

## *Parashah Ki Teitzei* כִּי תֵצֵא

**Torah:** דְּבָרִים *Devarim (Deuteronomy) 21:10-25:19*

### Full Kriyah

[1<sup>st</sup> Aliyah: 21:10-21, 2<sup>nd</sup> Aliyah: 21:22-22:7, 3<sup>rd</sup> Aliyah: 22:8-23:7, 4<sup>th</sup> Aliyah: 23:8-24, 5<sup>th</sup> Aliyah: 23:25-24, 6<sup>th</sup> Aliyah: 24:5-13, 7<sup>th</sup> Aliyah: 24:14-25:19]

This week's reading, *Ki Teitzei*, contains 74 commandments, more mitzvot than any other Torah portion. Some of the commandments discussed: the law of the rebellious son, the obligation to bury the dead without undue delay, the requirement to return a found object, the prohibition against causing pain to any living creature, the prohibition against prostitution, the laws of marriage and divorce, the procedure of the Levirate marriage, and the obligation to eradicate the memory of Amalek.

Slide A1

Ki Teitzei- Devarim (Deuteronomy) 21:10-25:19

Reading Devarim (Deuteronomy) 21:22-24:4

# The Ultimate Goal of the Torah



Slide C 3

As stated in our Torah summary this portion contains 74 commandments. However, we are only in the middle of a portion that lists law after law from Devarim (Deuteronomy) 12 through to 26 many of which might be considered tedious and random so what is the larger picture that these laws come to teach us.

**Slide D 4**



To understand these, we can look at the details of our own legal system where crimes are defined in degrees like murder in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree & manslaughter. From this we see that though the laws do all point to the 10 commandments Mosheh (Moses) is defining them in greater detail where intent is of greatest significance. Just as any of the 10 Covenant words, the 10 Commandments cannot so easily be clarified Mosheh (Moses) must expand on them. When we think of a command like honour your father & mother we must discern what that truly means and what constitutes honour towards one's Father and Mother. Therefore, all these commandments in some way point to those already defined and give greater understanding through an expanded view though often they may appear rather obscure. In our judicial system we know that there must be at least 10 thousand laws and they are an ever-increasing mountain to further clarify misunderstandings and loopholes and so this is the purpose that Mosheh is also further expanding into apparently unrelated laws though indirectly they do detail many areas of life.

Consequently, let us picture what we see from scripture? At the beginning, though Adam & Chavah were made in the image of YHWH and pure with the potential for choice since YHWH desired them to choose to trust him they were also given one commandment being

