

**RaYBaSH's The Weekly Way**  
**Parashah #44: Devarim "Words"**  
**Devarim (Deuteronomy) 1:1-3:22**  
**By: Yehudah ben Shomeyr**

**Deut. 2:2 And the LORD spake unto me, saying,**

In life sometimes we feel like hamsters on a wheel, or a dog who runs around chasing his own tail, or runs to the end of his leash only to be jerked because he reached the end of his line. We feel like we are getting nowhere fast; like a plane forced into a holding pattern, unable to land because of ties ups on the tarmac. When we feel this way in life do not get discouraged but know God has a purpose and a reason for it all.

**Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**

But sometimes we are stuck where we are because of our rebellion and we are not ready to move on, we cannot move forward, only back and that decision lies with us and us alone. God never makes or causes us to backslide. Israel was in rebellion and couldn't move forward because they kept Torah not from the heart but from religious rote and God said:

**Isa. 1:2,11-17 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine**

**eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.**

Ya'akov (James) tells us what to do to break this "holding pattern."

**James 4:6-10 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**

And so kicks off the book of Deuteronomy.

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!

-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr