to the “real thing”, the Israelites can stop to remember.

They will “party” here. It’s one of the final steps to their calling.

They remember the stories that their parents told them, of missed opportunities, of having faith in GOD (YHVH).

They remember how GOD (YHVH) provided for them for the past thirty eight (38) years

They remember the blessings.

It is also the point **where they cross** into the land of the Amorites, which GOD (YHVH) will give them because the king will refuse them right of passage.



Scholars will debate the accuracy / meaning of the Wadi's name—could the name be wrong—was it really the border?

Every nation that captures land rewrites their borders. Depending on who you are, you will remember and record the border as you want to - so accept this is the Wadi that they crossed.



In 1868, at Dibon, 40 miles south of Amman, a German missionary made a copy of what became known as the Moabite-Mesha basalt Stele.

### **The history books of another nation confirms / supplements the words recorded by Moses**

It records that Israel “occupied the land of Medeba-Moab”, calls the people of Maob ‘the people of Chemosh’, and substantiates the Name of the GOD (YHVH) of Israel.

Does it not seem strange that the world today, wants to call this land “Palestine” when ancient artifacts record the existence of the children of Israel?

### **WE NEED TO CHOOSE GOOD MEN**

Moses says that they need to pick good leaders / men. Somehow, it is critical that we have the “right” leaders—a **breed that could look at giants and see opportunities.**

#### **Some important attributes to look for:**

**If you study these attributes you will quickly realize that the “qualifications” for the job are onerous:**

- You cannot be voted in by popular opinion
- You cannot be recommended to the position
- You cannot buy your way in with power
- You cannot accept ‘young’ potential leaders
- **You need a track record.**

As Moses speaks, he uses certain words to describe the attributes of good men.

We would do well, to look at these again today. There is a tendency to appoint young people to positions of leadership.

However, while they may have many good, and Godly attributes, then common fact is that wisdom, is only gained the school of life - it needs time to develop.

#### **Wise—Hebrew Strong’s - 2450**

- Wise, (in administration and ethics)
- skillful,
- subtle, shrewd,
- learned, prudent

#### **Understanding—Hebrew Strong’s - 0995**

- To discern, perceive, know, observe,
- give heed to,

- distinguish,
- insight,
- teach, instruct, intelligent

### **Experienced – Hebrew Strong's - 3045**

- To perceive and see,
- to find out and discern,
- to confess,
- to learn to know,
- to be skillful in.

### **MOSES REMINDS THEM WHAT GOD (YHVH) WILL DO FOR US.**

#### **IF:**

- We must have courage; we must stand and be strong.
- We must have hope—He has promised us the Land
- We must persevere until all is done
- We must commit to obey GOD (YHVH) until the end

He will make us a BLESSING TO ALL OF THE NATIONS

### **Moses retells the story – sadly, Isaiah will repeat these principles.**

Moses spends quite a bit of time rehashing the event known today as the sin of the spies—and speak of the principles that were put on hold for 40 years in the wilderness. (Which is why we have the name Deuteronomy - it means “Second Law”)

Moses will emphasis the past - many years later a prophet by the name of Isaiah will do the same. Why is it that man is not able to “hear and do”? We will read through Isaiah 1:1-27, and see the sad repeat of these events all over again.

### **What is the role of prophet?**

Moses never took the title of prophet. He was leader, teacher, and mentor.

But at a point in time GOD (YHVH) indicates that there will be others who **will be prophets “like” Moses.**

**Deuteronomy 18:18** *“I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen. I will put My Words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I order him. Whoever doesn’t listen to My Words, which he will speak in My Name, will have to account for himself to Me.*

Isaiah therefore becomes one of these that are raised up “like Moses”, and it is this wording that we focus on.

It seems to me that if you are raised up as a prophet, then:

- You will continue the teaching of Moses
- You will enhance his authority
- You will “connect” every teaching made by Paul and others to a principle set out by Moses.



And now if we look at Isaiah **we note the following: we see that Isaiah raises the same principles again and again.**

**a) Do not be a hypocrite**

Our walk should be a reflection of our values and our talk. We should not put masks on to cover up the “real” you—many times we see that Godly values will be compromised when we are not pure.

**Isaiah 1:11-13** *“Why are all those sacrifices offered to me?” asks ADONAI. “I’m fed up with burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fattened animals! I get no pleasure from the blood of bulls, lambs and goats! Yes, you come to appear in my presence; but who asked you to do this, to trample through my courtyards? Stop bringing worthless grain offerings! They are like disgusting incense to me! Rosh-Hodesh, Shabbat, calling convocations — I can’t stand evil together with your assemblies!*

**b) Be Mikveh’d, and live a pure/ clean life**

We make mistakes. We should be quick to repent and bring restitution. The Mikveh in the physical is a reminder to our old man, that we are determined to move forward.

