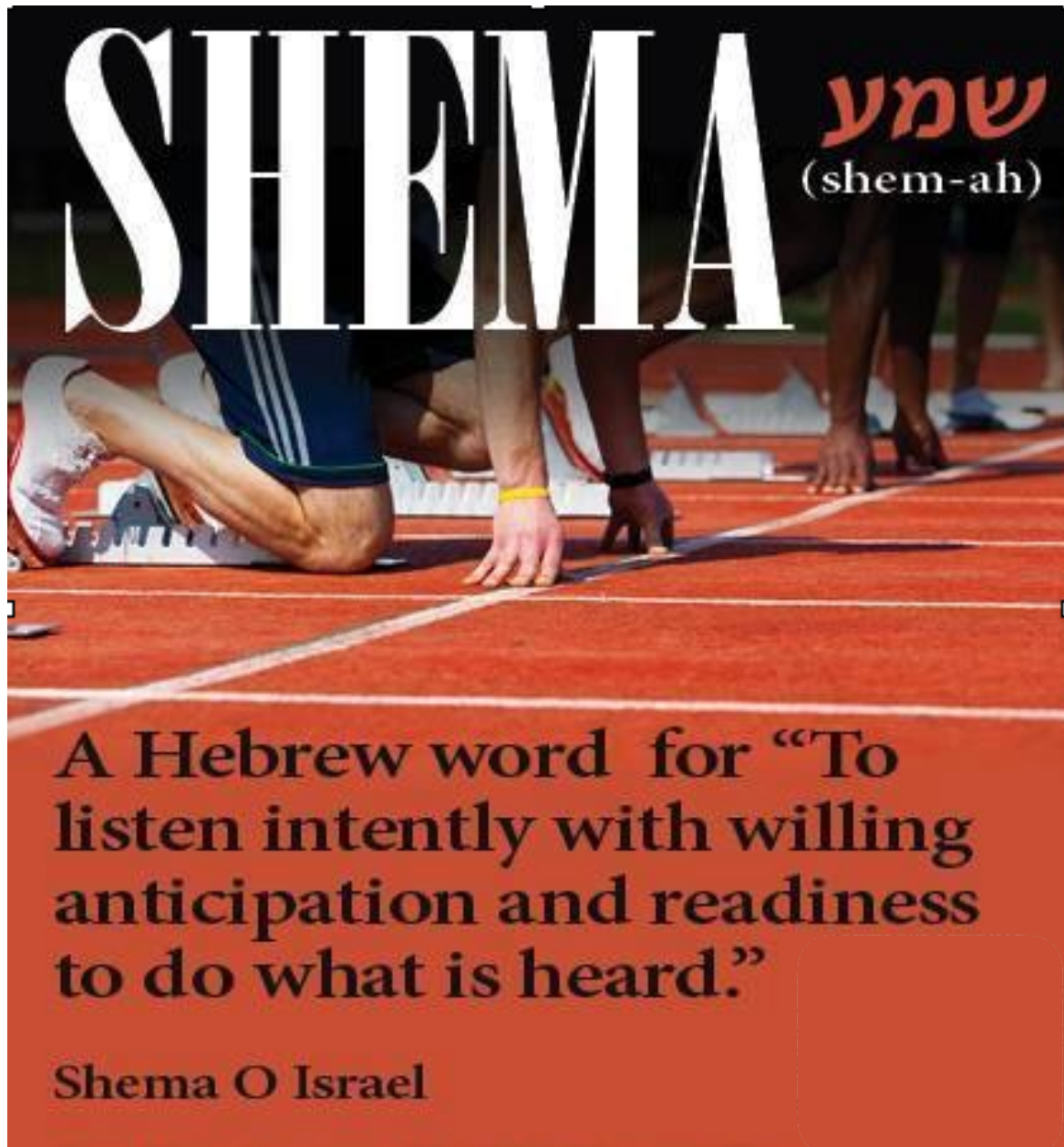


WEEK 37 SCRIPTURE READING

5778 / 2017-18



SHEMA שמע
(shem-ah)

A Hebrew word for “To listen intently with willing anticipation and readiness to do what is heard.”

Shema O Israel

by Roly Buys

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Parashah Shelach Lekha | לשלוח בעצמך | “send for yourself”

Week 37

This week we read from the following Scriptures:

Numbers 13.1-15.41, Joshua 2.1-24 and Hebrews 3.7-19.

