

# THE CAPTIVE WOMAN

Grace in Torah  
WOV 2022

# Torah Portion from Elul

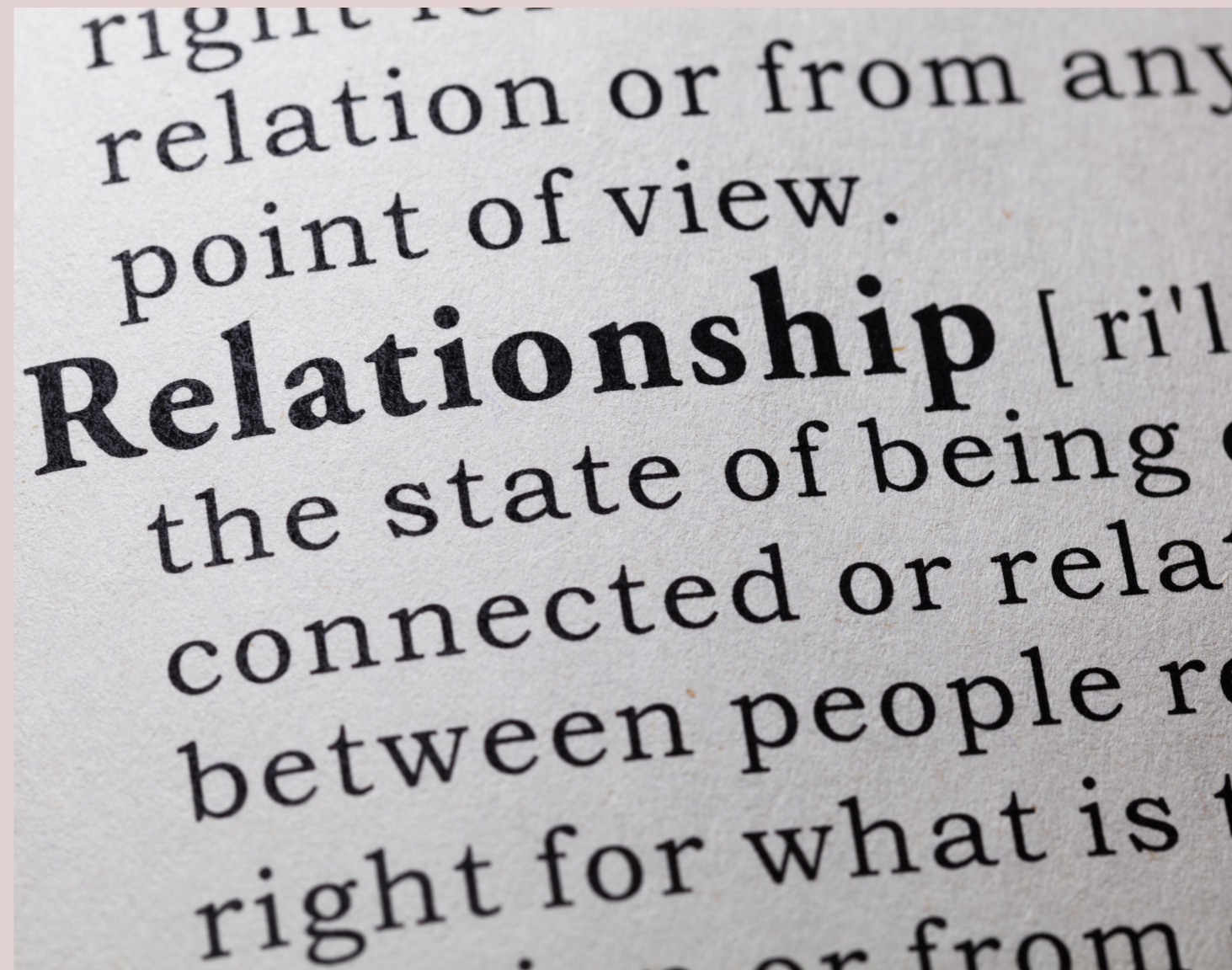
## Ki Teitze - When You Go Out

Ki Teitze contains more laws than any other parsha in the Torah - 74.

