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## A PORTRAIT OF “THE WAY” IN SCRIPTURE

In English and other languages not native to Scripture, many fundamental and extremely important idioms, ideas and emphases that the writers of the text originally intended their readers to recognize become lost or watered down in translation. One that we often overlook or undervalue, Scripture calls “The Way” – or in Hebrew, *Haderek*. When we read Scripture in its original language to any reasonable extent, this thing called *Haderek* becomes impossible not to see. In fact, it fairly leaps off the pages and demands our notice. This occurs not just in one or a few places in the text, but continuously as an obvious, distinct, and singular theme from the beginning of Scripture to its end.

In this study, we will attempt to paint for you a portrait of The Way using some of the most prominent verses that mention it, simply listing them together in the order they appear in Scripture for your convenience. Originally, we had planned to print every one of them, but we quickly found them too numerous, and some become repetitive. So, we have done our best to distill down for you those verses that capture the essence and fullness of *Haderek* in a concise form. We hope that our efforts will succeed and that you will continue further with a more comprehensive study of your own on this subject.

### **The Way leads to the Tree of Life.**

#### **B’reshith 3:24**

*“And He placed cheruyim at the east of the Garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard The Way to the Tree of Life.”*

### **Guarding The Way of YHWH means doing righteousness and right-ruling.**

#### **B’reshith 18:19**

*“For I have known him, so that he commands his children and his household after him, to guard The Way of YHWH, to do righteousness and right-ruling, so that YHWH brings to Avraham what He has spoken to him.”*

### **The Way of YHWH leads to success.**

#### **B’reshith 24:27**

*“And he [Avraham’s servant] said, ‘Blessed be YHWH, Elohyim of my master Avraham, who has not forsaken His loving-kindness and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on The Way, YHWH led me to the house of my master’s brothers.’*

### **YHWH walks with us in The Way.**

#### **B’reshith 35:3**

*“And let us arise and go up to Beyth El, and let me make there an altar to El, who answered me in the day of my distress, and has been with me in The Way which I have gone.”*

### **YHWH leads us in The Way.**

#### **Sh’moth 13:21**

*“And YHWH went before them by day in a column of cloud to lead The Way, and by night in a column of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.”*

### **Moshe shows us The Way in which we should walk.**

#### **Sh’moth 18:20**

*“And you [Moshe] shall enlighten them [the people] concerning the statutes and toroth, and show them The Way in which they should walk and the work which they do.”*

**YHWH sends a Messenger to guard us in The Way.**

**Sh'moth 23:20**

*“See, I am sending a Messenger before you to guard you in The Way and to bring you to the place which I have prepared.”*

**Idolaters have turned aside from The Way.**

**Sh'moth 32:8**

*“They have turned aside quickly out of The Way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf and have bowed themselves to it and slaughtered to it, and said, ‘This is your mighty one, O Yisrael, who brought you out of the land of Mitzraym.’”*

**When we know The Way, we know YHWH.**

**Sh'moth 33:13**

*“And now, please, if I [Moshe] have found favor in Your eyes, please show me Your Way, and let me know You, so that I find favor in Your eyes.”*

**YHWH stands in The Way against those doing wickedness.**

**B'midbar 22:34**

*“And Bil'am said to the Messenger of YHWH, ‘I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in The Way against me. And now, if evil is in Your eyes, let me turn back.’”*

**When we walk by The Way we should speak the Word of YHWH.**

**Devarym 6:7**

*“And you shall teach them [His words] to your children, and shall speak of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by The Way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.”*

**The Way leads to humility and proof of obedience.**

**Devarym 8:2**

*“And you shall remember that YHWH your Elohim led you all in The Way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, prove you, to know what is in your heart, whether you guard His commands or not.”*

**YHWH shows Yisrael The Way they should go.**

**Devarym 1:33**

*“who is going before you in The Way to seek out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you The Way you should go, in fire by night and in a cloud by day.”*

