



Understanding the Parsha

Devarim Deuteronomy 27:1-10

We will Learn how to

- 1) interpret the main theme (subject) of a Parsha (weekly reading from the Torah),
- 2) make thematic connections to that Parsha (study the Scriptures related by a common theme [subject], line upon line and precept upon precept)
- 3) learn how to gain greater understanding of the Parsha we are looking at through its thematic connections to other portions of Scripture.

The Covenant of Sinai?

Read Devarim 27:1-10. There are many parts of this story that are thematically connected to other portions of the Torah. Remember, the key to thematic analysis is to search for the underlying theme associated with a passage, word or phrase. **Then, find other passages, phrases and/or words thematically connected to the passage you are studying.** Once you have done that, begin to compare and contrast the thematically-related passages, phrases and/or words.

Read Devarim 27:1-4. What seems to be the most important subject in these sentences and why?

The S _____, because they are mentioned directly or indirectly F _____ times.

stones FIVE

WHAT does Moses command concerning these stones?

Moses commanded Am Yisrael to W
write
the W of the T on them.
words Torah

WHERE will Am Yisrael erect the stones that have the words of the Torah written on them?

On Mount E.
Ebal

Do you see the thematic reason why I've asked these particular questions? If you've already noticed, there's something special about words of the Torah, written in stone, on a mountain, then... **You've Got It!**



What event are these verses thematically related to, and what are the connections?

These verses are thematically related to the initial g of the T back in Exodus 19-24!
giving Torah

The words Am Yisrael must write on stones and erect in Mount Ebal are thematically equivalent to the Ten Commandments (mitzvot) written in tablets of stone on Mount Sinai! Wow! But there's more!

Read Devarim 27:5-6. How is Moses' command (mitzvah) to build the altar thematically related to the initial giving of the Torah?

During the initial giving of the Torah, Am Yisrael were commanded to build an a (Exodus 24:4).
altar

AND, the first time Adonai commanded Am Yisrael not to lift an iron tool upon an altar built for sacrifice to Him was at the initial giving of the Torah (Exodus 20:21-23).

As you can see, we are beginning to understand that this Parsha is thematically connected to the initial giving of the Torah. Keeping this in mind, **how is Devarim 27:1 thematically related to the giving of the Torah — hint — notice the phrase, “observe the entire commandment that I command you?”**

The commandment to observe the entire c was exactly what Am Yisrael said they would do in Exodus 24:7—“Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will d, and be o.”
covenant do obedient

Read Devarim 27:6-7. How are these verses thematically related to the initial giving of the Torah?

They are thematically related to Exodus 24:5 where it says that Am Yisrael slaughtered animals for

w offerings and p offerings!
whole burnt peace

Did you notice that the same sacrifices are being made in these two different passages?



Read Devarim 27:9. How is this verse thematically related to the initial giving of the Torah?

Devarim 27:9 is pretty much the same statement as in

Exodus 24:8 — And Moses took the b _____, blood

sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the

C _____ which the LORD has made with you covenant

according to all these W _____." words

These two passages are equivalent because both of them recognize the fact that Am Yisrael entered into a covenant with the Holy One to be His people.

To sum it up, the thematic connections between Devarim 27:1-10 and Exodus 19-24 are given to show us that Adonai is officially entering into covenant with this new generation of Israelites, just as He entered into covenant with the original

nation of Israel back in Exodus! What's most important, though, is that the covenant He makes with Am Yisrael in Devarim 27 is the same covenant originally given at Mount Sinai, even though most in this generation were not originally present at the initial giving of the Torah! You see, the covenant at Mount Sinai is for all Israelites born at any time! We'll see how this is explicitly taught in next week's lesson.

Can you find the words from this Parsha?

K I N A T I O N S N U C
 I M T E B A L T T O U S
 T A T R F A L T O R A H
 A N L S S E S T N S A O
 V D W R I T E D E S I B
 O B E Y E N N O S R S L
 S C H L C S A S N C S O
 H E T O V Z T I M T E O
 I Y T N A N E V O C M D
 P S D A F G A T S I S N
 O F F E R I N G S T E G
 W O R D S A M O S E S N



KI TAVO
 MT SINAI
 MT EBAL
 STONES
 WRITE
 TORAH
 MITZVOT
 MOSES
 ALTAR
 COVENANT
 DO
 OBEY
 OFFERINGS
 BLOOD
 WORDS
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