Its primary theme is (unconventional) relationships:

- Marriage
- Divorce
- ReMarriage
- Polygamy
- Rape
- Prostitution
- Levirate Marriage
- Cross-dressing, etc.

But, the portion begins and ends within the framework of warfare (strife/fighting).



Deuteronomy 21:10-14 (NASB)

10 **When you go out to battle against your enemies**, and the LORD your God delivers them into your hands and you take them away captive,

11 and see among the captives a **beautiful woman**, and **have a desire for her** and would take her as a wife for yourself,

12 **then you shall bring her home to your house, and she shall shave her head and trim her nails.**

13 She shall also **remove the clothes of her captivity** and **shall remain in your house, and mourn her father and mother a full month**; and after that you may go in to her and be her husband and she shall be your wife.

14 It shall be, if you are not pleased with her, then you shall let her go wherever she wishes; but you shall certainly not sell her for money, you shall not mistreat her, because you have humbled her.

# SURFACE (PSHAT) MEANING

- The Torah is regulating the base nature of man when he has gone out to war.
- Hot passions and lust are not given immediate gratification.
- The foreign woman is given a month to mourn her parents (and their idols).
- The Torah regulates behavior within the framework of fallen man and “hardheartedness.” This doesn’t mean this is God’s perfect will; rather, the waiting or cooling off period should enable the man to remember the weightier matters of God’s Word, including respect and honor due to women as fellow image bearers of Adonai.
- She is stripped of her garments of captivity, must cut her hair and nails, and she must be set free - become a free woman - if after all of this, the man no longer desires her as a wife after “cooling off.” She acquires the status of a free woman.

# Jewish Interpretation of the Captive Woman

- She is an allegory for the battle of all battles - the one with your lower nature (yetzer hara - flesh).
- We must war with base impulses, thoughts, lusts, and take them captive - master them as Cain was told.
- She is beautiful because she is a necessary part of you, even though she can be an enemy.
- Cutting hair & nails symbolizes the outgrowths from one's flesh - thoughts, deeds.
- The month she is given to mourn represents the month of Elul, repentance.



In numerous places, Israel or righteous people are taken into captivity, and find themselves in need of God's redemption, deliverance, and restoration. In fact, that is the primary message of the Bible. Sin results in bondage, and only God can rescue one from such chains. This is beautifully expressed in Isaiah 61 and Luke 4:16-22.

The imagery of two warring realms is built upon this universal truth. We are in a battle for our souls and are called to put on the full armor of God to wage war. But, what many fail to see is that the primary battlefield is in **within** each one of us.

# Warring & Captivity as an Allegory

When you go out to battle against your enemies, and the LORD your God delivers them into your hands and you take them away captive...



