

Chayyei Yeshua Three-Year Besora Reading Cycle

Introduction

By Rabbi Mark S. Kinzer, Ph.D.

The *Chayyei Yeshua Three-Year Besora Reading Cycle* is based on the conviction that Messianic Jewish life is founded on two intertwined narratives: the story of Israel contained in the Torah, and the story of Yeshua contained in the four *Besorot* (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).

The traditional annual cycle of Torah readings invites us to set our daily life in the context of Israel's founding events - the call of Abraham and Sarah, the exodus from Egypt, the giving of the Torah, and the journey to Canaan. Similarly, this new annual cycle of readings from the *Besora* invites us to see both our own personal stories and the story of Israel in the light of Yeshua's redemptive journey, from his birth to his resurrection.

The cycle begins after Simchat Torah with the birth of Yeshua and his early work, just as the Torah cycle begins with the creation of the world and the call of the patriarchs and matriarchs.

The cycle reaches its climax, with the narrative of Yeshua's death, between the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av, when the Jewish calendar enters a period of mourning for the destruction of the temple, and three *haftarot* of admonition are read. It reaches its joyful conclusion with seven readings related to Yeshua's resurrection, corresponding to the seven Sabbaths between the 9th of Av and Rosh Hashana, when *haftarot* of consolation from the latter chapters of Isaiah are read. The cycle thus points us to the truth that Yeshua, as the King of Israel and its representative, embodies in his person the meaning of the temple, the holy city, and Jewish history as a whole. His suffering sums up and purifies Israel's suffering, and his resurrection will bring about Israel's ultimate restoration.

How to Use the Cycle

The *Chayyei Yeshua* cycle found on the following pages is correlated to the weekly Torah portions with appropriate substitute readings indicated for special Shabbats and holidays and with readings indicated when double-parashiyot (e.g., *Acharei Mot-Qedoshim*) are read together or separately. This reading cycle is designed to take the community through the majority of the *Besorot* plus a selection of readings from the Apostolic Writings over the course of a three-year cycle.

The following table is designed to enable a congregation adopting the reading cycle in subsequent years to join in the reading cycle and read it along with other Messianic Jewish Synagogues throughout the world.

Year A: 5771 (2010–11); 5774 (2013–14); 5777 (2016–17); 5780 (2019–20); etc.

Year B: 5772 (2011–12); 5775 (2014–15); 5778 (2017–18); 5781 (2020–21); etc.

Year C: 5773 (2012–13); 5776 (2015–16); 5779 (2018–19); 5782 (2021–22); etc.

