

“And this is the blessing”

I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Joshua 1: 5c



This is the last parsha of the book of Deuteronomy! It is an exciting time in the Fall Feast season. As we come to the end of the Torah, the feasts culminate in the exuberant joy of dancing with the Torah at *Simchat Torah* (which means “Joy of the Torah”). We read both the very last parsha of the Torah, and the very first as we scroll back to the beginning.

This last parsha focuses on the blessings that Moses gives to each of the tribes of the Sons of Israel before he is to pass on from his earthly life. Joshua son of Nun will be the new leader, already full of the spirit of wisdom that has been passed on to him. In the Brit Chadashah reading we read the glorious descriptions of the New Jerusalem. The bride is announced, she is made ready! We see a vision of the holy city in all her glory! Here the names of the twelve tribes appear again, inscribed on each of the gates to the city.

It is time to come out from the Succa and enter into what the New Year has in store for us in God’s Kingdom. We are more fully renewed with strength and blessing from this feast-packed month and a whole year of drawing closer to God in our lives. In this parsha of blessing, let us bless the LORD!! Oh from our souls, with all that is within us, bless His Holy Name! (Psalm 103:1) God is a God who makes all things new! Amen. Selah!, May the blessings of the LORD overtake you and your families to a thousand generations!!

Praise

There is no one like the God, of Jeshurun, who rides across the heavens to help you and on the clouds in His majesty.

Deuteronomy 33: 26

Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. Not a single word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised by the hand of Moses His servant. 1Kings 8:56

O house of Israel, bless the LORD; O house of Aaron, bless the LORD; O house of Levi, bless the LORD; You who revere the LORD, bless the LORD. Blessed be the LORD from Zion, Who dwells in Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Psalms 135:19~21

Halleluyah! Salvation and glory and power belong to God!

Revelation 19:1b

Confession

Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:12

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His lovingkindness endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

Intercession

The eternal God is’s refuge, and His everlasting arms are under you, He drives out the enemy from before , saying ‘Destroy them!’.

Deuteronomy 33:27

From the prayer and blessings to Joshua, we pray for that God will not forsake or fail That be very strong and resolute to observe the Torah which Moses commanded, and not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that may be successful wherever he/she goes.

Joshua 1:5,7

....., be strong and courageous! Do not be frightened or dismayed for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

And God is able to bless abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that he/she needs, will abound in every good work.

2Corinthians 9:8

May the LORD cause you to flourish, both you and your children. May be blessed by the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalms 115:14~15



Teachers

Indeed, a lover of peoples is He—all His *kedoshim* are in His hand. May follow in Your steps, may receive Your words.

Deuteronomy 33:3

Schools

Bless our God, O peoples! Let the sound of His praise be heard.

Psalms 66:8

Congregation

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, immersing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the *Ruach ha-Kodesh*, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And remember! I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19~20

Israel

Save Your people, bless Your inheritance, shepherd them and carry them forever.

Psalms 28:9

May this (his) land be blessed by ADONAI with heavenly bounty from the dew, and from the deep lying beneath, and with the bounty of the sun’s produce and the months’ yield. Deuteronomy 33:13~14 (from the blessing to Joseph)

Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by ADONAI, the Shield of your help and the Sword of your triumph? Your enemies will cower before you, and you will trample on their backs.

Deuteronomy 33:29

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem— May those who love you be at peace!

Psalms 122:6

Blessing to go

Hosanna! Baruch haba b'Shem ADONAI. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.

Psalms 118:25~26