SERVANT-LEADERSHIP

This series intends to look at the concept of Godly¹ leadership to identify the good, wise and wonderful attributes that we would do well to emulate.

I will “repeat” the description of what I believe Godly leadership ... “servant-leader” is all about, I that way you can benchmark the attributes of the character that I have selected to analyze for this week.

I submit that our actions, if they are restricted to only Bible study, or spirit worship, will not please the FATHER.

YHVH wants us to reveal His Kingdom to the world and make an impact ... our failure to be obedient to this task, means that YHVH's Glory is limited and the opportunity to present a meaningful alternative to the world model is lost.

OUR GOAL

1 Peter 4:10-11 “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of GOD’s varied Grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of GOD; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that GOD supplies—in order that in everything GOD may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

This fact, therefore, implies that fathers will ROLE-MODEL the various behaviours / attitudes / values that are acceptable over an extended period of time.

When the child is very small, these examples must be presented as simply as possible.

Over time the same lesson will take on far more complicated scenarios and interplay with others.

Taking this forward in Biblical time means that the basic lessons must be in place, for all possible events, by the age of 13, when other peer groups will begin to implant THEIR VIEWS OF LIFE. When this happens, we need to have the Biblical BENCHMARK set firmly into our character.

¹ We use the Name **YHVH** instead of GOD, except where it appears in Scriptures.

Y'SHUA as Role Model

The prophet Isaiah speaks quite often about the coming Messiah - in many verses we find the reference to: "*My Servant ...*"

I will take those verses and inject them into each one of the attributes that are listed below

Firstly, that verse will validate the specific attribute.

Secondly that verse will give us the understanding that the behaviour defined, is in fact a extremely reachable target

(a) A father's role-model of Justice / healing

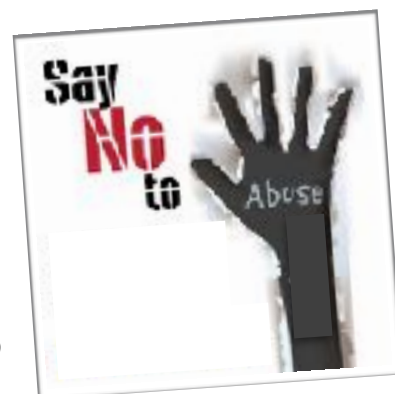
One of the fundamental building blocks of any human-being value system, is a sound understanding of the concept of *justice*.

Justice is not only the action to be fair in time of dispute, ***but rather the principle never to do anything (business / sport / politics) that would give you an unfair advantage over others.***

This includes concepts such as:

- ◆ Paying a fair wage
- ◆ Opposing slavery
- ◆ Opposing abuse

Since many people have suffered abuse at the hands of others, and now carry wounds and hurts that preclude them from a normal healthy life, one of the leadership roles is to identify those hurt, **and to facilitate a process of healing.**



Once people have been made whole ... the servant-leader should go about the process of **identifying their YHVH-given gifts / talents.**

He should take steps to train people in their specific gifts, empower them to cover the weaknesses of those gifts and then ...

Release them into the appropriate position within the Body of Messiah where they can grow / flourish AND make a difference in other people's lives.

We will know that we cannot do things on our own. Even more surely, we are made for a very specific part of the Body of Messiah.

This implies that we can really only function in that place that we were made for.

Healing / satisfaction comes when I take responsibility for that work / action that is required of that part of the Body of Messiah.

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 42:1)

(b) A father's role-model of Compassion / empathy

In a world where the best receive the glory and those last in line are all but forgotten, Biblical leaders should have the wherewithal to see the individual value and special abilities in a person.

Not only should he see these, but he should be focused on further development and training in these areas, and then he should be concerned with finding the right position for that individual to thrive

Such a leader will **value diverse opinion** ... he will **seek to hear alternative views, and he will not be putting people into stereotype boxes** - based on the fact that these people come from a different culture.

Not only will he be able to understand diverse views, but also he will be able to work in a community made up of strangers and still be able to reveal how YHWH expects us to love our neighbour.

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 42:3)

(c) A father's role-model of Humility / trust / listening

- i) The first thing that you will realise of a leader, who is humble, is that books, articles and electronic media surround them. They are always searching for the truth and openly express the opinion that they welcome investigation into their thinking in order to test its credibility.