**Those who turn aside from The Way receive the curse.**

**Devarym 11:28**

*“and the curse, if you do not obey the commands of YHWH your Elohim, but turn aside from The Way which I command you today, to go after other mighty ones which you have not known.”*

**Those who mislead the blind [ignorant] man out of The Way receive the curse.**

**Devarym 27:18**

*“Cursed is he who leads the blind out of The Way.”*

**Turning aside from The Way invites punishment.**

**Devarym 31:29**

*“For I know that after my death you shall do very corruptly and turn aside from The Way which I have commanded you. And evil shall come to you in the latter days, because you do what is evil in the eyes of YHWH, to provoke Him through the works of your hands.”*

**Meditating on the Torah and guarding to do it makes our Way prosperous.**

*Yehoshua 1:8*

*“Do not let this Sefer Torah depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you guard to do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your Way prosperous and act wisely.”*

**Those who turn aside from The Way disobey the commands of YHWH.**

*Shoftym 2:17*

*“They soon turned aside from The Way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commands of YHWH – they did not do so.”*

**Trials come upon us to see if we will guard The Way of YHWH.**

*Shoftym 2:22*

*“in order to try Yisrael by them [the nations not driven out of the land], whether they would guard The Way of YHWH to walk in them as their fathers guarded them, or not.”*

**YHWH teaches us His Way when we serve Him with all our hearts.**

*Sh'muel Alef 12:23-24*

*“Also, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against YHWH in ceasing to pray for you, but I shall teach you the pleasant and straight Way. Only fear YHWH, and you shall serve him in truth with all your heart, for consider what marvels He has done for you.”*

**The Way of YHWH lacks nothing worth having.**

*Sh'muel Beyth 22:31*

*“The El – His Way is perfect; the Word of YHWH is proven; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.”*

**YHWH teaches His people Yisrael the pleasant Way in which we should walk.**

*Melekym Alef 8:36*

*“...then hear in the heavens, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Yisrael – for You teach them the pleasant Way in which they should walk.”*

**If we forsake The Way of YHWH, we walk in idolatry.**

*Melekym Alef 21:21*

*“...and walked in all the way that his father walked, and served the idols that his father served, and bowed himself to them, and forsook YHWH Elohyim of his fathers, and did not walk in The Way of YHWH.”*

**YHWH leads us in The Way we must go.**

*Nehemyah 9:19*

*“The column of cloud did not turn away from them by day to lead them on The Way, nor the column of fire by night to give them light in The Way they were to go.”*

**The righteous holds to His Way and becomes stronger.**

*Yov 17:9*

*“And the righteous holds to His Way, and he who has clean hands becomes stronger and stronger.”*

**We guard His Way by holding fast in His steps.**

*Yov 23:11*

*“My foot has held fast to His steps. I have guarded His Way and did not turn aside. I have not strayed from the command of His lips.”*

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**Wicked men turn the needy from The Way.**

**Yov 24:4**

*“They turn the needy out of The Way; the poor of the earth have hidden together.”*

**YHWH teaches sinners in The Way.**

**Tehillah 25:8**

*“Pleasant and straight is YHWH; therefore He teaches sinners in The Way.”*

**YHWH teaches the meek ones His Way.**

**Tehillah 25:9**

*“He guides the meek ones in right-ruling, and He teaches the meek ones His Way. All the paths of YHWH are kindness and truth to those who guard His covenant and His witnesses.”*

**YHWH teaches us The Way we should choose.**

**Tehillah 25:12**

*“Who then is the man that fears YHWH? He teaches him The Way he should choose.”*

**YHWH teaches us in The Way we should go.**

**Tehillah 32:8**

*“Let Me instruct you and teach you in The Way you should go; let Me counsel, My eye be on you.”*

