

NEWSLETTER FOR SHEVAT 5783 *By Sherry Lush*

Greetings to All,

Praying for everyone to be surviving the winter weather and keeping warm, and hope if you have needed to fly that you got where you needed to go. In these uncertain days, it is difficult to know exactly what to plan for, but we have a promise - **Deuteronomy 31:8** The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. As the world seems to be wobbling and spinning to new depths of uncertainty we can be secure. Our hope is not in the world nor in the political powers of this world, but our security is in the One who is coming and who will rule and reign. **Revelation 11:15b** The Kingdom of this world has become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever! We can smile inside and out as we set our mind on this day! And so we can enjoy the rainy month of Shevat!



Shevat is the eleventh month counting from Nissan. Originally, the months on God's calendar were named by number beginning with the month of Nissan, the month in which Passover occurred. With this numbering system you would always have the Exodus in mind when a month was named. The 6th month would be the 6th month from

the Exodus. The 11th month would be the 11th month from the Exodus and so forth. During the Babylonian captivity the months were given Babylonian names, and these names continued to be used.

An incredible thing occurred in the month of Shevat, and it had to do with Moses. Moses actually dies on the 7th of Adar, the month following Shevat. Malki Janowski shows us the following: In [Joshua 4:19](#) we are told that the Jews crossed the river on the tenth of Nissan. If we subtract the three days between the command and actual crossing, plus the thirty days of mourning, we find the date of Moses' passing is the seventh of [Adar](#). Incidentally, the seventh of Adar is also Moses' birthday. This we derive from what Moses said on the day of his death ([Deuteronomy 31:2](#)): "Today I am one hundred and twenty years old."

During the month of Shevat, plus one week in Adar, Moses wrote the entire book of Deuteronomy, except the last chapter which would have been authored after his death. The words you use when you know you are going to die are probably your most important words. People will remember these words. So, we may ask, what did Moses want us to remember as he wrote? What was foremost on his mind?

Deuteronomy 1:3 In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses proclaimed to the Israelites all that the Lord had commanded him concerning them. This was the time period just prior to the Israelites crossing over the Jordan to fight for the Promised Land. He is writing to a new generation that had not experienced the crossing at the Red Sea nor had they heard the Law given at Sinai. These are the ones about to enter the promised land and face the battles that would ensue.



Crucial for this generation to absorb were the following verses:

1. DON'T CHANGE THE WORD:

Deuteronomy 4:2 Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you. This verse sums up the number one thought they needed to keep in mind.

2. THE SHEMAH

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

This sums up how to love the LORD and how important it is to teach your children to love the LORD.

3. THESE WORDS MUST BE TAKEN TO HEART

Deuteronomy 32:46-47 He said to them, Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you - they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

May these words ring in all our hearts - the Words of the LORD are life.



The first three chapters of Deuteronomy rehearse the trip from Egypt to Moab, discussing the faithfulness, the holiness, the blessings and the warnings that God gave. The theme of blessing and cursing is laid out clearly in the final chapters.

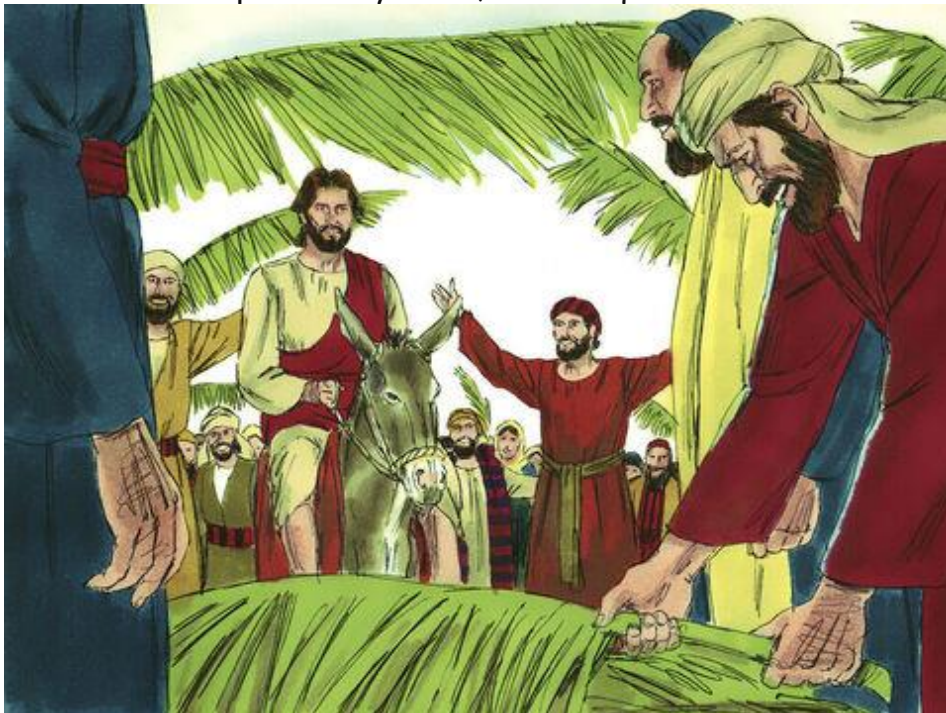
Deuteronomy 30:19,20 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that **I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.**

Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.

And Moses' message rings just as true and right to all of us today. Our lives are for a purpose: To teach our children, love the LORD, listen to Him and hold fast to Him. It really gets very simple.

When G-d chose Israel to be His special people, He was foreshadowing His choosing of those who would follow His Son who would come from Israel. Moses proclaimed that this "Prophet" will come.

Deuteronomy 18:19 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.



I Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

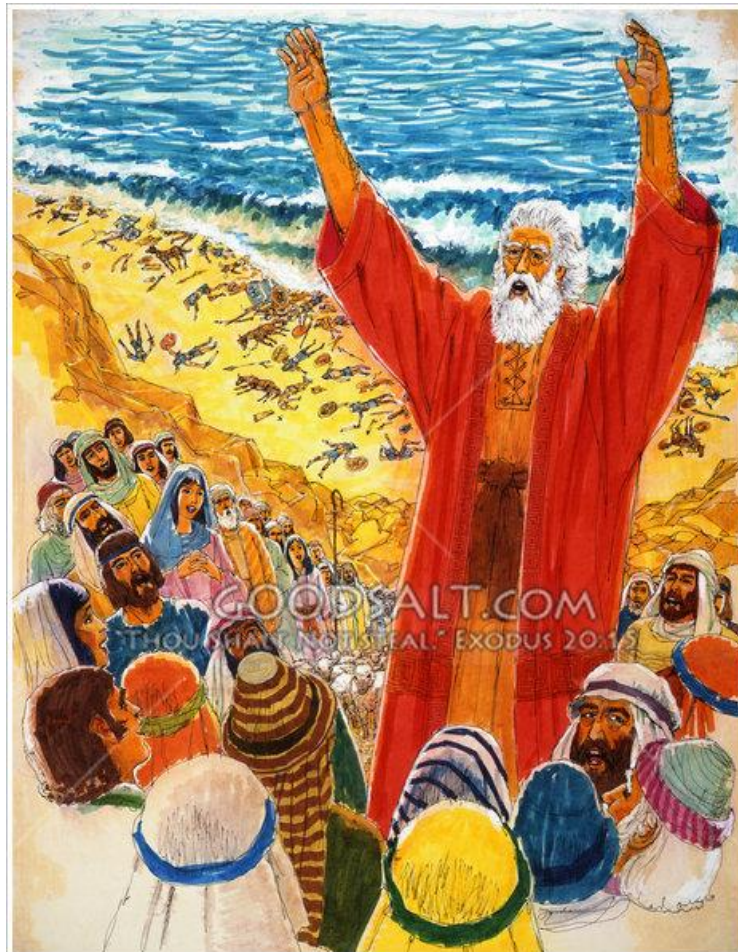
And as we look back to remember we also look ahead for the great **Song of Moses** will be sung again. Here it is:

Deuteronomy 32:1-4 Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; hear, you earth, the words of my mouth. Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.

I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

And at the end, the Song of Moses will again be sung!

Revelation 15:3-4 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."



This is the glorious conclusion of Moses writings, and we are part of it. May we think often of Moses' messages during the month of Shevat.