



## FROM THE PASTORS' DESK

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### Starting Your Week off Right, June 15, 2025

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ,

Weather report: It is raining as we write this letter, and it appears that the next few days will be pretty wet. Yes, we need the rain, but hopefully not on our Father's Day barbecues. By the way, warm wishes to all you fathers, grandfathers, and uncles. We pray your day is filled with love and laughter...and no rain!

In our parsha this week, we find more of God's instructions to the Israelites as they begin their journey in the wilderness. We also read the story of the spies who condemned Israel to forty years in the desert with their unbelieving, negative report. However, our attention was particularly drawn to Paul's greeting to the Colossians. You may have noticed that this is the sixth of his letters to begin with essentially the same salutation. It seems that the word "greetings" was the common opening for written communication in the Greco-Roman world. But, Paul expands on it, reminding his readers, from the very start, of the grace of God by which they came to faith in Yeshua—a predominant thread throughout his teachings—and of the completeness and goodness that are theirs through their relationship with God. While it may seem a bit formulaic, perhaps with each writing it was Paul's heartfelt wish for his spiritual children.

Every monarch, leader, and magistrate in the ancient world began their proclamations as God often did in the Tanakh, by stating their identity, qualifications, and accomplishments. Paul does the same, and while it may seem like he is blowing his own horn, he wasn't boasting. His apostleship was sometimes challenged, particularly by those who questioned his authority since he was not one of the original twelve apostles who had walked with Yeshua during His earthly ministry. By outlining his call and commission directly from the Messiah, his suffering for the gospel, and his effectiveness in ministry, Paul reminded his readers of his legitimate apostolic authority.

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Parsha Shlach - שלח ("send")

21 June 2025 - 25 Sivan 5785

Torah - Numbers 13:1–15:41

Haftarah - Joshua 2:1–24

Apostles - Colossians 1-4

	<b>Parsha</b>	<b>Haftarah &amp; Apostles</b>
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<b>Sunday</b>	Numbers 13:1-20	Joshua 2:1-24
<b>Monday</b>	Numbers 13:21-14:7	Colossians 1
<b>Tuesday</b>	Numbers 14:8-25	Colossians 2
<b>Wednesday</b>	Numbers 14:26-15:7	Colossians 3
<b>Thursday</b>	Numbers 15:8-16	Colossians 4
<b>Friday</b>	Numbers 15:17-26	
<b>Saturday</b>	Numbers 15:27-41	

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We will have a meal during our time together. If you are led, please bring a dish to share according to the following schedule.

Last Name begins with A - G brings Main Dish

Last Name begins with H - P brings Dessert

Last Name begins with Q - Z brings Salad

Please keep all food items Biblically clean (no pork, shellfish, etc.)

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Don't forget to register for the picnic and please remember to pray often and fervently for Israel. Hundreds of ballistic missiles have been fired over the past 48 hours, some unfortunately reaching their targets. Pray for protection, safety, healing, courage, comfort and victory.

See you on Shabbat,

Pastor Steven and Pastor Cheryl