

Parashat Ki Tavo

- Today's Haftarah portion, the entirety of Isaiah 60, reminds us again of the lofty mission assigned to the people of Israel and, viewed prophetically, to all of those of the Body of Messiah who are united with Israel. The success of that mission and calling, to be a light to all nations, is closely associated with, and largely dependent upon, Israel's obedience to the *mitzvot*, the commandments, as part of their covenant loyalty to HaShem. And likewise the success of the worldwide disciples of Yeshua in influencing the surrounding culture is directly correlated with obedience to their covenant responsibilities, including love for Yeshua's biological and ethnic brethren, the Jewish people.
- The consequences of Jewish national disobedience are plainly evident throughout history and even down to our day: Jewish exile, decimation of the size and strength of the Jewish community, and spiritual malaise. Similarly, the church's failure to maintain consistent covenant loyalty with Yeshua's standards for righteousness has led to predictable results: disunity, schisms, a weakened testimony, and the absence of discipline and discipleship. Of course there are exceptions to these trends – in a few locales, believers substantively impact their communities for G-d's kingdom – yet in too many places the darkness is barely driven back by the light of the knowledge of G-d.
- And for us in this young movement of Messianic Jews and Gentiles . . . what is our role in helping to bring the light of Yeshua to the nations? And given our small size and meager resources, how can we accomplish such a daunting assignment? Thankfully some of the answer can be found in this week's Torah portion, for in these chapters in Deuteronomy we are reminded of HaShem's provision for Israel in Egypt at the exodus and during their difficult journey in the wilderness.
- Through Moshe, G-d tells the people of Israel that until that day, just before entering the land of promise, they were not given a heart to know, eyes to see, and ears to hear. But perhaps the implication we are to derive is that, by His spirit HaShem was now revealing deeper truths, a greater awareness of their calling, an awareness that grew through the spiritual impartation of later judges and prophets. And so it can be for us. Through the *Ruakh Elohim*, the spirit of G-d, combined with our faithful obedience to the *mitzvot*, we can touch individual lives, and nations, and bring many a step closer to the light.