More importantly, a spiritual mikveh is where we allow our minds and emotions to be renewed by a commitment to produce the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

**Isaiah 1:16** *“Wash yourselves clean! Get your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing evil,*

**c) Serve others**

Nothing helps you more to focus on Godly attributes, than reaching out to help others. We can put all sorts of labels to this, or we can ask: would you let a Samaritan be there first to lend a helping hand?

I submit that one of the most embarrassing moments for those other children of Israel will be the reminder that a stranger reached out to help someone from our community!!! When the Commandments are clear - love you neighbour—we all avoided our neighbour. Have we learnt this lesson today? I want to suggest that the Israelites have done exactly this:

Have you noticed on the TV news - every single time that there is a natural disaster somewhere in the world, the nation of Israel rushes to be there to help?  
Should we not apply this lesson also?

**Isaiah 1:17** *“Learn to do good! Seek justice, relieve the oppressed, defend orphans, plead for the widow.*

**d) Repent and return to GOD (YHVH)’s path.**

If only we can allow the effect of “peer pressure” to wash off from our souls.  
I submit that most of the decisions made to cause us to deviate from GOD (YHVH)’s path is a result of peer pressure to succeed, and our willingness to let the “old man” rule.

The Bible is full of the wonderful results of a repentant child:

**Isaiah 1:18** *“Come now,” says ADONAI, “let’s talk this over together. Even if your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow; even if they are red as crimson, they will be like wool.*

**e) Do not forsake GOD (YHVH)’s ways—endure to the end**

**Isaiah 1:28** *“Rebels and sinners together will be broken and those who abandon ADONAI will be consumed. You will be ashamed of the sacred oaks you desired, you will blush at the gardens you chose; for you will be like an oak whose leaf fades like a garden without any water. The strong will be like tinder and [the idol’s] maker like a spark; both will burn together, and no one will put them out.”*

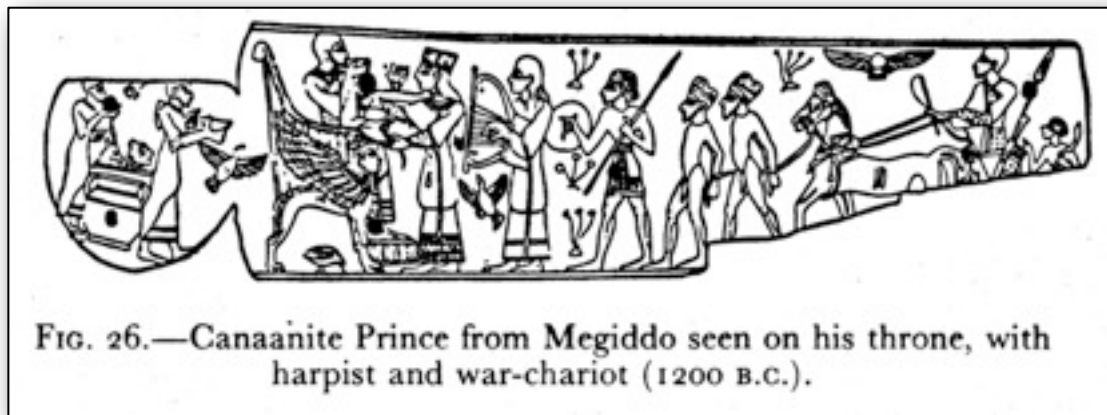
**Are these not the same messages that Moses spoke all those many years ago?**

WE ENTER THE LAND BUT NOT WITH THE SAME OPPORTUNITY OF SUCCESS.

The Israelites will have to go in to fight **BUT, the element of surprise has been lost.**

The Canaanites have had forty (40) years in which to prepare, to build forts, strengthen defenses, and train up armies.

Their generals had been planning battlefield strategy all of this time.



I am not suggesting that this battle was any more difficult for GOD (YHVH)...what I am saying is that the result would probably have been far *quicker, easier*, and I dare say *more comprehensive*, had they gone into the Land the first time.



As it was, Joshua is not able to drive all of the Canaanites out of the Land simply because most of the ten (10) northern tribes thought that they had been at war for far too long—and just wanted peace.

When you think about it that way, and you consider modern day Israel, it is not hard to see why so many of today's Israelites are prepared to try any effort at peace. They have literally been at war since 1948.

After-all, how many of you would like to live near Gaza where a mortar or two can come flying over your head any moment? And more importantly, what if you have little children that want to play in the park?

