



It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

תשע"ד
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TORAHPORTIONS.ORG

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PORTIONS™

Weekly Portions from the Torah, the Prophets, and the Cozzels

GENESIS / B'REISHIT (בְּרֵאשִׁית)					
PARSHAH	DATE	TOREADING	TOREAD	TOREAD (S)	TOREAD (S)
Parshat	25 Sep 2013	10:10 - 11:20	Gen 11:1-32	Ex 11:1 - 12:10	Lev 11:1 - 12
Parshat	2 Oct 2013	10:10 - 11:20	Gen 12:1-13:18	Ex 12:17-13:10	Lev 12:1 - 13
Parshat	9 Oct 2013	10:10 - 11:20	Gen 14:1-15:24	Ex 14:1 - 15:24	Lev 14:1 - 15
Parshat	23 Oct 2013	10:10 - 11:20	Gen 16:1-17:24	Ex 16:1 - 17:10	Lev 16:1 - 17

You know how the Jewish people and their friends, all around the world, read a portion from the Torah every week? Well, the fall festivals are coming up, and with them, the new Torah cycle! If you've never studied through the entire Torah on the annual cycle, why not experience it this year?

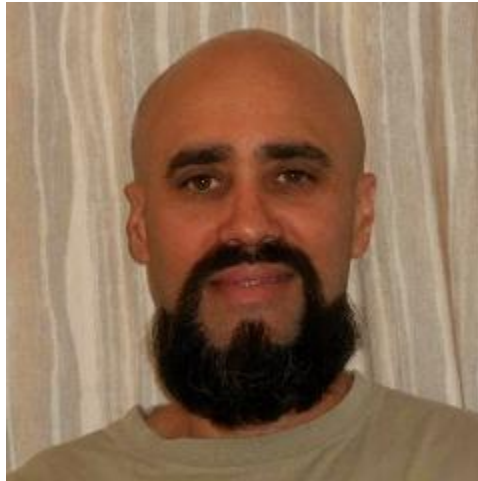
First Fruits of Zion is offering a cute little Portions pamphlet outlining the weekly readings to help you on your way. Order your free copy [here](#) or download the pdf [here](#).

You can also get their Hebrew calendar with gorgeous pics of the land of Israel [here](#).



We're reading Deuteronomy 16 and 17 in Torah Portion Shoftim for Hebrew Chapters this week. Watch and share the trailer [here](#), and join me for the whole study [here](#)!

Meet Frank, one of our Hebrew students. Here's his story.



I was born to a middle class family that was very 'worldly catholic' on both sides of the family. I did hear a little growing up that there were Jews on both sides of the family tree, and I am glad I finally came to recognize the significance of that fruit on the tree. I would say that for the most part God was part of our lives: 1) for an hour on Sunday, 2) most of the time before we ate, 3) at bedtime, and of course 4) when we happened to get ourselves in deep doo. Talking about God went to about the extent of getting another chuckle or two out of the funny little anecdote that the

priest had included in his homily. That I have come to know The God of Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov is a total testimony to the miraculous power of Abba in a faithful and prayerful wife, my Yaya.

I spent most of my life being a selfish, self serving idiot for the most part. I was one with a very quiet and deceiving nature who came off very "kind" and "good", but what an ugly duplicitous person I was on the inside. I had the false face persona perfected, and fit quite well into the world. I could lie and deceive very well, and would do it even when it wasn't necessary. I followed in the footsteps of the examples of the men in my life who selfishly filled their lives with whatever distractions they could find to keep themselves from looking inward or having any kind of a loving relationship with their spouses ☞ lusting after women, hunting, golf, billiards ☞ all sorts of whatever elses.

I said the sinner's prayer in my early twenties, read in the New Testament fairly regularly for a while at that time, but found it difficult to understand and felt I didn't get much out of it. I definitely did not have an inner change. Looking back, I can understand why my Bible reading was difficult ☞ my mind could not digest how many things conflicted with what I had been taught by Christianity. So, I continued to live a life of debauchery, self centeredness, always occupied, but never satisfied ☞ competent and successful from the world's perspective☞did I even need God?

As I approached 40, I came to a crossroads. I was starting to see health issues and came to recognize that I had been clinically depressed for most of my life. I needed to see that there was more to God than the pathetic presence that he seemed to have manifested in my life and in the life of my family. I even told my wife I was ready to give up on God☞and of course that was when things started to turn around. She said, "Well, will you just go through the motions with me and at least pray with me at night", and I said "OK". She talked about where I was at with a friend who ended up sending me the book "The Case for Christ", and that really started the ball rolling for me. For the first time I was given something concrete to think about with regard to my faith, and looking at the Kingdom from that perspective excited me. I became hungry for the Word, and devoured it. I wanted to fill my mind with things of the kingdom. I saw in Revelation where Abba say that, really, being half minded about the kingdom is worse in his eyes than being totally against Him, so decided I did not want to be a wishy washy believer any more.

Now, my wife, Yaya, had always been unsettled at best about celebrating Christmas and Easter, because of some of what she had read in the Word, so when she came

across some teaching about the Hebrew roots of our faith, she was able to absorb the truth immediately. We live in rural New Mexico, but ended up spending the winter in Tucson AZ and found a place to fellowship that was teaching about Torah and looking at things from a Hebrew perspective—there we met a man who invited us to come and celebrate Shabbat each week with a group of Sephardics who from birth had been Torah keeping Jews who believed that Yeshua was the promised Messiah. We have kept the Shabbat from that time, and are loving learning and keeping Torah, and enjoying growing deeper and more set apart with each passing day.

I've learned so much, and changed so much since then. I've learned much on what it means to be a true husband and am striving daily to love as Messiah loves his congregation. I have learned that on a person or interpersonal level (i.e. how we act, what we say, what we eat, how we treat others, how kadosh we are, etc.) there is only one reason why we can or can't do something ☑ because we have chosen to do or not do it. I now choose life, and it is SO fulfilling.

I look from time to time for "wholesome" things to listen to while I work. I came across Izzy's "Yeshua Radio" and have been blessed by much of what I have heard him speak upon. Izzy has wonderful insights, and displays a real passion for the Kingdom. I pray that Abba continues to Bless Izzy and his ministry, and that he will continue to draw near to Yah and Yeshua. May Izzy's lips be anointed to always bring forth the true messages of The Kingdom. May he be blessed and fruitful in raising up others to "be leaders in the revolution".

I love hearing from my students and sharing your stories! **Could I share your story, too?** Just reply and tell me how you started following Yeshua and studying Hebrew, and then how you found us and how it's all going! Attach a picture of yourself, and I'll share it with the tribe. Don't do it for you, do it because your story glorifies God! Thank you!

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In Messiah's love,

Izzy Avraham

Founder & Director, Holy Language Institute

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