Parasha	Year A	Year B	Year C
Genesis			
Bereshit	John 1:1–18	John 1:1–18	John 1:1–18
Noach	Matthew 1:1–17	Luke 1:26–38	John 1:19–34
Lech-Lecha	Matthew 1:18–25	Luke 2:1–20	John 1:35–51
Vayyera	Matthew 2:1–12	Luke 2:21–40	John 2:1–12
Chayyei Sara	Matthew 3:1–12	Luke 3:1–17	John 2:13–25
Toledot	Matthew 3:13–4:11	Luke 3:18–38	John 3:1–21
Vayyetze	Mark 1:14–28	Luke 4:1–15	John 4:5–30
Vayyishlach	Mark 1:29–45	Luke 4:16–30	John 4:31–42
Vayyeshev	Matthew 5:1–16	Luke 4:31–44	John 4:43–54
when Shabbat Chanukkah 1	John 10:22–42	John 10:22–42	John 10:22–42
when Shabbat preceding or on 12/25	Philippians 2:5–11	Colossians 1:15–20	1 John 1:1–4
Miqetz	Matthew 5:17–26	Luke 5:1–11	John 5:1–15
when Shabbat Chanukkah 1	John 10:22–42	John 10:22–42	John 10:22–42
when Shabbat preceding or on 12/25	Philippians 2:5–11	Colossians 1:15–20	1 John 1:1–4
Vayyigash	Matthew 5:27–48	Luke 5:12–26	John 5:16–29
when Shabbat preceding or on 12/25	Philippians 2:5–11	Colossians 1:15–20	1 John 1:1–4
Vayyechi	Matthew 6:1–18	Luke 5:27–39	John 5:30–47
when Shabbat preceding or on 12/25	Philippians 2:5–11	Colossians 1:15–20	1 John 1:1–4
Exodus			
Shemot	Matthew 6:19–34	Luke 6:1–16	John 6:1–15
when Shabbat preceding or on 12/25	Philippians 2:5–11	Colossians 1:15–20	1 John 1:1–4
Va'era	Matthew 7:1–12	Luke 6:17–38	John 6:16–29
Bo	Matthew 7:13–29	Luke 7:1–17	John 6:30–51
Beshalach	Mark 2:1–12	Luke 7:18–35	John 6:52–71
Yitro	Matthew 11:2–19	Luke 7:36–50	John 7:1–13
Mishpatim	Matthew 11:20–30	Luke 8:1–21	John 7:14–24
when Shabbat Sheqalim	Mark 12:41–44	Mark 12:41–44	Mark 12:41–44
Teruma	Matthew 13:1–23	Luke 8:22–39	John 7:25–36
Tetzavveh	Matthew 14:12–33	Luke 8:40–56	John 7:37–52
when Shabbat Zachor	Revelation 6:9–7:8	Revelation 6:9–7:8	Revelation 6:9–7:8
Ki Tissa	Matthew 15:1–20	Luke 9:1–17	John 8:1–11
when Shabbat Para	Hebrews 9:11–14	Hebrews 9:11–14	Hebrews 9:11–14
Vayyakhel-Pequde	Matthew 15:21–39	Luke 9:18–36	John 8:12–30
when just Vayyakhel	Matthew 15:21–28	Luke 9:18–27	John 8:12–20
when Vayyakhel & Shabbat Sheqalim	Mark 12:41–44	Mark 12:41–44	Mark 12:41–44
when just Pequde	Matthew 15:29–39	Luke 9:28–36	John 8:21–30
when Pequde & Shabbat Sheqalim	Mark 12:41–44	Mark 12:41–44	Mark 12:41–44
when V-P & Shabbat Para	Hebrews 9:11–14	Hebrews 9:11–14	Hebrews 9:11–14
when V-P and Shabbat Hachodesh	1 Corinthians 5:6–8	1 Corinthians 5:6–8	1 Corinthians 5:6–8
Leviticus			
Vayyiqra	Matthew 16:1–20	Luke 10:25–42	John 8:31–47
when Shabbat Zachor	Revelation 6:9–7:8	Revelation 6:9–7:8	Revelation 6:9–7:8
Tzav	Matthew 16:21–17:13	Luke 11:1–13	John 8:48–59
when Shabbat Zachor	Revelation 6:9–7:8	Revelation 6:9–7:8	Revelation 6:9–7:8
when Shabbat Haggadol	Luke 1:5–22	Luke 1:5–22	Luke 1:5–22
Shemini	Matthew 17:14–27	Luke 12:13–34	John 9:1–17
when Shabbat Para	Hebrews 9:11–14	Hebrews 9:11–14	Hebrews 9:11–14
Tazria-Metzora	Matthew 18:1–18	Luke 13:1–17	John 9:18–41

