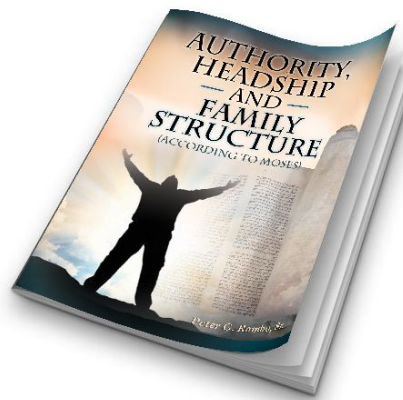


## Torah Portion: Nitzavim (Deuteronomy 29:10-30:20)

[The focus of this Torah portion series is family structure and function as revealed in Scripture. I.e., headship, patriarchy, marriage, etc, graduating to understanding the community and Israel as a whole. If you have not read other portions up to this point, you may want to, as parts build on previous lessons in Torah, available at: <https://natsab.com/torah-portion-series/> ]



The entire series, plus more than 100 pages of extra material now available in print or on Kindle at: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08HSQ9QNC>

In the last portion, we were reminded again of the role of men as heads of house and their responsibility. Moshe will begin to pivot his focus for the last several portions to addressing the nation as a nation. Notice, as he does, that family structure remains in view, only on a much larger scale. Remember, Israel may be a nation, but it is a family, a very *BIG* family. Moshe will not only consider the smaller family unit, but will speak directly to the tribes through prophecy and he will address the nation through the elders as he did in Deuteronomy 27:1.

**Deuteronomy 27:<sup>1</sup>** Then Moses and the elders of Israel charged the people, saying, "Keep all the commandments which I command you today....

This portion begins with a glimpse into the structure of the nation, even as Moshe is prophesying what will happen through the coming several thousand years.

**Deuteronomy 29:**<sup>10</sup> "You stand today, all of you, before the Lord your God: your chiefs, your tribes, your elders and your officers, even all the men of Israel, <sup>11</sup> your little ones, your wives, and the alien who is within your camps, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, <sup>12</sup> that you may enter into the covenant with the Lord your God, and into His oath which the Lord your God is making with you today, <sup>13</sup> in order that He may establish you today as His people and that He may be your God, just as He spoke to you and as He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Moshe starts at the top of the governing structure in the nation and progressively steps down through each layer as he makes clear that each and every one is accounted for before God in the covenant. It is significant to note that in other places in Scripture, 'little ones' and 'wives' are reversed or 'little ones' is used to include the wives. References include Genesis 45:19; 47:24; 50:21; Exodus 10:10, 24; Numbers 32:24; Deuteronomy 1:39; 3:19; Joshua 1:14; Psalm 137:9; and Lamentation 2:19. The point is that we should not consider the little ones being listed before the women as invalidating the flow of order from chiefs, or tribal leaders, though the alien. God's authority structure of God => Messiah => man => woman is not overturned by the inclusion of layers of accountability and leadership at the *BIG* family (national or tribal) level. Each man remains accountable directly to the Messiah for his family, however, there are issues of national and tribal accountability that require representative heads for decision making.

Read carefully this short portion and consider that the prophecy and stern warning from Moshe is given both individually and corporately to Israel. As with the last portion, men and women, you have responsibilities here that have deep ramifications toward restoration both of family, the societies where we currently live, and kol (all) Israel.

Shabbat Shalom.