And so Moses starts **to speak**—these “words”:

**Deuteronomy 1:1** *“These are **the words** Moshe spoke to all Isra’el ...*

Today we just think they are **ordinary words. Everyday words. It is more than just the stories – it is the concepts / principles** than underlie each story that are the most **critical element to take to heart.**

The Strong’s Hebrew word for “**Words**” =1697 and is “**davar**”

The words have so many meanings – It is so much more complex than “just words”.

Have a look and see **which one** you think he used:

- Speech
- Utterance
- Promise
- Precept
- A saying
- Counsel
- A proposed plan
- A done deal

I am sure that if you keep this in the back of your mind as you read Deuteronomy, you will find that **all of these come to the fore**, somewhere along the line ...

**WE NEED TO STOP GOING AROUND THE MOUNTAIN.**

As Moses starts to speak, he recalls an incident just after they had entered the wilderness. The people are at Kadesh-Barnea. Only 11 days journey from Horeb. GOD (YHVH) says: You have been here too long!!!

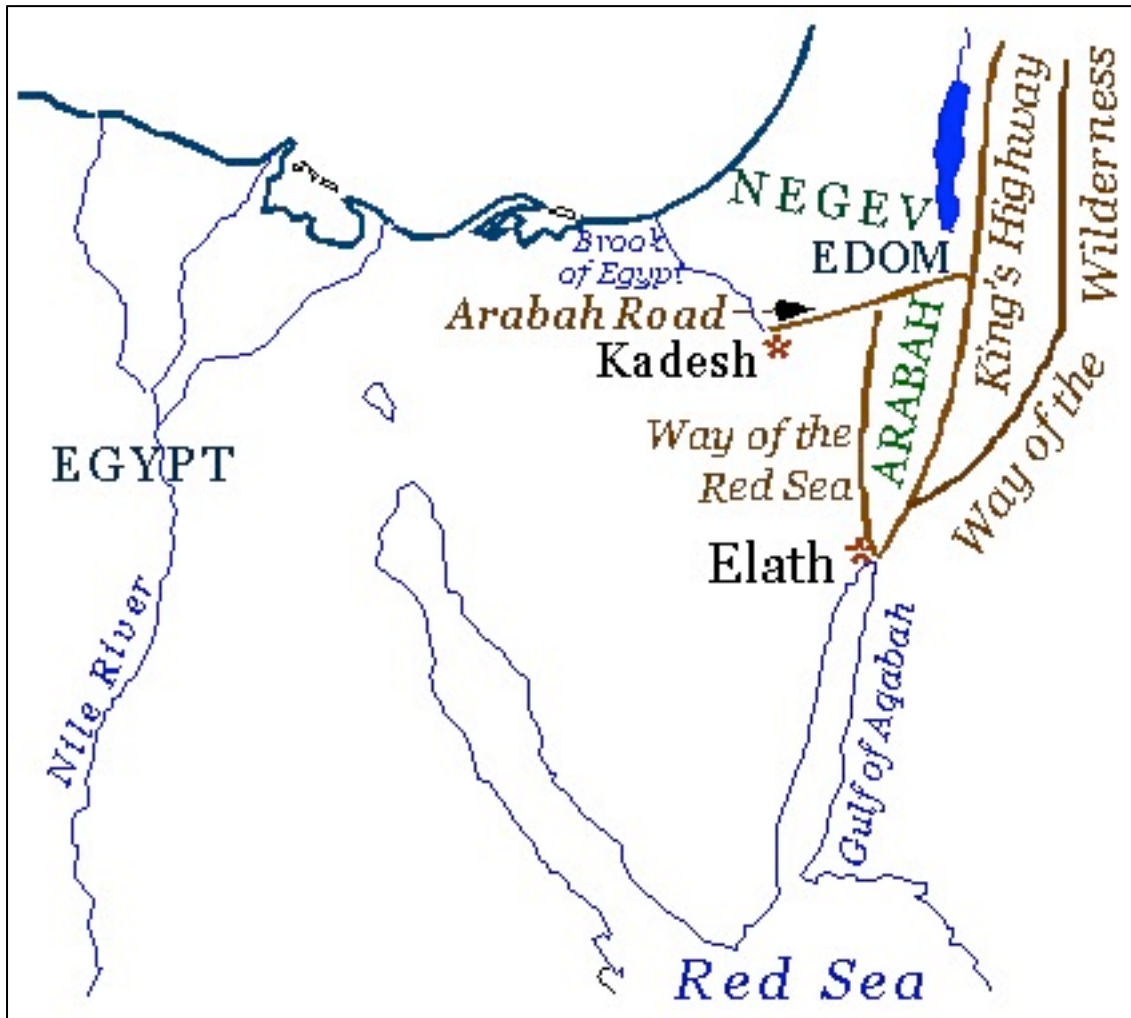
**Deuteronomy 1:6-8** *ADONAI spoke to us in Horev. He said, ‘**You have lived long enough by this mountain.** Turn, get moving and go to the hill-country of the Emori and all the places near there in the ‘Aravah, the hill-country, the Sh’felah, the Negev and by the seashore — the land of the Kena’ani, and the L’vanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates River. **I have set the land before you!** Go in, and take possession of the land ADONAI swore to give to your ancestors Avraham, Yitz’chak and Ya’akov, and their descendants after them.’*