**We should delight in The Way of YHWH.**

**Tehillah 37:23**

*“The steps of a man are ordered by YHWH, and he delights in His Way.”*

**When we guard His Way, we will inherit the earth.**

**Tehillah 37:34**

*“Wait on YHWH and guard His Way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the earth.”*

**We should not swerve from His Way.**

**Tehillah 44:18**

*“Our heart has not turned back, neither has our step swerved from Your Way.”*

**The Way of YHWH stands apart from every false way.**

**Tehillah 77:13**

*“Your Way, O Elohim, is in Set-apartness; who is a great El like Elohim?”*

**We should ask YHWH to teach us The Way.**

**Tehillah 86:11**

*“Teach me Your Way, O YHWH; let me walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your Name.”*

**He who walks in a perfect Way serves YHWH.**

**Tehillah 101:6**

*“My eyes are on the trustworthy of the land, to dwell with Me; he who walks in a perfect Way, he serves Me.”*

**The perfect in The Way walk in the Torah of YHWH.**

**Tehillah 119:1**

*“Blessed are the perfect in The Way, who walk in the Torah of YHWH.”*

**We should rejoice in The Way.**

**Tehillah 119:14**

*“I have rejoiced in The Way of Your witness, as over all riches.”*

**His Way contains no falsehood.**

**Tehillah 119:29**

*“Remove from me the way of falsehood and favor me with Your Torah.”*

**The Way of YHWH is Truth.**

**Tehillah 119:30**

*“I have chosen The Way of Truth; Your right-rulings I have held level.”*

**The Way is the commands of YHWH.**

**Tehillah 119:32**

*“I run The Way of Your commands, for You enlarge my heart.”*

**The Way is the laws of YHWH.**

**Tehillah 119:33**

*“Teach me The Way of Your laws, and I observe it to the end.”*

**The Way of YHWH is everlasting.**

**Tehillah 139:24**

*“And see if an idolatrous way is in me, and lead me in The Way everlasting.”*

**The Ways of YHWH are righteous and kind.**

**Tehillah 145:17**

*“YHWH is righteous in all His Ways and kind in all His works.”*

**The Way of YHWH is pleasantness.**

**Mishle 2:20**

*“So walk in The Way of pleasantness and guard the paths of righteousness.”*

**The Way of YHWH is wisdom.**

**Mishle 4:11**

*“I have taught you in The Way of wisdom; I have led you in straight paths.”*

**Wisdom is the beginning of His Way.**

**Mishle 8:22**

*“YHWH possessed me, the beginning of His Way, as the first of His works of old.”*

**The Way of YHWH is understanding.**

**Mishle 9:6**

*“Leave the simple ones and live, and walk in The Way of understanding.”*

**Those who walk in The Way heed discipline.**

**Mishle 10:17**

*“He who heeds discipline is in The Way, but he who refuses reproof goes astray.”*

**The Way of YHWH is a stronghold for the perfect.**

**Mishle 10:29**

*“The Way of YHWH is a stronghold for the perfect, but ruin to the workers of wickedness.”*

**The perfect in The Way are the delight of YHWH.**

**Mishle 11:20**

*“The perverse of heart are an abomination to YHWH, but the perfect in The Way are His delight.”*

**Righteousness watches over the perfect in The Way.**

Mishle 13:6

*“Righteous-ness watches over him who is perfect in The Way, but wrongness overthrows the sinner.”*

**Wisdom of the clever is to understand His Way.**

Mishle 14:8

*“The wisdom of the clever is to understand His Way, but the folly of fools is deceit.”*

**The Way of the righteous is made plain.**

Mishle 15:19

*“The Way of a lazy one is like a hedge of thorns, but The Way of the straight is a highway.”*

**We should grow old and righteous walking in The Way.**

Mishle 16:31

*“Grey hair is a crown of adorning; it is found in The Way of righteousness.”*

**If we stray from The Way, we rest in the assembly of the dead.**

Mishle 21:16

*“A man who strays from The Way of understanding rests in the assembly of the dead.”*