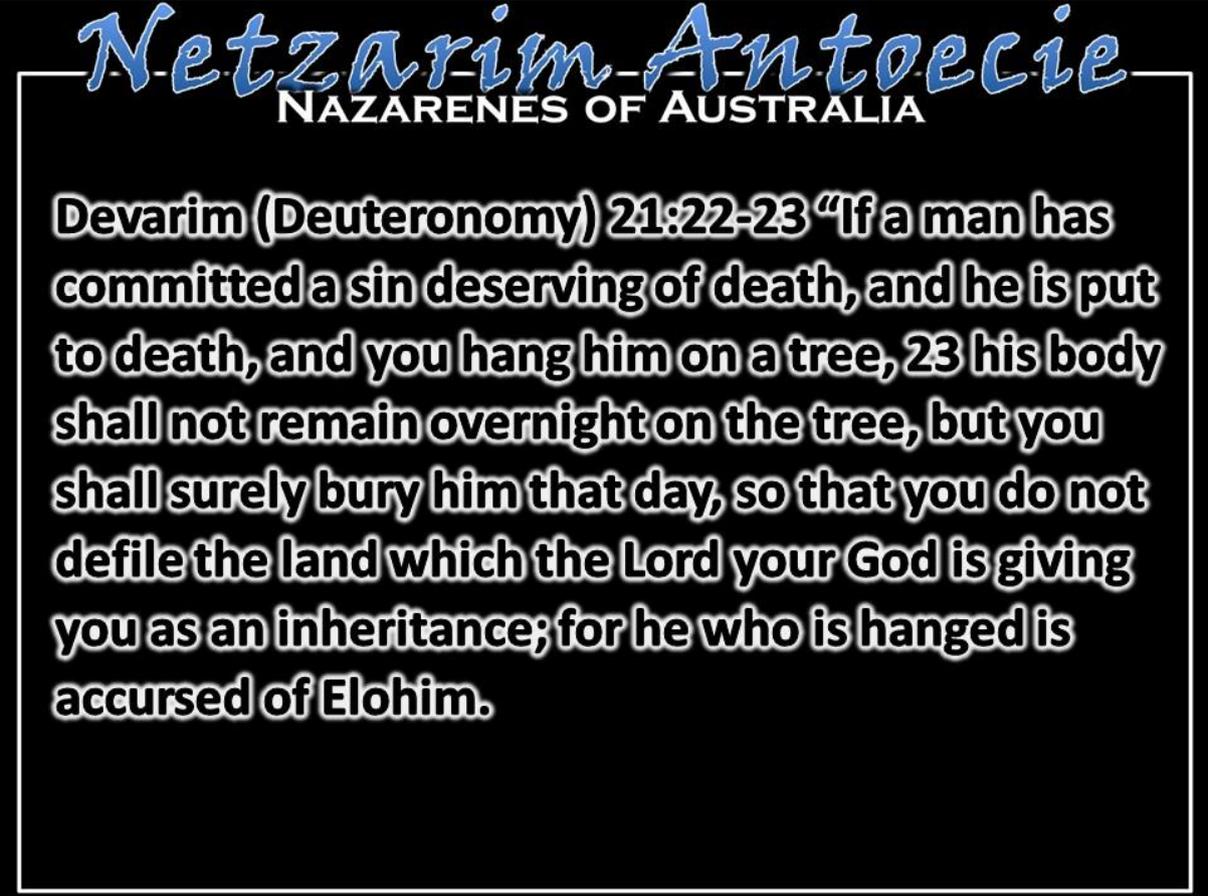
to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but we know where that got them. It was however from this standing in history that an ever-increasing list of commands and laws expanded and now we see that in our portion greater details of Yisrael's legal system are further expanded. We do believe however that all these serve mankind to gain insight into the heart & mind of our creator and knowing this we also know that these do indeed bring promised blessing though man in his sinful nature so often fails to follow them perfectly.

Rather than address many of these commandments I thought to address just a few of these that hold keys I believe into a window into something that may be called "**Messianic overtones**":

### **Messianic Overtones**

Firstly a prophetic picture can be found in:

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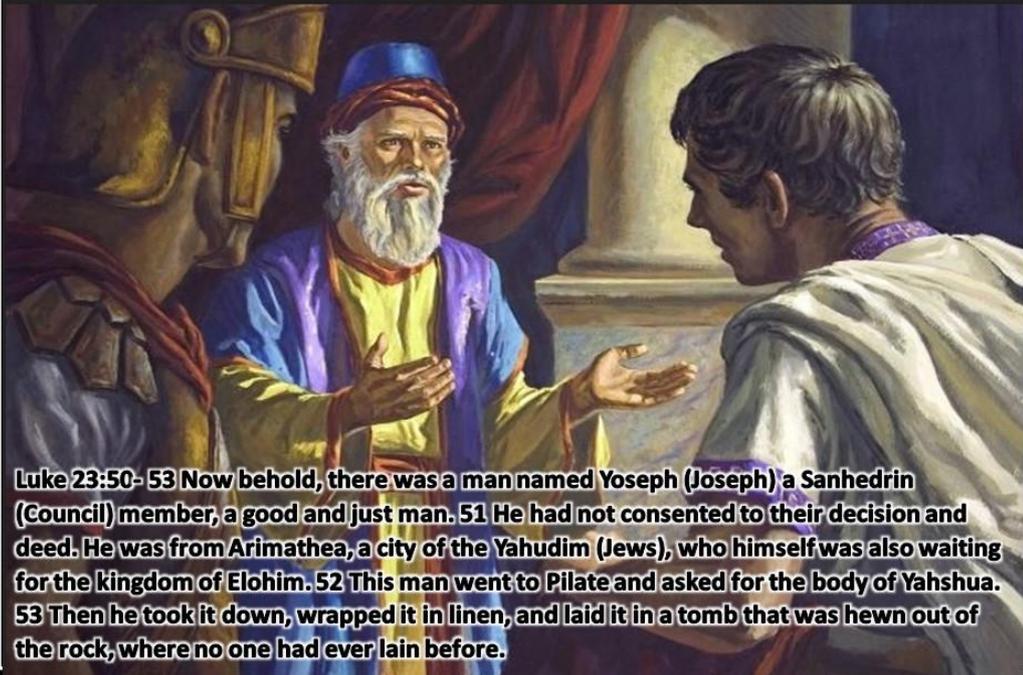
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**Devarim (Deuteronomy) 21:22-23 "If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, 23 his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of Elohim.**

