

For those who do not know, the Portion name comes from the first word or words of the portion in Torah. This week the Torah Portion name is Chukat and is translated “Of the Statute”.

Shabbat Message:

My son, forget not my Torah; but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them about your neck, write them on the table of your heart; so shall you find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in YHVH with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear YHVH, and depart from evil. It shall be health to your navel, and marrow to your bones. Honor YHVH with your substance, and with the first-fruits of all your increase: So shall your barns be filled with plenty, and your presses shall burst out with new wine. My son, despise not the chastening of YHVH; neither be weary of His correction: For whom YHVH loves He corrects; even as a father the son [in whom] he delights. Happy the man who finds wisdom, and the man that gets understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies; and all the things you can desire are not to be compared to her. Length of days is in her right hand; in her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her; and happy that retains her. YHVH by wisdom has founded the earth; by understanding has He established the heavens. By His knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. My son, let not them depart from your eyes; keep sound wisdom and discretion: So shall they be life to your soul, and grace to your neck. Then shall you walk in your way safely, and your foot shall not stumble. When you lie down, you shall not be afraid; yes, you shall lie down, and your sleep shall be sweet. Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it comes. For YHVH will be your confidence, and shall keep your foot from being taken. Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do. Say not to your neighbor: ‘Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give’; when you have it by you. Devise not evil against your neighbor, seeing he dwells securely by

you. Strive not with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm. Envy you not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways. For the froward/perverse an abomination to YHVH; but His secret/counsel is with the righteous. The curse of YHVH is in the house of the wicked; but He blesses the habitation of the just. Surely He scorns the scorers, He scorns them, but He gives grace to the lowly. The wise shall inherit glory; but shame shall be the promotion of fools. (Prov. 3)

This proverb summarizes the Torah portion for this week: YHVH has given His commandments, they are to be obeyed, and they are the end of the matter. He has given purification for sin: a whole sacrifice sacrificed outside the camp; sprinkled blood; water that is living mixed with the sacrifice to be sprinkled on the one unclean. The one who does not follow His instructions defiles the sanctuary of YHVH and is cut off from among the Congregation. How true today, with Messiah Yeshua's sacrifice, His Blood, His Living Water; and the one who refuses it is cut off from His Kingdom. We are as filthy rags: He clothes us in His righteousness. He is the One Who washes us, cleanses us from sin, and makes us clean before Him, to be His sanctuary. He is the One to look to for healing and for life when bitten by the serpents of this world. Fear not for He is your deliverer and your provider.

Selah