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# Pearl Seeking

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## TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Deut. 11:26-12:32	Blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience; Commands to destroy all pagan places of worship and to worship Yahweh at the place which He chooses
Tuesday:	Deut. 13	Prohibitions against following after those who entice you to serve other mighty ones, and the death sentence for any who do so
Wednesday:	Deut. 14	Reminder about which animals are clean and unclean; Instruction regarding tithes
Thursday:	Deut. 15	Instructions for the 7 <sup>th</sup> year release of all debt among Yisrae'lites, for taking care of the poor, and for the release of Yisra'elite slaves
Friday:	Deut. 16:1-17	Instructions for observing The 3 Pilgrimage Feasts

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, Yahweh provides the next generation with renewed and detailed instructions about worshiping Him with their offerings, tithes, and contributions when they come into the land of Kena'an. These are all to be brought to the *place where He chooses to place His Name*. There is also instruction for personal animal slaughtering within your gates, and a further admonition to always remember to take care of the Lewite in their midst. We will also learn what they are to do to the pagan altars that the nations have placed throughout the land, and what Yahweh wants Yisra'el to do with blood from an animal, as it relates to honoring Yahweh.

We will briefly touch upon the second and third tithes as they relate to the *place where Yahweh chooses to place His Name*, as well as how to take care of the Lewite *within your gate*. Now, let's read Deut. 12; 14-15 & 16:1-17.



# PARSHA POINTS

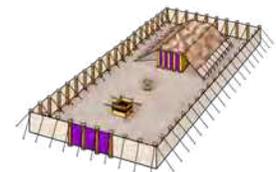
## Chapter 12

- These are the laws and right-rulings which you guard to do in the land which Yahweh Elohim of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the soil - 12:1
  - Completely destroy all pagan high places where the nations served their mighty ones, whether on high mountains and hills or under green trees - 12:2
  - Break down their slaughter-places - 12:3
  - Smash their pillars - 12:3
  - Burn their Asherim with fire - 12:3
  - Cut down the carved images of their mighty ones - 12:3
  - Destroy the name of any Gentile mighty one out of that place - 12:3
  - Do NOT do to Yahweh your Elohim as they do to their deities - 12:4
  - Do NOT do as we are doing here today - each one doing whatever is right in his own eyes - 12:8
  - You shall pass over the Yarden, and shall dwell in the land which Yahweh your Elohim is giving you to inherit - 12:10
  - Yahweh shall give you rest from all your enemies that are around you, and you shall dwell in safety - 12:10
  - *Guard* and obey all these words which I command you, that it might be well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the eyes of Yahweh your Elohim - 12:28
  - Do NOT follow after the nations that Yahweh your Elohim dispossesses, to inquire how they served their mighty ones - 12:29-30
  - Do NOT do so to Yahweh your Elohim, for every abomination which Yahweh hates they have done to their mighty ones, for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their mighty ones - 12:31
  - All the words I am commanding you, guard to do it - do NOT add to it nor take away from it - 12:32



### ***Instruction regarding 'The place which Yahweh your Elohim chooses to place His Name'***

- Seek the place which Yahweh your Elohim chooses out of all your tribes, to put His Name there that it may serve as His Dwelling Place, so that you may enter - 12:5 (13-14)
- There you shall (12:6-7, 11):
  - bring your burnt offerings and your offerings - 12:6, 11, 27
  - bring your tithes and the contributions of your hand - 12:6, 11
  - bring your vowed and voluntary offerings - 12:6, 11
  - bring the firstlings of your herd and flock - 12:6, 11
  - eat before Yahweh your Elohim and rejoice in all that you put your hand to, you and your households, in which Yahweh your Elohim has blessed you - 12:7, 18
  - rejoice (**samach**) before Yahweh your Elohim, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female servants, and the Lewite who is *within your gates*, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you - 12:12, 18



- Guard yourselves, that you do NOT offer your burnt/ascending offerings in any place you see, except in the *place which Yahweh chooses* in one of your tribes - there you are to do all that I command you - 12:13-14 (12:5, 27)
- You are NOT allowed to eat these things *within your gates* (12:17):
  - the tithe (**ma'aser**) of your grain, of your new wine or of your oil
  - the firstlings of your herd or your flock
  - any of your offerings which you vow
  - your voluntary offerings
  - the contribution of your hand

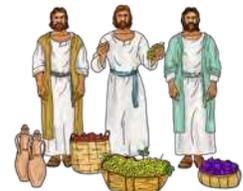
### ***Instruction regarding 'Within your gates'***

- Whatever your being desires to eat that Yahweh your Elohim has given you, these may be slaughtered *within your gates*. The clean and unclean man may eat of it, such as from the flock and the herd (domesticated animals) and the gazelle and the deer (undomesticated animals) - 12:15, 20-22



### ***Instruction regarding the Lewite***

- The Lewite shall rejoice with you *within your gates*, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you - 12:12, 18
- Guard yourself, that you never forsake the Lewite as long as you live in your land - 12:19



## **Chapter 14**

### ***Instruction regarding 'The place which Yahweh your Elohim chooses to place His Name'***

#### *2<sup>nd</sup> tithe*

- You shall tithe without fail all the yield of your grain that your field produces yearly - 14:22
- This you shall eat before Yahweh your Elohim (14:23):
  - the tithe of your grain, your new wine and your oil
  - the tithe of the firstlings of your herds and your sheep
  - so that you learn to fear Yahweh your Elohim always
- If the way to Yahweh's chosen place is too long or too far from you to bring these tithes, or if the journey is too long, then you may give it in the form of silver. Take the silver in your hand and go to the place which Yahweh your Elohim chooses - 14:24-25
- The silver may be used for (14:26):
  - cattle or sheep
  - wine or strong drink
  - whatever your being desires
- You shall eat there before Yahweh, and you and your household shall rejoice - 14:26