**We should guide our hearts in The Way.**

Mishle 23:19

*“Hear, my son, and be wise, and guide your heart in The Way.”*

**The straight in The Way seems an abomination to the wicked.**

Mishle 29:27

*“An unrighteous man is an abomination to the righteous, and he who is straight in The Way is an abomination to the wrong.”*

**The voice of YHWH leads us straightly in The Way.**

Yeshayahu 30:21

*“And your ears hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is The Way, walk in it,’ whenever you turn to the right, or whenever you turn to the left.”*

**The set-apart Way of YHWH allows no unclean thing or foolish person on it.**

Yeshayahu 35:8

*“And there shall be a highway, and a Way, and it shall be called The Way of set-apartness. The unclean does not pass over it, but it is for those who walk in The Way, and no fools wander on it.”*

**We must prepare The Way of YHWH.**

Yeshayahu 40:3

*“...the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Prepare The Way of YHWH; make straight in the desert a highway for Elohim.’”*

**We should go The Way of YHWH, which is best.**

Yeshayahu 48:17

*“Thus said YHWH, your Redeemer, Haqadosh Yisrael, ‘I am YHWH your Elohim, teaching you what is best, leading you by The Way you should go.’”*

**When we walk in The Way of YHWH, we know peace.**

Yeshayahu 59:8

*“The Way of shalom they have not known, and there is no right-ruling in their ways. They have made crooked paths for themselves; whoever treads in them shall not know shalom.”*

**We bring harm upon ourselves when we forsake The Way of YHWH.**

**Yirmeyahu 2:17**

*“Have you not done this to yourself, by forsaking YHWH your Elohim when He led you in The Way?”*

**Those who break the yoke of Torah have not known The Way of YHWH.**

**Yirmeyahu 5:4**

*“Then I said, ‘These are only the poor. They have been foolish, for they have not known The Way of YHWH, the right-ruling of their Elohim. Let me go to the great men and speak to them, for they have known The Way of YHWH, the right-ruling of their Elohim.’ But these have altogether broken the yoke and torn off the bonds.”*

**The Way of YHWH will bring us rest if we walk in it.**

**Yirmeyahu 6:16**

*“Thus said YHWH, ‘Stand in The Way and see, and ask for the ancient paths where the pleasant Way is, and walk in it, and find rest for yourselves.”*

**YHWH gives us only one Way.**

**Yirmeyahu 32:39**

*“And I shall give them one heart and one Way to fear Me all the days for the pleasantness of them and of their children after them.”*

**YHWH shows us The Way.**

**Yirmeyahu 42:3**

*“And let YHWH your Elohim show us The Way in which we should walk and the word we should do.”*

**The Way leads us to Tzion and joins us to YHWH.**

**Yirmeyahu 50:5**

*“They shall ask The Way to Tzion, their faces toward it, ‘Come and let us join ourselves to YHWH in an everlasting covenant, never to be forgotten.”*

**The Way of YHWH is right.**

**Yechezqel 18:25**

*“And you said, ‘The Way of YHWH is not right.’ Hear now, O house of Yisrael, is My Way not right? Is it not your ways that are not right?”*

**If we cause others to stumble in the Torah, we have turned from The Way.**

**Malachi 2:8**

*“But you, you have turned from The Way, you have caused many to stumble in the Torah.”*

**Few will find The Way that leads to life.**

**Mattithyahu 7:13**

*“Enter in through the narrow gate! Because the gate is wide – and the way is broad – that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter in through it. Because the gate is narrow and The Way is hard-pressed which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

**The Way of YHWH is righteousness.**

**Mattithyahu 21:32**

*“for Yochanan came to you in The Way of righteousness.”*

**Yehoshua teaches us The Way of Elohim.**

**Mattithyahu 22:16**

*“And they sent to Him their taught ones with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach The Way of Elohim in truth, and it does not concern You about anyone, for You are not partial to any man.’”*

