

# HIS NAME – OUR SOURCE OF STRENGTH

This week's Parashah (Ki Tavo – Deut 26:1 – 29:8) touches on first fruits, tithes, the poor, blessings and curses and a number of other themes. There is a lot to say on each of these themes but one of the most prominent features is the fact that the phrase “Yahweh your Elohim” or “Yahweh our Elohim” appears no less than 36 times in the 112 verses of this parashah, which is an average of once every three verses. Surely it is important for us to take notice of this often neglected fact. Why is it that Mosheh introduced the Almighty so frequently as “Yahweh your Elohim” – especially in the book of Deuteronomy? I can think of at least **two reasons**. (1) He wanted to remind the people that their Elohim was **not without a Name**. He revealed Himself to them as Yahweh and He wanted them to always remember and call upon this Name. What difference does it make in one's life, anyway, if one claims to know the Almighty, but never mentions his Name? (2) The second reason is the reverse of the first one. Maybe the Name “Yahweh” was not the issue in those days. We know today that it was only much later in history that the non-Scriptural practice of avoiding the Name, came into existence. Maybe the issue was about the “your Elohim” part of the phrase. The Name Yahweh was known all over the place – even people from surrounding nations knew about the Name and called upon the Name. But by saying “your Elohim” – or more directly, “our Elohim” or even “my Elohim” – there is the recognition that He has a say in one's life. If we are saying “Our Elohim”, we are connected to Him. We are his people. He has even extended his covenant to include us! His words – the words that He spoke through Mosheh and his prophets and servants and his Son – are extremely important to us!

When it comes to the Name of Yahweh, there are some **very surprising clues**, not only in this Parashah but also in the rest of the Torah, that highlight the importance of the Name of the Almighty, time and again. Sometimes these clues are quite **obvious**. Sometimes they are not all that obvious, **hidden below the surface**, but nevertheless, present within the text and ready to be discovered. And sometimes these clues are combined with the **number 7**, the same number that is used so frequently throughout Scriptures to remind us of the fact that Yahweh works in a **perfect way** and that, through his Spirit, He is in the process of bringing the ones who belong to Him **closer to the perfection** that He had prepared for us, even before we were born into this world. Let us take the first chapter of this week's Parashah, Deut 26, for instance. The **seventh word** of this Parashah is the word “Yahweh” or the Hebrew “Yod Hey Vav Hey”. The word “Yahweh” is here part of the phrase “Yahweh your Elohim”, that we have mentioned before, and it reminds the people of Israel that because Yahweh is their Elohim, He had given them an inheritance and that they should always act in accordance with this very important fact. But what is more, towards the end of the Parashah (in Deut 29:5-6), if one looks at the Hebrew letters, the Name of Yahweh (“Yod Hey Vav Hey”) appears “below” the surface of the text, in the sense that if one starts at a certain spot in verse 5 and highlights **every seventh letter**, this will once again spell out the Name of Yahweh – appearing within a context that is about the certainties that we may have in life, as believers. We shall look at this passage, together with 9 other passages throughout the Torah, where the Name of Yahweh appears similarly “below” the surface of the text and presents us with very important lessons for our time. In each of these 10 passages Yahweh links his Name to a matter that is important to Him and that we, therefore, need to take notice of, as well.

Gen 15:6 And **he believed in יהוה**, and He reckoned it to him for **righteousness** (En hy het in Yahweh gegelo; en Hy het hom dit tot gerechtigheid gereken).

וַיִּשְׁחַבֶּה לֹא בָהּ יְהוָה זָרַעַךְ וְהָאֱמֻנָה בְּיָהוָה וְיִחְשַׁבֶּה לֹא

**He links his Name to righteousness and belief.**

By believing in Yahweh and his Son, Y'shua, we are reckoned in the company of the righteous, like Avraham!!

Gen 16:13 And she **called the Name of יהוה** who spoke to her, You are the El who sees, for she said, Even here **have I seen after Him who sees me**? (Toe roep sy die Naam van Yahweh aan ... U is 'n El wat sien. Want sy het gesê: Het ek hier ook die toekomstige planne gesien van Hom wat my sien?)

כִּי שָׁמַע יְהוָה אֶל עֲבִירָה וְהָיָה פְּרָא

**He links his Name to the things that we see in life.**

The question is not whether we see, but whether we see after (the manner of) Him who sees us!!

Ex 9:16 For this reason I have raised you up, in order to **show you My power, and in order to declare My Name** in all the earth (Juis hierom het Ek jou nog laat bestaan, dat Ek jou my krag kan toon, en dat hulle my Naam op die hele aarde kan verkondig).

וְעַתָּה וְעַתָּה וְעַתָּה וְעַתָּה וְעַתָּה וְעַתָּה וְעַתָּה וְעַתָּה וְעַתָּה וְעַתָּה

**He links his Name to his power and authority.**

Yahweh reaches out to us for two reasons: For Him to show his power and for us to declare his Name!!

Ex 29:45-46 And I shall dwell in the midst of the children of Yisrael and shall be their Elohim. And they shall know that I am יהוה their Elohim, who **brought them up** out of the land of Mitsrayim, to **dwell** in their midst. **I am יהוה their Elohim** (En Ek sal onder die kinders van Yiesraél woon en vir hulle 'n Elohiem wees; en hulle sal weet dat Ek Yahweh hulle Elohiem is wat hulle uit Mietsrayiem uitgelei het om in hulle midde te woon. Ek is Yahweh hulle Elohiem).

יהוה ית' להם לאלהים וידעו כי אני יהוה (v 45-46)

**He links his Name to total commitment.**

What more can we desire than Yahweh's full commitment to deliver us, to free us and to dwell in our midst!!

Ex 34:14 You do not bow yourselves to another mighty one, for **יהוה, whose Name is jealous**, is a jealous El (Jy mag jou nie neerbuig voor 'n ander magtige nie; want Yahweh se Naam is Jaloers - 'n jaloerse El is Hy).

בר'ת ליושב הארץ וזנו אחרי אלהים (v 15)

**He links his Name to exclusiveness.**

Our calling on the name of Yahweh is a testimony that we are loyal to Him alone, excluding any other mighty one!!

Lev 27:34 These are the commands which **יהוה commanded** Mosheh for the children of Yisrael on Mount Sinai (Dit is die gebooie wat Yahweh Mosheh by die berg Sinai vir die kinders van Yiesraél beveel het).

ימ' רנו והיה הוא ותמו רתו יהיה (v 33)

**He links his Name to his commandments.**

The commands of Torah were not man's idea, but were given to us by the One who was and is and will be for ever!!

Num 25:4 And יהוה said to Mosheh, Take all the leaders of the people and hang them up before יהוה, before the sun, **so that the burning displeasure of יהוה turns away from Yisrael** (Toe sê Yahweh vir Mosheh: Neem al die hoofde van die volk en hang die oortreders op in die volle son vir Yahweh, sodat die gloeiende toorn van Yahweh van Yiesraél afgewend kan word).

יהוה מישראל יאמר משה אל שפטי ישראל (v 4)

**He links his Name to reconciliation.**

Only when Yahweh's displeasure is turned away by complete reconciliation, we shall be able to stand before Him!!

Deut 14:2 You are a **set-apart people to יהוה** your Elohim, and יהוה has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a treasured possession above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth (Want jy is 'n volk afgesonder aan Yahweh jou Elohiem, en jou het Yahweh uitverkies om sy eiendomsvolk te wees uit al die volke wat op die aarde is).

יהוה להיות לו לעם סגלה מכל העמים אשר על (v 2)

**He links his Name to people He chose for Himself.**

There is no greater comfort in life than knowing that we were chosen by One whom we may now call "Our Elohim"!!

Deut 17:8 When any matter arises which is too hard for you to judge ... matters of strife within your gates ... then you shall rise and go up to the **place which יהוה your Elohim chooses** (As 'n saak vir jou te moeilik is om te beslis ... regsake in jou poorte ... dan moet jy klaarmaak en opgaan na die plek wat Yahweh jou Elohiem sal uitkies).

יבחר יהוה אלהיך בו ובאת אל ה'כהנים (v 8-9)

**He links his Name to difficult choices.**

When it is difficult for us to decide or to choose, Yahweh encourages us to go to the place that He chose!!

Deut 29:6 You ate no bread and drank no wine nor strong drink, so that you might **know that I am יהוה your Elohim** (Brood het julle nie geëet en wyn en sterk drank nie gedrink nie, dat julle kan weet dat Ek Yahweh julle Elohiem is).

כי אני יהוה אלהיכם ותבאו אל המקום (v 5-6)

**He links his Name to certainty.**

Frequently, Yahweh takes us through times of turmoil and uncertainty, to bring us to the certainty that He is Yahweh!!

In Deut 29:4, close to the end of this Parashah, Mosheh declares to the people: "Yahweh has not given you a heart to know and eyes to see and ears to hear, until this day (after 40 years in the wilderness)." There may be quite a number of us who have tasted what the wilderness can do – deafening one's senses, quenching one's spirit, taking away one's joy – even to the point of hopelessness, all kinds of doubts and fear. May the Name above all names encourage and strengthen us once again! May Yahweh give us this day, a heart to know that He is more than able, eyes to see what He is seeing and ears to hear like obedient children are supposed to hear! For, as we are reminded both by YeshaYahu and Sha'ul, "Eyes have not seen, and ears have not heard, and hearts of men have not perceived, what Elohim has prepared for those who love Him!!"