It is through this verse that we come to have an understanding that Yahshua the one who became sin for man and was accursed, was impaled upon a tree with a crossbeam but now we understand how imperative it was for him to be removed before the end of the day which can be read in:

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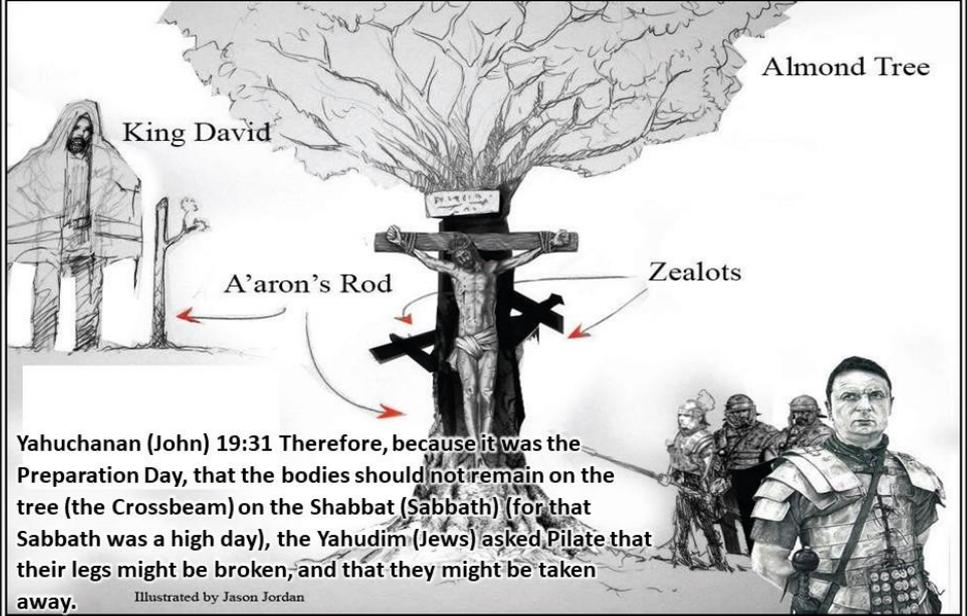
Luke 23:50- 53 Now behold, there was a man named Yoseph (Joseph) a Sanhedrin (Council) member, a good and just man. 51 He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Yahudim (Jews), who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of Elohim. 52 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Yahshua. 53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain before.

Slide F 6

Yoseph being a member of the Sanhedrin the ultimate religious body was not just appealing to Pilate on some kind of compassionate grounds but surely volunteered for this great task to have the body of Yahshua removed before sunset and buried since he believed in Yahshua and the Torah command. This was also further emphasised in the following that the land might not be defiled because the eve of a great Chag Feast the Feast of unleavened bread approached:

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NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA



Yahuchanan (John) 19:31 Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the tree (the Crossbeam) on the Shabbat (Sabbath) (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Yahudim (Jews) asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

Illustrated by Jason Jordan

Slide G 7

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The point to be raised at this time is that YHWH in his infinite majesty in all aspects caused all things to fall into alignment to his divine plan according to his written Torah as given through Mosheh (Moses) and this is but one example.

**Secondly** however is the law concerned with giving a certificate of Divorce found in:

**Devarim (Deuteronomy) 24:1-4** “When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favour in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, 2 when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man’s wife, 3 if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, 4 then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before YHWH (the Lord), and you shall not bring sin on the land which YHWH your Elohim is giving you as an inheritance.

