

Things Revealed Belong to Us

²⁸“The secret things belong to Adonai our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever—in order to do all the words of this Torah” (Deut. 29:28)

In last week’s message I shared that: **“Today we are in a position to ask Adonai for A Heart to know Him intimately, for eyes to see Him for who He really is, and ears to sh’ma.”** I trust we all did ask. This week’s Parasha is *Nitzavim* (Deut. 29:9-30:20) which literally means, *“You are standing” (TLV)* or *“All of you stand today before the Lord your God...” (KJV)*. Moses’ life journey is over. The apostle Paul also spoke about his **finishing the fight** when he said: *“⁶For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. ⁸In the future there is reserved for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not to me only, but also to everyone who has longed for His appearing” (2 Tim. 4:6-8)*. Moses is ready to deliver his last message on the earth, and our people (and our DNA) are all standing in front of him and the Jordan River as they listen. What super valuable morsel will Moses give? Do you agree with me that Moses’ last message is really important? What did he say (*things revealed that belong to us*) that could help our new ready-for-intimacy-with-Him heart accomplish the goal (*to do all the words of this Torah*)?

This *last* message from Moses is not very long – 20 verses in chapter 29 and 20 verses in chapter 30. As I read Moses’ words to get them deep into my spirit some things jumped out from the page. The first is a warning toward stubbornness in our heart (paying lip service) toward Adonai: *“¹⁸Now when someone hears the words of this oath and in his heart considers himself blessed, thinking, ‘Shalom will be mine, even though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart’—thus sweeping away the moist with the dry—¹⁹Adonai will be unwilling to forgive him. For then the anger of Adonai and His jealousy will smoke against that person.” (Deut. 29:18)*. Stubbornness of heart with its accompanying hypocrisy result in *His jealousy will smoke against that person*. The penalty against hypocrisy has always been severe. It is time to make up our minds and decide if we are all in or all out. There is no time for lukewarmness.

I have heard people say that following Adonai’s Torah is too hard. My life-long partner at UF’s Machine Intelligence Lab, Dr. Eric Schwartz, used to say after he became a believer: **I like this Christianity thing a lot. Jesus’ words are nicer than the requirements of the God of my Jewish Forefathers.** He meant that the words and the ways of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were harsh compared to those of Jesus, the God of Christianity. He was actually not alone in his assessment of Adonai’s ways because much of Christianity is of the same opinion as Eric was with respect to *His Torah*. This flawed appraisal flies in the face of Moses’ last message: *“¹¹For this mitzvah that I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it far off. ¹²It is not in the heavens, that you should say, ‘Who will go up for us to the heavens and get it for us, and have us hear (sh’ma) it so we may do it?’ ¹³Nor is it across the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross over for us to the other side of the sea and get it for us, and have us hear (sh’ma) it so we may do it (na’ase)?’ ¹⁴No, the word is very near to you—in your mouth and in your heart, to do it (na’ase)” (Deut. 30:11-14)*. The Bible unequivocally states that doing what the Torah says is *in our mouth and in our heart, to do it (na’ase)!* The order is important. Once we prepare our heart, we then get His Word in our mouth on its way to our heart in order to be obedient and do what it says (so we can answer: Done!)

We always have a choice as free moral agents. Do not be distracted in this matter: *“¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and good, and death and evil. ¹⁶What I am commanding you today is to love Adonai your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His mitzvot, statutes and ordinances” (Deut. 30:15-16)*. It is always a matter of abundant life and good, and death and evil. There is no gray area and no lukewarmness. It is **pedal to the metal**, 100% committed to Adonai and His Torah.

Moses’ last words are: *“¹⁹I call the heavens and the earth to witness about you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Therefore choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰by*

loving Adonai your God, listening to His voice, and clinging to Him. For He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell on the land that Adonai swore to your fathers—to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob—to give them” (Vv. 19-20). He is all into His Covenant and likewise, we should be fully committed to Him.

Are you ready to make this kind commitment to *Adonai and His Torah* on the eve of His High Holidays? I am and I trust you are also. Last week we prayed: *Lord, give me a Lev Tahor!* And He did. Now, let us move forward into His Future for us and execute! *Shabbat Shalom!*