Unfortunately the disobedience (we mess things up) causes them to stay here for thirty-eight (38) years **while the “men of war” all die out.**

**Deuteronomy 2:14** *...until the whole generation of men capable of bearing arms had been eliminated from the camp.*

Have you ever wondered why the Bible speaks this way? Did the **women** not die out? Were they '**not guilty**' of the decision not to enter the Land?

Now, on the "eve" of the new generation going into the Land, GOD (YHVH) once again says... "*you have been going around this mountain long enough*".



**Deuteronomy 2:3-4** *You have been going around this mountain long enough! Head north, and give this order to the people: "You are to pass through the territory of your kinsmen the descendants of 'Esav who live in Se'ir. They will be afraid of you, so be very cautious."*

## WHY DO WE GO ROUND AND ROUND THE MOUNTAIN?

I really think that this is the crux of this portion. We often start out with good intentions to serve GOD (YHVH). Somehow or other, somewhere along the way, we become dead branches. This happens the moment we no longer draw from the SAP of the Living Vine.

**\*\*NUGGET!\*\*** As soon as you and I determine to spend the time of our day's:

**NEITHER LISTENING  
NOR  
PAYING ATTENTION / DOING**

**We get stuck at the mountain.**

In other words, we have decided not to Sh'ma (hear and do) - we are stuck.

**Deuteronomy 1:45** *"You returned and cried before ADONAI, but ADONAI neither listened to what you said nor paid you any attention. This is why you had to stay in Kadesh as long as you did."*

What are **the words** that the Book of John uses?

**John 15:2** *Because of the **WORD** that I have **SPOKEN** you are pruned.*

### ***A FINAL THOUGHT***

Are you standing at a **personal** Wadi Zered? It does not matter how young or old you are!! Do you have to cross over into a new Land that GOD (YHVH) has for you?

**Do not be afraid!**

Understand that the ARK is now on the inside of your heart.

Step into that opportunity with anticipation.

And remember to build a stone ALTAR at the entry point to your new challenge - Just so that you can look back to see how far you have gone by next year this time

The Torah as well as Y'shua / Jesus says that GOD (YHVH)'s WORD prunes at the old / unfruitful branches.

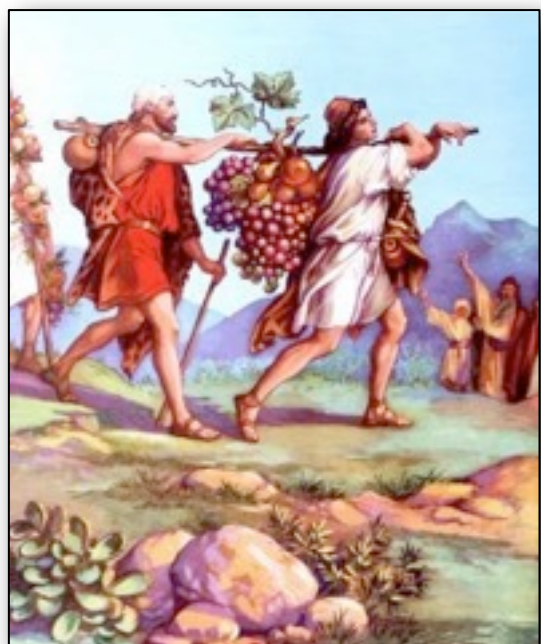
It is telling us that the Torah prunes at the "old man".

You cannot tackle a new "thing" / project / calling with an old mindset.

Ask GOD (YHVH) to prune – **hard!**

During each stage in life we have grown new shoots—these shoots had value during that season—those shoots bore fruit that we could show as a first fruits offering.

But in the new challenge, we will most probably need different "shoots".



If we drag this “old weight” along with us, three things will happen:

- We carry something that we do not need
- We do not have space for the new shoot to grow
- And we may very well get despondent with our slow progress

Therefore ask GOD (YHVH) to take away everything that we do not need for the next part of possessing our Promised Land..

**YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO MESS UP THIS TIME?**



*“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.*  
**May YHVH bless you and keep you.**

*Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.*  
**May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.**

*Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.*  
**May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.**

In this way they are to put My Name on the people of Israel, so that I will bless them.”

**--Numbers 6:24-27**

*Shalom!!*