In this portion if a man divorces a wife and that wife marries another she has committed adultery and the law says she cannot remarry the first lest the land be defiled. So often we read how YHWH looked at YISRAEL as his wife with mount SINAI being the marriage. Scripture also speaks incessantly about Yisrael playing the Harlot and about YHWH calling to her as a husband, so this portion surely also has significance and ramifications not just for marriage among the people but also between YHWH and Yisrael since we also read concerning the northern kingdom Yisrael & Yahudah (Judah) the following:

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NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA



**YirmeYahu (Jeremiah) 3:8**  
Then I saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Yisrael had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Yahudah (Judah) did not fear but went and played the harlot also.

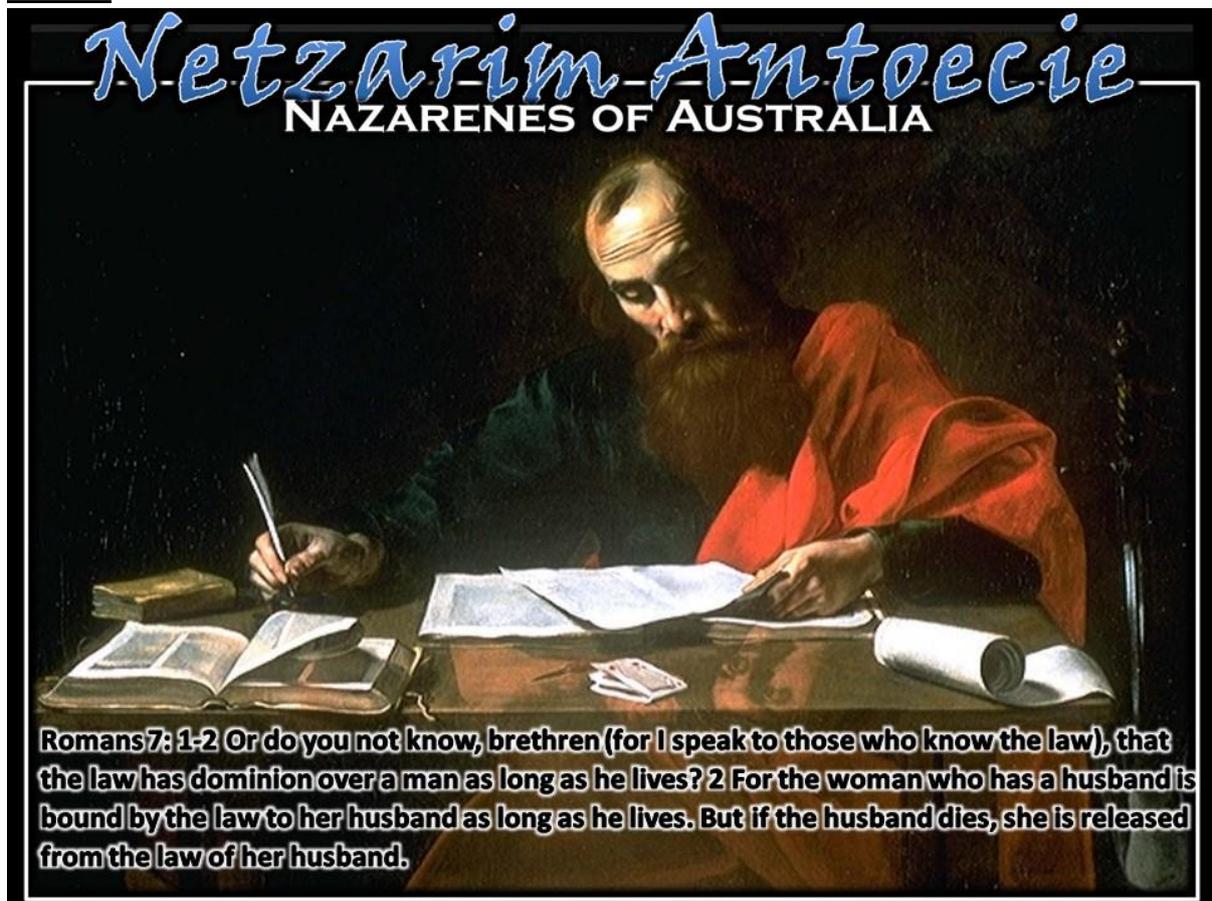
Many have said with respect the covenant, that Yisrael was cast off but that Yahudah (Judah) remained true to the covenant but the verses in YirmeYahu (Jeremiah) clarify that both houses had committed harlotry deserving of death.