This principle of continuous learning is not only a wonderful means to remain humble; it's a prerequisite from YHWH (**Deuteronomy 17:19 / Joshua 1:8**).

- ii) The second attribute of a servant-leader who is humble, is the ability to create a **culture of TRUST**.

The modern world, with its performance-orientated goal creates a web of deceit and mistrust. Simple said, *how can I trust you with a secret or a better plan when both of us want to be recognised as the best in the team?*

Servant-leaders reject all forms of gossip, create opportunities for people with opposing views to face one another and debate the matter, and actively work to ensure transparency and sharing of all information.

- iii) A third attribute of servant leaders is that they are **good listeners**. They will seek clarity on what is said and felt.

They will be able to understand the fears/hopes and dreams of all concerned so that not one of the family / tribe is left behind (this does not mean that we agree with everything being said).



Y'SHUA, as Role Model (Isaiah 49:3)

(d) A father's role-model of emotional connectedness

One of the realities of this fast-paced world, is that we have all become so very busy. Not only do we have the opportunity to do many and diverse things / activities, we are also faced with the communication era of computers / smart phones / and software that connects people such as Facebook.

In this fast-paced world, its very easy not to be aware of the emotional status of some of your family and friends.

In one sense, it's wonderful not be see / be aware of any problems - simply because you don't have to worry about it.

But if you are a parent who is determined to follow their calling, **then you will want to be very tuned in to their fears / concerns / expectations and so on, so that you can react timeously and can offer the support needed.**

Once you are aware that a problem exists, then you can set in motion the action which can work towards a healing.

Importantly, these problems will manifest on many different levels ... it is not only spiritual .. it can also be physical and emotional...

For example:

- ◆ It can be a perceived weight problem for girls,
- ◆ It can be a poor muscle structure for a boy,
- ◆ It can be a lack of ball sense ...

In other words, it can be any thing that the world will use to judge and benchmark someone against as **unacceptable**.

One of the features of a great parent is the **ability to encourage** despite the circumstances – and note the words are: → *“let us ...”* ...and not *“you go and try on your own”*.

Fathers, who are emotionally connected, will strive to **delegate responsibility** to others in order to challenge them to grow.

Such Fathers will never be afraid to give up power, because they know that seeing others take up the challenge and succeed is far more significant than being successful at something yourself ... simply because you know that the feat can be multiplied dozens of times even when you are absent.

A Biblical example is Yitro telling Moses what you are doing trying to keep the entire leadership role for your self → is NOT GOOD (**Exodus 18:14-17**).

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 50:5)

(e) A father's role-model of revealing Godly influence

The world system speaks of a system of “command” and obey ... these days the world system tries to modify this by implying that consultation before decision making is an inclusive system.

In fact, this façade creates more unhappiness as people soon realise that there is a hidden agenda at play; the people can then become either:

- ◆ a group that is happy to be disengaged,
- ◆ or a group who is actively seeking to move on.

Influence is the ability to convince others of a need to change - either a burning platform or a common better goal.

Both David and Joshua best display this ability by getting TWELVE tribes of different thinking people to work together.

An influencer thinks of “**you**” ... not “**me**”

- ◆ This can only be true if you **truly believe in the people whom you lead**
- ◆ They may make mistakes that you have to correct
- ◆ They may disappoint you sometimes,
- ◆ BUT you know that they are mainly giving of their best.

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 42:2)

(f) A father's role-model of releasing creativity

Innovation has become the name of the game.

People have dreams that are based on the exploits of others that have gone before them.

There was a time when – to run the mile in under 4 minutes was a huge feat. Today, new records get set at regular intervals.

Fathers are empowered to discern exactly what talents and gifts have been implanted in each child.

To develop those talents requires a concerted effort to plan, not only in the **timing** - how do we expose people to challenges, but also the **pace** at which we do so ... in this case its important to set stiff enough goals without discouraging the individual.

And YHVH knows what the best time is ... listen carefully to the Holy Spirit!! (**Numbers 27:16-17**)

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 49:6)

(g) A father's role-model the art of Strategic planning

We live in a world that is constantly changing. Consider the fact that 100 years ago most people still used the horse or the donkey / camel, while today any trip of some distance can only be done in an airplane. Think about the concept of the old landline telephone and the new portable cell phone.