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when just Tazria	Matthew 18:1–18	Luke 13:1–9	John 9:18–23
when Tazria & Shabbat Hachodesh	1 Corinthians 5:6–8	1 Corinthians 5:6–8	1 Corinthians 5:6–8
when just Metzora	Matthew 18:19–35	Luke 13:10–17	John 9:24–41
when Metzora & Shabbat Haggadol	Luke 1:5–22	Luke 1:5–22	Luke 1:5–22
Acharei Mot-Qedoshim	Matthew 19:1–12	Luke 14:1–24	John 10:1–21
when just Acharei Mot	Matthew 19:1–12	Luke 14:1–11	John 10:1–10
when Acharei Mot & Shabbat Haggadol	Luke 1:5–22	Luke 1:5–22	Luke 1:5–22
when just Qedoshim	Matthew 19:13–30	Luke 14:12–24	John 10:11–21
Emor	Matthew 20:1–19	Luke 14:25–33	John 10:22–42
Behar-Bechuqotai	Matthew 21:1–17	Luke 16:1–17	John 11:1–37
when just Behar	Matthew 21:1–17	Luke 16:1–9	John 11:1–16
when just Bechuqotai	Matthew 21:18–27	Luke 16:10–17	John 11:17–37
Numbers			
Bemidbar	Mark 12:28–34	Luke 16:19–31	John 11:38–57
Nasso	Mark 13:13–27	Luke 17:11–25	John 12:1–26
Beha'alotekha	Mark 14:1–11	Luke 18:1–17	John 13:1–20
Shelach-lekha	Matthew 26:17–30	Luke 18:31–43	John 14:1–24
Qorach	Mark 14:32–50	Luke 19:1–28	John 15:1–17
Chuqqat-Balaq	Mark 14:53–72	Luke 20:1–18	John 16:12–33
when just Chuqqat	Mark 14:53–65	Luke 20:1–8	John 16:12–28
just Balaq; Mattot-Massei separate	Mark 14:66–72	Luke 20:9–18	John 16:29–33
just Balaq; Mattot-Massei combined	Mark 15:1–15	Luke 22:7–20	John 17:1–26
Pinchas	Mark 15:1–15	Luke 22:7–20	John 17:1–26
when Mattot-Massei are combined	Matthew 27:27–32	Luke 23:26–32	John 18:1–27
Mattot-Massei	Matthew 27:33–44	Luke 23:33–43	John 18:28–19:16
when just Mattot	Matthew 27:27–32	Luke 23:26–32	John 18:1–27
when just Massei	Matthew 27:33–44	Luke 23:33–43	John 18:28–19:16
Deuteronomy			
Devarim	Matthew 27:45–61	Luke 23:44–56	John 19:17–41
Va'etchannan	Matthew 27:62–28:10	Luke 24:1–11	John 20:1–18
Ekev	Luke 24:13–32	Luke 24:13–32	Luke 24:13–32
Re'eh	Luke 24:33–49	Luke 24:33–49	Luke 24:33–49
Shofetim	John 20:19–29	John 20:19–29	John 20:19–29
Ki Tetze	John 21:1–25	John 21:1–25	John 21:1–25
Ki Tavo	1 Cor. 15:1–11	1 Cor. 15:1–11	1 Cor. 15:1–11
Nitzavim-Vayyelekh	Matthew 28:16–20	Matthew 28:16–20	Matthew 28:16–20
when just Nitzavim	Matthew 28:16–20	Matthew 28:16–20	Matthew 28:16–20
when just Vayyelekh-Shabbat Shuva	Luke 15:11–32	Luke 15:11–32	Luke 15:11–32
Ha'azinu	Romans 15:7–13	Romans 15:7–13	Romans 15:7–13
when Shabbat Shuva	Luke 15:11–32	Luke 15:11–32	Luke 15:11–32
Holidays			
Rosh Hashana Day 1	Romans 8:31–39	Romans 8:31–39	Romans 8:31–39
Rosh Hashana Day 2	1 Thess. 4:13–18	1 Thess. 4:13–18	1 Thess. 4:13–18
Yom Kippur	Hebrews 9:1–14	Hebrews 9:1–14	Hebrews 9:1–14
Shabbat Sukkot	Revelation 7:9–17	Revelation 7:9–17	Revelation 7:9–17
Shemini Atzeret	Romans 11:25–36	Romans 11:25–36	Romans 11:25–36
Shabbat Pesach 1	Revelation 5:1–14	Revelation 5:1–14	Revelation 5:1–14
Shabbat Pesach 2	Hebrews 11:23–40	Hebrews 11:23–40	Hebrews 11:23–40
Shavuot Day 1	Acts 2:1–21	Acts 2:1–21	Acts 2:1–21
Shavuot Day 2	John 15:26–27; 16:12–15	John 15:26–27; 16:12–15	John 15:26–27; 16:12–15