If Torah is the window into the heart of YHWH we can also see that he cannot do anything but what Torah says since it is his Word.

**Tehillim (Psalm) 138: 2c For You (YHWH) have magnified Your word above all Your name.**

This is where the truth of the Besorah (the good news) now comes into play for if the law relating to the marriage is fulfilled by Yahshua then this verse establishes the way of return for all Yisrael:

Slide 19



**Romans 7: 1-2 Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband.**

In so doing in Messiah, Yisrael has been set free from the Torah of the husband to be married to another, to him who was raised from the dead therefore YHWH has fulfilled his own Torah through the good news.

## The Purpose of Torah

What then is the purpose of the Torah (the law) of YHWH. This is best seen by the words of Shaul (Paul):

### Slide J 10



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**Romans 10: 4 For Messiah is the goal (end) of the Torah (Law) for righteousness to everyone. (HTHS)**

**Romans 8:3 For what the Law (Torah) could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, YHWH did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

**Romans 10: 4 For Messiah is the goal (end) of the Torah (Law) for righteousness to everyone. (HTHS)**

What this verse is talking about is that the Torah (Law) as the guardian of man reveals just how incapable we are in reaching the heights of the perfection of YHWH without his intervention. If we therefore can reach the standard, then it is the doctrine of man because YHWH set a standard that cannot be reached except in Messiah since Shaul also says this in:

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It is a failure within our movement if we think that we can reach the acceptable standard based on Torah observance & added Rabbinic Halacha (Traditions) since this so often leads to a tendency to judge in our pride how high we have elevated ourselves, so we need to come back to the words Shaul expressed in:

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NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA



**Romans 7:24-25** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank Elohim—through Yahshua our Master!

**Is the Torah Really Necessary?**

We know that in scripture Laws were constantly added but we must ask ourselves for what reason. Was it to make people more Holy! Here again Shaul words will suffice:

**Galatians 3:19** What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions,

Wait, if this is correct we can conclude that if there were no sin there would be no need for the Torah the Law of Commandments. Shaul then also reveals to us how that may come about in this next verse:

**Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law (Torah).

A perfect spiritual life that loves YHWH with all its heart, soul & strength with the attributes of the perfect fruit of the Ruach (Spirit) therefore would have no cause for needing Torah instruction as that being would be in Echad or in oneness with YHWH because Shaul also says:

**1 Timothy 1:8** Knowing this, that the Torah is not made for a right-ruling man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the wicked and for the transgressors.

