

CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES



THE  
PORTION

A WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL  
ON THE WORDS OF MOSES



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Weekly Devotionals  
on the Words of Moses



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MINISTRIES

International Headquarters  
241 East 51<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10022-6502  
212-223-2252  
[www.chosenpeople.com](http://www.chosenpeople.com)

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# Introduction to the Parashah Devotional

Mitch Glaser

I am so glad you are reading through *The Portion*. What a wonderful way to familiarize yourself with the Hebrew Scriptures and the role of the Jewish people in God's plan. Most importantly, this devotional will help you grow closer to the Lord and know Him more deeply. I believe *The Portion* will become a weekly or even daily tool you can use to become a more mature disciple of the Messiah Jesus.

*The Portion* reflects the weekly readings in the synagogue that Jewish people across the globe read or chant aloud each Saturday. Indeed, it is the main part of the Sabbath morning service. The Haftarah readings draw from the rest of the Hebrew Bible—the Prophets and the Writings—with passages traditionally selected that synch with the Torah portion. Sometimes, additional passages are added that reflect the various Jewish holidays.

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As Messianic Jews, we added readings from the New Testament with themes we believe run parallel to the Torah portions.

I grew up in a Modern Orthodox home that, in practice, was not especially religious. But all my synagogue experience as a child took place in an Orthodox synagogue. When I had my Bar Mitzvah at age thirteen, I read the Haftarah portion for that week from Isaiah 66. Some of my favorite portions of Isaiah are found in this chapter, which is the last chapter of the book.

In it, Isaiah looked forward to the glorious future God had prepared for the Jewish people and the world—ultimately, for all who would come to know Jesus as their Messiah. The prophet wrote in Isaiah 66:22–23: *“For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me,” declares the Lord, ‘so your offspring and your name will endure. And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from sabbath to sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me,’ says the Lord.*”

This passage describes the bright future we look forward to as God remembers His promises in the last days. He will draw the Jewish people to His Son Jesus, who will return to establish His kingdom on earth. As the great Messianic Jewish apostle, Paul, predicted in Romans 11:25–27:

## INTRODUCTION TO THE PARASHAH DEVOTIONAL

*For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.” “This is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”*

Until He returns, let us continue to grow in our faith and allow the Lord to use us in reaching a broken world with the good news of His Son. To do this, we need strength that comes from studying His word and living in the power of the Holy Spirit. My hope and prayer is that *The Portion* will help you along the journey. I read through it myself, and I am thankful for the Chosen People Ministries staff who wrote these devotionals. *The Portion* has blessed, comforted, and inspired me to serve the Lord Jesus faithfully until He comes. I hope this will be your experience as well!

Blessings in our Messiah,

Mitch Glaser  
President, Chosen People Ministries



# How to Use This Parashah Devotional

In synagogues, a portion from the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) is read every week. In addition to the Torah portion, an associated passage from the Prophets and the Writings is read. Messianic congregations often add a weekly selection for the New Testament as well. Following this schedule, the community reads through the entire Torah each year. With this devotional, you can do the same! Here's how:

1. *Find a quiet place.* Determine where you can read Scripture and this devotional with as little interruption as possible. For some of us, this may be hard to find! Still, a little creativity goes a long way. You might use your bedroom, kitchen table, or a dorm room. You could also go to a public area such as a park, library, or coffee shop.

Consider how you will fit this into your daily and weekly schedule. Adding anything to what is surely an already busy schedule is challenging for many of us, but if we plan a time and stick to it, the reward is profound. Some people like to read Scripture in the morning because it sets the tone for the rest of

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the day. Others, especially those of us who are not “morning people,” prefer the evening or somewhere in between.

2. *Read through the provided readings.* Each page lists three Scripture references that comprise that week’s reading: the parashah (Torah portion), haftarah (portion from the Prophets and Writings), and New Testament selection. Together, these passages span several chapters, so you might want to read one chapter each day of the week. You could also read them in one sitting, which is a good strategy to see how an author makes connections with what came before.

3. *Read that week’s devotional.* Each page has a brief reflection on the week’s Torah portion. Sometimes we zoom in on a particular character or story. Other times, we connect a theme in the reading with other passages of Scripture. In every case, we show how the Bible speaks to our lives today. At the end of this book, we also provide suggested Scripture readings and a devotional for the major Jewish holidays.

4. *Pray.* After reading each devotional, we encourage you to spend time in prayer. Thank God for the gift of His Word. Ask the Spirit to guide you in applying Scripture to your daily life. Pray that He continues to conform you to His Son, the Messiah Yeshua.



## Bereshit (*in the beginning*)

- Genesis 1:1–6:8
- Isaiah 42:5–43:10
- Revelation 22:6–21

Why did God create us?

God made the entire earth, all the animals, and two people to inaugurate the human race (Genesis 1). However, it was not long before the two people disobeyed God and brought the consequences of sin into this world. By the end of this week’s Torah portion, God was ready to wipe out all of humanity, except for Noah and his family (Genesis 6:5–8).

We might pause and wonder—if God already knew humanity would mess up, why did He make human beings? We get a few clues about this in the *B’rit Hadashah*, the New Testament.

In Colossians 1:16, Paul wrote: “*For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.*” We were created for God! To be clear, God does not need us, but He wants us. He wants a relationship with us.

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Therefore, we are created to love God and glorify Him.

The rest of Scripture tells the story of God's relationship with humanity—times of faithfulness and rejoicing, times when we have turned our back on Him, and times when we repented and returned to Him. God's relationship with Israel, in particular, shows us a picture of His love and mercy.

Today, take some time to thank God for the gift of life, and rejoice in the fact that God created you on purpose to have a relationship with Him.

## Noach (*rest*)

- Genesis 6:9–11:32
- Isaiah 54:1–55:5
- Matthew 24:36–46

When we hear the word “covenant,” we often think of the big ones—like the covenants with Abraham, with Israel at Sinai, with King David, or the New Covenant. We don’t usually think of the covenant that God established with Noah, memorialized by the rainbow.

*“It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh”* (Genesis 9:14–15).

The world had become so corrupt that God wanted to wipe the slate clean and start fresh. Yet, even in His justice, God was merciful. If the world had continued as it was back then, humanity would not have been able to survive. Evil would be rampant—and it is not a stretch to imagine that anyone righteous like Noah probably would have been killed.

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But God determined that one flood was enough. What is special about this covenant is that it is a reminder both for humanity and for God. As God told Noah in Genesis 9:16, *“When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”*

The next time you see a rainbow in the sky, remember to thank God for His mercy and His justice, knowing that even when we do not fully understand what He does, He is ultimately working for our good—and He always keeps His promises. Additionally, remember the great mercy that God has shown us by sending Yeshua, His only begotten Son, to provide rescue from evil and forgiveness of sins for us through His death on the cross.