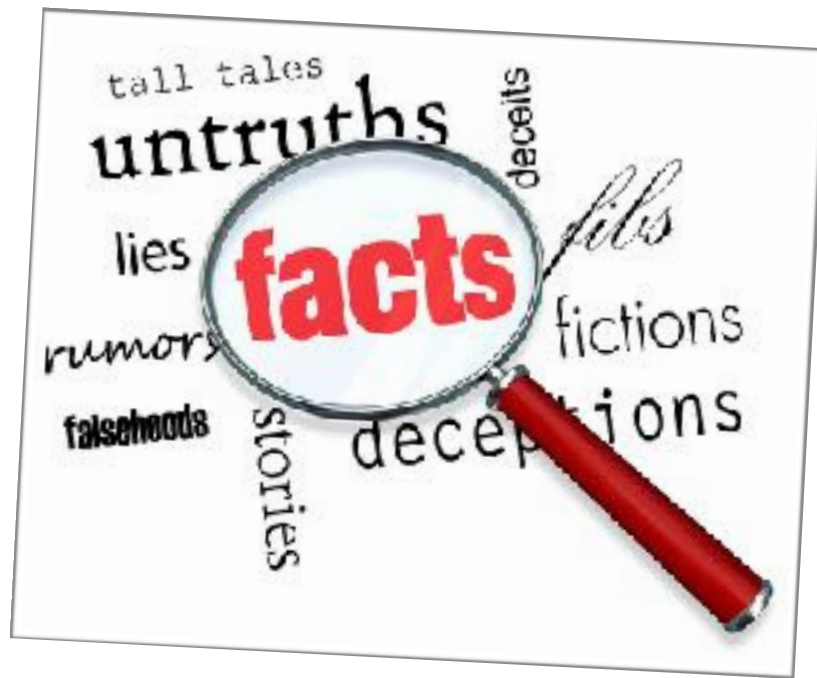
But more critically, is the change in the distribution and control of information.

Shops that sold books are now obsolete as people purchase these over the Internet.

You must be **prepared to investigate** strange things!!! (**Exodus 3:2-3**)

It's this type of change that can radically make or break a fantastic plan.

For this reason, fathers must teach children the art of scenario planning.



The ability to take note of changes in the environment, of new developments, of new evolving trends, and then commit this to a scenario plan to identify possible alternatives to be investigated.

A father who puts his child on a single track destination without this kind of training, is failing dismally in his leadership role as the likelihood of a dead-end, or a cliff without a bridge.

What do we want to do?

We need to empower the next generation to have the foresight to see various outcomes from a difficult situation and to be able to plan various alternative solutions so that they are not stuck.

What we need is to repeat the lessons of old - every single mistake or Biblical forefathers made, we need to help them identify the current realities for what they are – we need to take the Land (and not what we would want them to be), and we need to build an appreciation for estimating the cost / consequence of any action taken (as for me and my house we will serve the LORD).

We need to teach others to look up and around, while at the same time looking down at the job at hand (**Joshua 2:1**).

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 49:2)

(h) A father's role-model of function of Stewardship

The Book of Genesis describes clearly ... we have been given a mandate – to **keep and guard** the Garden; to have dominion over the earth and all that is on it (but not on fellow humans), and we have to be accountable to YHVH for what we accomplish with this calling (**Genesis 1:28**).

Stewardship speaks to an understanding that we have a responsibility ... to leave the Garden in a better state than how we found it, that we have to build more than we utilise.

To this end, the perpetual use of farm land without rest is contrary to YHVH's Principles and the use of water without a care in the world reflects a belief that we can call on YHVH anytime that we like bring more rain ... that a undesirable level of arrogance **and** shows that we do not value the gift of the Garden. Nor the Giver of the gift!!!

It is within this domain that many of our most precious values are to be discovered.



Integrity

How many of us remember the day when, if two people shook hands on a deal, then it was irrevocable, and everybody understood that.

This concept is a fundamental building block of the principle of Covenant.

The bond of my word was enough to live or die by.

A similar thought is contained in the **salt covenant** idea, Once we had broken bread, together with salt, you as my guest are completely safe from all harm.

You simply cannot be a good steward if you do not have integrity.