## The End of Torah

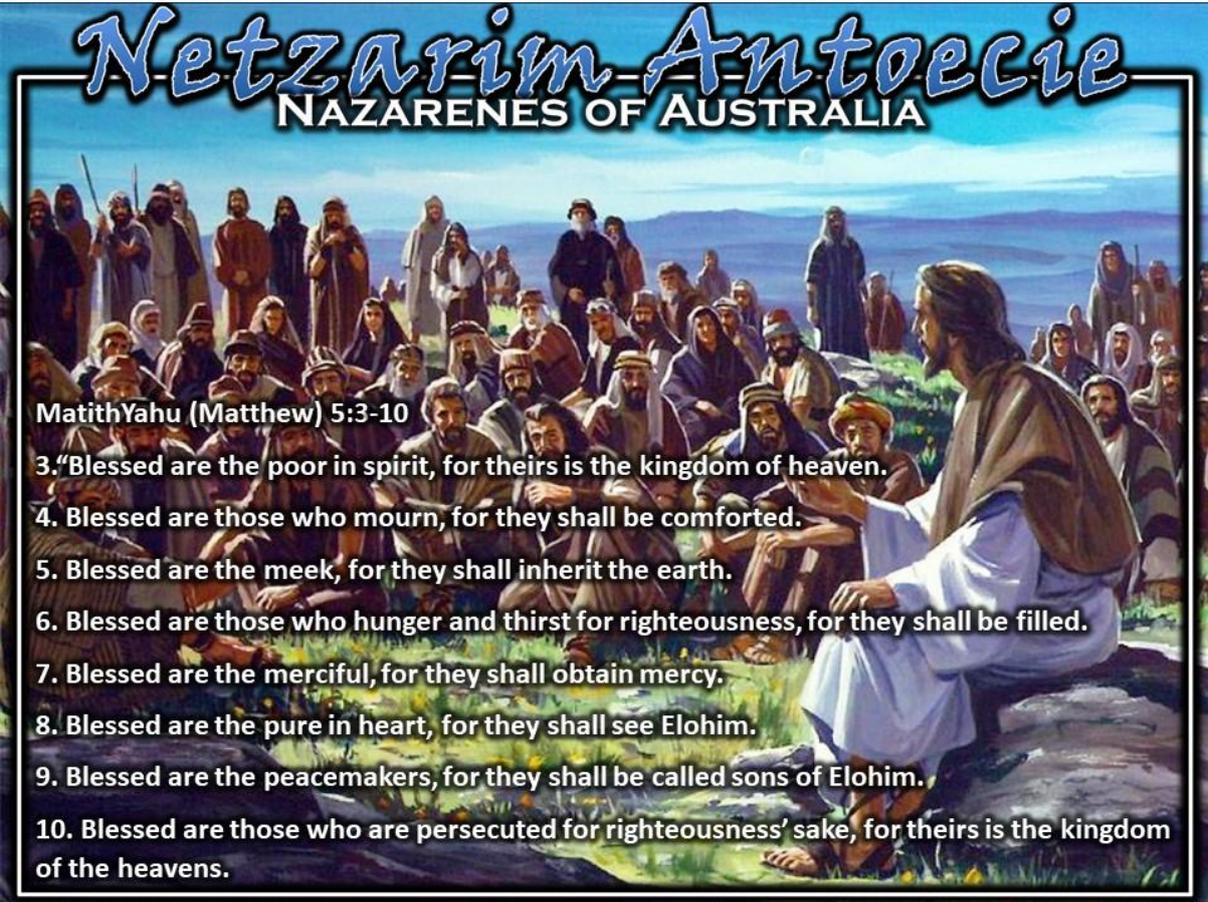
The movement that we are participating in today could best be described as a return to Mt Sinai since in general we find ourselves to the best of our abilities being obedient to the instructions and commandments of YHWH which is a far cry from what we were formally doing and could be considered a great revival but I would ask if indeed that is our ultimate destination since that is also where sin was always festering no matter the good intent.

This might sound strange but let us understand something. Scripture is cyclical and so the closer we get to the end, the closer we get to the beginning. Do you think that YHWH wants to bring us back to Sinai under the terrifying mountain where His Laws were given, or does he want to bring us back to Eden? I would suggest that even Eden is not the ultimate destination and that the deepest desire of the Father's heart is for us to walk with him in the midst of the garden? The midst of the garden is the Holy of Holies and the garden is the Holy place, but now it is like we have been living in the outer courts.

## Conclusion

In conclusion Yahshua gives us his clearest description of those of the Kingdom in these words:

### Slide M 13



**Netzarim-Antoecie**  
**NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA**

MatithYahu (Matthew) 5:3-10

3. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
5. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
6. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
7. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
8. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see Elohim.
9. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of Elohim.
10. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens.

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But just as a reinforcer of the principle that in the Kingdom the Torah will not need to be instructed we have the message of the New Covenant where we read:

Slide N 14

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**The New Covenant**

**YirmeYahu (Jeremiah) 31:33-34 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Yisrael after those days, declares YHWH: I will put My Torah (law) in their inward parts, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. 34 No longer shall they teach each one his Neighbour, and each one his brother, saying, 'Know YHWH,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, declares YHWH.**

Amen.