**Yochanan prepared The Way of YHWH..**

**Lukas 1:76**

*“And you, child, shall be called prophet of the Most High, for you shall go before the face of YHWH to prepare His Way.”*

**...and guided us in The Way of peace.**

**Lukas 1:79**

*“to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into The Way of shalom.”*

**The talmidym of Yehoshua know the Way of YHWH.**

**Yochanan 14:4**

*“And where I go you know, and The Way you know.”*

**Yehoshua is our example of The Way.**

**Yochanan 14:6**

*“I am The Way, The Truth, and The Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

**Ignorant and wicked men persecute The Way.**

**Ma’asei 9:1**

*“But Sha’ul, still breathing threats and murder against the students of the Master, having come to the high priest, asked from him letters to the congregations of Damasek, so that if he found any who were of The Way, whether men or women, to bring them bound to Yerushalayim.”*

**The Way of YHWH is straight.**

**Ma’asei 13:9**

*“Then Sha’ul, filled with the Ruach Haqodesh, looked intently at (Elumas), and said, ‘O son of the devil, filled with all deceit and all recklessness, you enemy of all righteousness, shall you not cease perverting the straight Ways of YHWH?’”*

**We must teach The Way of Elohyim.**

**Ma’asei 18:26**

*“And [Apollos] began to speak boldly in the congregation. And when Aquilas and Prisca heard him, they took him aside and explained to him The Way of Elohyim more exactly.”*

**Those who have hardened hearts speak evil of The Way.**

**Ma’asei 19:9**

*“But when some were hardened and did not believe, speaking evil of The Way before the crowd, he withdrew from them and separated the students, reasoning daily in the school of Turannos.”*

**The Way of YHWH causes tumult and commotion.**

**Ma’asei 19:23**

*“And about that time, there came to be a great commotion about The Way.”*

**Deceived ones persecute, even to death, those walking in The Way.**

**Ma’asei 22:3**

*“I [Sha’ul] am indeed a Yehudi, having been born in Tarsos of Kilikia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamli’el, having been instructed to the exactness of the Torah of our fathers, being ardent for Elohyim, as you all are today, who persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering up into prisons both men and women.”*



**Those ignorant of the truth call The Way only “a sect.”**

**Ma’asei 24:14**

*“And this I [Sha’ul] confess to you, that according to The Way; which they call a sect, so I worship the Elohyim of my fathers, believing all that has been written in the Torah and in the prophets, having an expectation in Elohyim, which they themselves also wait for, that there is to be a resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the unrighteous.”*

**Some put off decisions about The Way.**

**Ma’asei 24:22**

*“And having heard this, having known more exactly about The Way, Felix put them off, saying, ‘When Lysias the commander comes down, I shall decide your case.’”*

**The wisdom of The Ways of Elohyim transcends our full comprehension.**

**Romans 11:33**

*“Oh, the depths of riches and wisdom and knowledge of Elohyim! How unsearchable His judgments and untraceable His Ways!”*

**The Ways of YHWH are righteous and true.**

**Chazon 15:3**

*“And they sing the song of Moshe the servant of Elohyim, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, YHWH El Shaddai! Righteous and true are Your Ways, O King of the set-apart ones.’”*

The purpose we intend in painting a portrait of The Way of YHWH for you in this manner, is to let you see and decide for yourselves what it means, rather than first telling you what we ourselves see and want you to think. We are so confident of the power and truth in the Word of YHWH, that we believe our true brothers and sisters will see exactly the same thing that we see in these verses – the clear and original pathway to YHWH and the ancient name of that method by which His children should live and walk out their lives according to that Word.

YHWH has established for us one Way, *chaverym*, not many. Moreover, according to Messiah Yehoshua, any other way leads to death. We sincerely pray that those of you who have read these words concerning The Way will also hear them and choose life, then come together before YHWH as one people and walk in them.

B’Shalom,

Ovadyah & Yochanan