Honesty

- ◆ Honesty, as a value follows closely on that of integrity.
- ◆ However, honesty includes the understanding that you will make right all possible damage / harm caused under your roof, even if no claim is laid.
- ◆ Honesty includes the application of fairness, diligence, and justice.

A wonderful quote by RL Stevenson ...

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest that you reap, but by the seeds that you plant,”

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 42:4)

(i) A father's role-model of Community building / citizenship

The world has created large corporations / huge companies that own a great deal of resource or governmental organisations that attempt to control mankind via their influence in the media and the minds of the masses.

The best structure from the Bible is the family; in a clan, in a tribe, and in a community.

Community come together for common purpose i.e. religion / welfare / celebrations; and sometimes to go to war when the group is under attack.

Within this context, the community either grows together or suffers together, and we do not get the huge differentials of wealth, health, etc, that we do today!

While leadership can be stressful and demanding ... (**Numbers 11:11-15**)

... the rewards are great when you see a community respond and start to function for themselves!

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 50:6)

(j) A father's role-model of how to be leaving a legacy

The moment that you accept that:

- ◆ every individual is “equal and unique”,
- ◆ that people should never be oppressed by anyone,
- ◆ that you realise that you are called to be accountable for your stewardship of the Garden,

... then you will believe in and work towards leaving a legacy.

- ◆ Legacy empowers OTHERS in your lifetime – legacy does not equal inheritance.
- ◆ Legacy is described in these strange words ‘It’s better to teach a man to fish than to feed him everyday’

But then you will understand that legacy equals hard work and sometimes, for a neighbour that does not even think or believe as you do ... we call that loving your neighbour.

Y'SHUA as Role Model (Isaiah 50:10,11)

LEADERSHIP IS NOT EASY

We see many examples of Biblical men who thought that they did not have what it takes:

- ◆ **Moses** → who am I?
- ◆ **Isaiah** → I am not a man of words!
- ◆ **Jeremiah** → I am a man of unclean lips!
- ◆ **Jonah** → I cannot speak!

The highest accolade → Moses is a servant ... **he is called YHVH's Servant.**

The Way Forward

The point of this short description is not to do an in depth study of Biblical leadership, but to define some of the Godly characteristics of such a role.

We will look at various individuals during this Torah cycle study.

I do not intend to discuss their shortcomings, but to focus on their GODLY Leadership qualities so that we can learn from these and start to emulate these attributes.

As such, I also do not intend to allocate their attributes under each of the heading described above, merely to reflect on their revealed lifestyle.

LET US RETURN TO THIS WEEK'S PORTION

Moses recounts the story of the 12 spies that went into the land - who saw the abundance of the fruit - so much so that they could scarcely carry it, AND yet were overcome by the size of the giants and the walls around their cities.