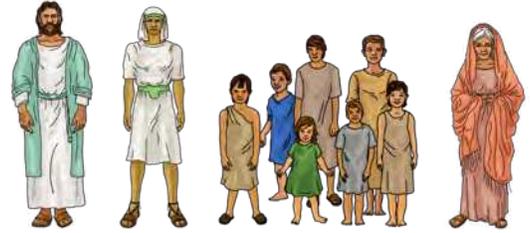


## ***Instruction regarding 'Within your gates'***

### ***3<sup>rd</sup> tithe***

- At the end of every third year, you shall bring out (set aside) all the tithe of your increase of that year and store it *within your gates* - 14:28
- This tithe will benefit (go to) the (14:29):

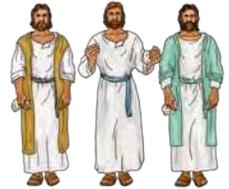
- Lewite
- sojourner
- fatherless
- widow



- When you do this, Yahweh your Elohim shall bless you in all the work of your hand which you do - 14:29

### ***Instruction regarding the Lewite***

- Do NOT forsake the Lewite who is *within your gates*, for he has no part nor inheritance with you - 14:27



## **Chapter 15**

### ***Instruction regarding 'The place which Yahweh your Elohim chooses to place His Name'***

- The first-born males from the flock or the herd shall be set apart to be eaten year by year in the *place which Yahweh chooses* - 15:19-20
- These first-born animals are to be neither worked nor sheared - 15:19
- Any animal that has a defect may not be slaughtered to Yahweh your Elohim - 15:21



## **Chapter 16**

### ***Instruction regarding 'The place which Yahweh your Elohim chooses to place His Name' and 'Within your gates'***

#### ***Passover/Pesach***

- You shall slaughter the Pesach to Yahweh your Elohim from your flock or herd, in the *place where Yahweh chooses to put His Name*, at the going down of the sun, at the appointed time you came out of Mitsrayim. You shall roast and eat it in the place which Yahweh your Elohim chooses, and in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents - 16:2, 6-7
- You are NOT allowed to slaughter the Pesach *within any of your gates* which Yahweh your Elohim gives you - 16:5



## Festival of Weeks/Shavuot

- You shall perform the Festival of Shavuot to Yahweh your Elohim at the place where Yahweh your Elohim chooses to make His Name dwell - 16:10-11
  - You bring to Yahweh a voluntary offering, according to the way He has blessed you
  - You shall rejoice before Yahweh your Elohim:
    - You and your son and daughter
    - Your male and female servant
    - The Lewite who is within your gates
    - The stranger, the fatherless and the widow



## Festival of Booths/Sukkot

- For 7 (**sheva**) days you shall celebrate to Yahweh your Elohim in the *place which Yahweh chooses* (16:14-15):
  - You shall celebrate Yahweh's blessing on your increase and on the work of your hands
  - You shall rejoice in your festival (**chag**):
    - You and your son and daughter
    - Your male and female servant
    - The Lewite, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow who are *within your gates*



## The 3 Pilgrimage Feasts

- 3 (**shalosh**) times a year all your males are to appear before Yahweh your Elohim in the *place which He chooses* at the (16:16):
  - Festival of Unleavened Bread (Chag HaMatzot)
  - Festival of Weeks (Chag HaShavuot)
  - Festival of Booths (Chag HaSukkot)
- None shall appear before Yahweh empty-handed (**raykam**); each must bring to Yahweh a voluntary gift, according to the blessings He has given you - 16:17



## Instruction regarding blood

- You may NOT eat the blood; it must be poured out on the earth like water - 12:16, 24; 15:23
- Only be determined NOT to eat the blood, for the blood is the life - 12:23
- Do NOT eat the life with the meat - 12:23
- Do NOT eat the blood, so that it might be well with you and your children after you, when you do what is right in the eyes of Yahweh - 12:25



# DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- In Deuteronomy 12, Yahweh starts off by telling the children of Yisra'el that they must remove all pagan places of worship from the land. Then they should bring Him their offerings, but only to the *place where He chooses to place His Name*. Why do you think Yahweh wanted the pagan places of worship removed first? Might the Yisra'elites have reasoned that they could use these existing altars to worship Yahweh? Can you see Yahweh's wisdom in first removing any enticements?
- Why does Yahweh instruct Yisra'el over and over NOT to do as the other nations around them do?
- In this parsha, there is a strong emphasis on clearing the land of everything related to the worship of the inhabitants' mighty ones. How can we apply this thought to our lives today?
- Yahweh instructs Yisra'el to bring their offerings and sacrifices only to the *place where He chooses to place His Name*. Discuss the need for such a command. What changes were going to happen once they were in the land of Kena'an? Were the tribes to still be encamped all around the tabernacle?
- In this parsha, we see a new instruction: the people are allowed to slaughter a domesticated or undomesticated clean animal *within their gates* whenever they are hungry for meat, whereas the original command was to only slaughter a domesticated animal as an offering, specifically in the place where Yahweh chooses to place His Name. Discuss the difference.
- Why does Yahweh command us to NOT eat the blood?
- Research the *place where Yahweh placed His Name*.
- Find Scriptural references regarding the 3 tithes.