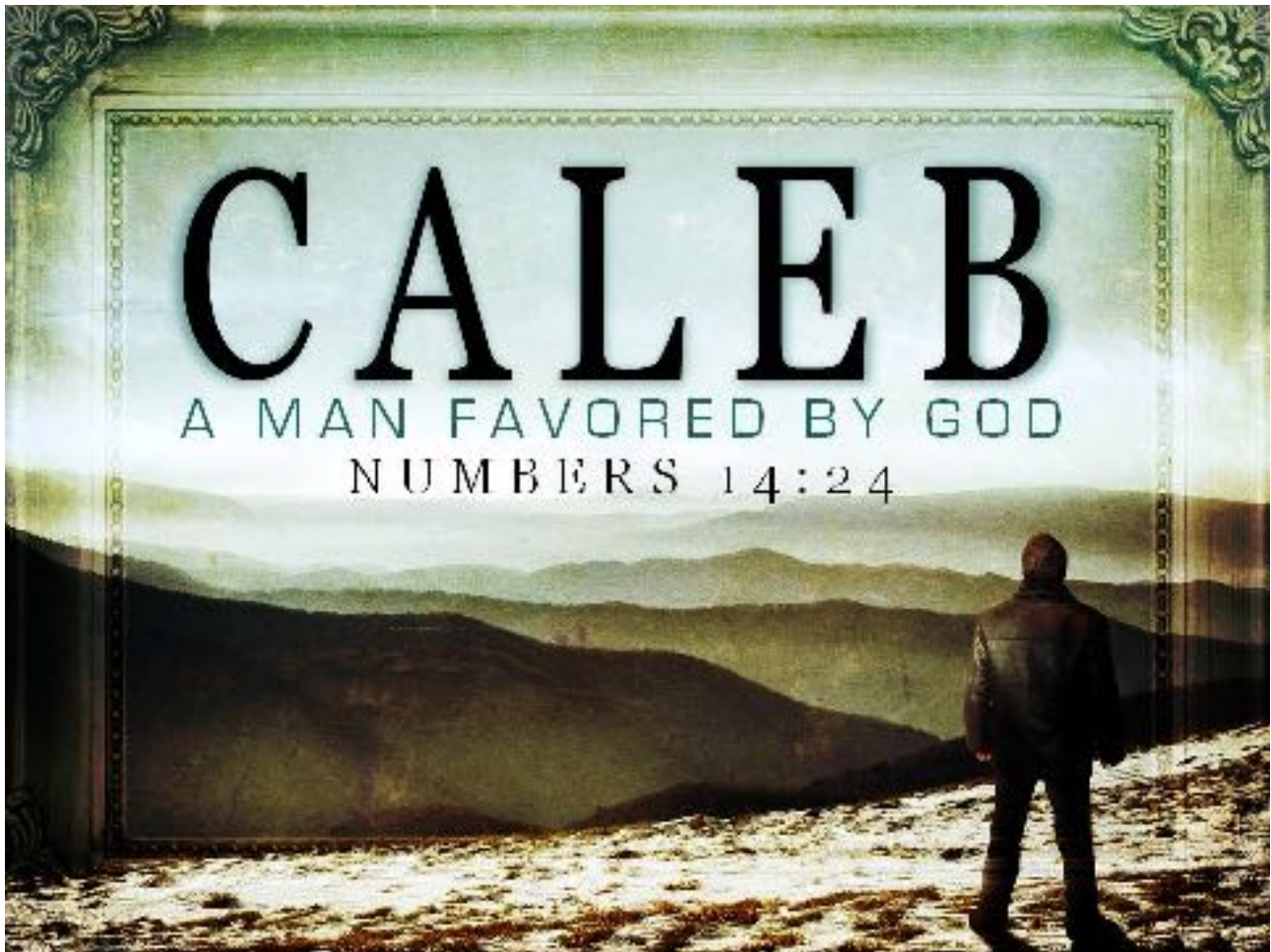


You wonder why they carried the fruit back to show the people if they had already decided that they should **not enter** the land.

It seems as if they were undecided, in two minds, until the voices of the ten men drowned out the size **of the fruit**.

Two men, Joshua and Caleb, have a different view of the enemy.

We are going to look at the leadership attributes of Caleb.



A. Caleb reveals the attribute of GODLY influence or CITIZENSHIP

Whilst his fellow spies are afraid and are spreading fear, he realizes that the citizens who had not had the opportunity to see for themselves, would be influenced incorrectly.

What would they think ... big fruit and HUGE problems.

He feels that he must address this.

You will note - he does not say "*this will benefit me*" ... BUT he tries to convince them that YHVH's Promise and the POTENTIAL will be for THEIR benefit.

Numbers 13:30 "*Kalev silenced the people around Moshe and said, "We ought to go up immediately and take possession of it; there is no question that we can conquer it."*

B. Caleb reveals the attribute of being HUMBLE

Caleb **speaks out strongly** that they should have faith.

While he is a renowned warrior, he understands that is not by power or might, but by the **Hand of YHVH** that they will have the victory.

He pleads with them not to rebel and **to have faith** that YHVH will remove the enemies' defences.

Caleb's actions and his report back **reflect that of a faithful spy**.

Faithfulness in the sight of tribulation requires a humble spirit.

Numbers 14:5-9 *"Moshe and Aharon fell on their faces before the entire assembled community of the people of Isra'el. Y'hoshua the son of Nun and Kalev the son of Y'funeh, from the detachment that had reconnoitered the land, tore their clothes and said to the whole community of Isra'el, "The land we passed through in order to spy it out is an **outstandingly good land!** If ADONAI is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us — a land flowing with milk and honey. Just don't rebel against ADONAI. And don't be afraid of the people living in the land — we'll eat them up! Their defense has been taken away from them, and **ADONAI is with us!** Don't be afraid of them!"*

C. Caleb reveals the heart of STEWARDSHIP

Caleb receives the insight of the greatness of YHVH's Promise to the people when he enters the land as a spy.

He will carry this vision for **another 40 years** before he has a chance to go in and take his portion of the land.

Deuteronomy 1:36 *"... except Kalev the son of Y'funeh — **he will see it;** I will give him and his descendants the land he walked on, because he has fully followed ADONAI."*

- ◆ He **understands** that he must keep and guard this land.
- ◆ He **keeps it in the forefront of his mind** and asks to be given the chance to go against the giants that caused the other men to quake at the knees.
- ◆ He **keeps the land**, by defeating those giants and then sets in motion an example that even today Jewish people still try to emulate ... those who have gone back to stay in Hebron and who keep on guarding the light of Glory that Caleb established.

Joshua 15:13-15 *"To Kalev the son of Y'funeh he gave a portion with the descendants of Y'hudah, as ADONAI had ordered Y'hoshua, namely, Kiryat-Arba (Arba was the father of the 'Anak), also called Hevron. Kalev expelled from there three descendants of 'Anak — Sheshai, Achiman and Talmi, children of 'Anak. From there he went up to fight the inhabitants of D'vir (D'vir was formerly called Kiryat-Sefer)."*

D. Caleb believes in LEGACY

- ◆ **Caleb understands** that he is now an old man and will not be able to carry on forever.
- ◆ He has a daughter who has his same characteristics, strength, faith and initiative.
- ◆ He **calls for a man who has the courage** who will fight with him - a man who he then knows will be the perfect match for his daughter.

Joshua 15:16-19 *"Kalev said, "To whoever overpowers Kiryat-Sefer and captures it I will give my daughter Adar as his wife." 'Otni'el the son of K'naz, Kalev's brother, captured it; so he gave him 'Akhsah his daughter as his wife. After becoming his wife, she persuaded him to ask her father to give them a field; when she got off her donkey, Kalev asked her, "What do you want?" She said to him: **"Give me a blessing: since you gave me land in the Negev, also give me sources of water."** So Kalev gave her the Upper Springs and the Lower Springs."*

E. Caleb reveals that he had vision / STRATEGY

- ◆ Caleb **saw the giants**.
- ◆ But he also **saw the victory** instead of the giants.
- ◆ He could **envision himself taking these cities**.

Numbers 14:24 *"But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it."*

Therefore he calls out - ***“give me that mountain!”***



Joshua 14:6-12 *“The descendants of Y’hudah approached Y’hoshua in Gilgal, and Kalev the son of Y’funeh the K’nizi said to him, “You know what ADONAI told Moshe the man of GOD about me and you in Kadesh-Barnea. I was forty years old when Moshe the servant of ADONAI sent me from Kadesh-Barnea to reconnoiter the land, and I brought back to him an honest report. My brothers who went up with me discouraged the people, but I followed ADONAI my GOD completely. On that day Moshe swore, ‘Surely the land where your foot has been will be the inheritance for you and your descendants forever, because you have followed ADONAI my God completely.’ Now, look: ADONAI has kept me alive these forty-five years, as he said he would, from the time ADONAI said this to Moshe, when Isra’el was going through the desert. Today I am eighty-five years old, but I am as strong today as on the day Moshe sent me — I’m as strong now as I was then, whether for war or simply for going here and there. **Therefore, give me this hill, the one ADONAI spoke about on that day; for on that day you heard how the ‘Anakim were there with great, fortified cities; perhaps ADONAI will be with me, and I will drive them away, as ADONAI said.**”*

What a title ... my SERVANT CALEB!

A FINAL THOUGHT

Often we attempt something, which fits into our calling and would reflect the Gifts that YHVH placed inside of us, and for a variety of reasons, we get sidetracked.

Sometimes this is because other people cause us to doubt, sometimes we just lack the courage to push through.

- ❖ Caleb experienced that sort of setback.
- ❖ He never looks back.
- ❖ He does not live in the past.
- ❖ He does not live in dreamland saying ... what if!!

Caleb only thinks of the future ...

And because he sees YHVH's Plan, he does not let the failure of the past (not his own fault) cause him to miss out on reaching his potential.

HAFTORAH

In the HAFTORAH portion we read of a lady called **Rahab**.



- ◆ She also chooses not to look at the past, not worry about what might have been.
- ◆ She chooses to help the Israelites and writes her name into the annuals of history.

PRIESTLY BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-27

“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.