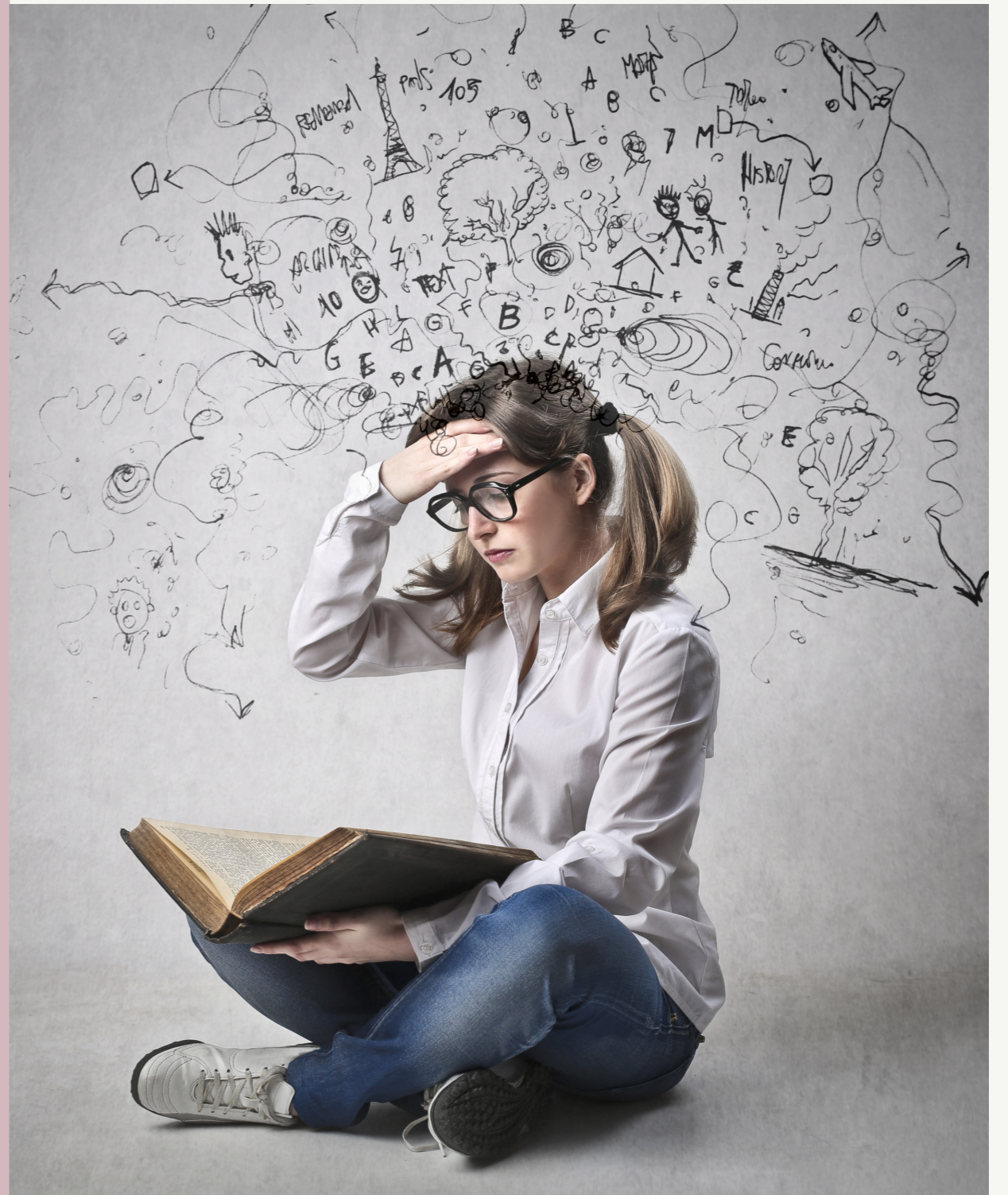
**“For we know that the law is spiritual,  
but I am carnal, sold under sin.”**

**-Romans 7:14, NKJV**



# **Lens of Flesh or Lens of the Spirit**

**What will our perspective be?**



Romans 7:15-23 (NKJV) 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and **bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.**



# When You Go To War

## Optional Battle

- Wars to take the land of Canaan were commanded, and one could not take prisoners/captives.
- Dt. 21 is referring to a different type of war, one of choice. Mystically, this is the inward war:

“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul...” (1 Pet. 2:11 NKJV)



**As Warriors, there is a danger of being taken captive during battle; but at the same time, when we are victorious, we become the captors.**





# **Adonai Tzva'ot**

# Earthly Armies (Hosts)

## When You Go to War...

Exodus 12:41 (TLV) So it happened at the end of 430 years, to the very day, that **all the armies (tzava'ot) of Adonai went out from the land of Egypt.**

Numbers 1:52 (NASB) "The sons of Israel shall camp, each man by his own camp, and each man by his own standard, **according to their armies.**" (See also: Num. 2 & 10)

Psalms 68:11-12 (CJB) Adonai gives the command; the **women with the good news are a mighty army.** 12 Kings and their armies are fleeing, fleeing, while the women at home divide the spoil.



# Warring or Serving in the Tabernacle

“This is for the Levites. Men 25 years old and upward are to present themselves for service to work (avodah) in the Tent of Meeting.” (Numbers 8:24, TLV)

H6633

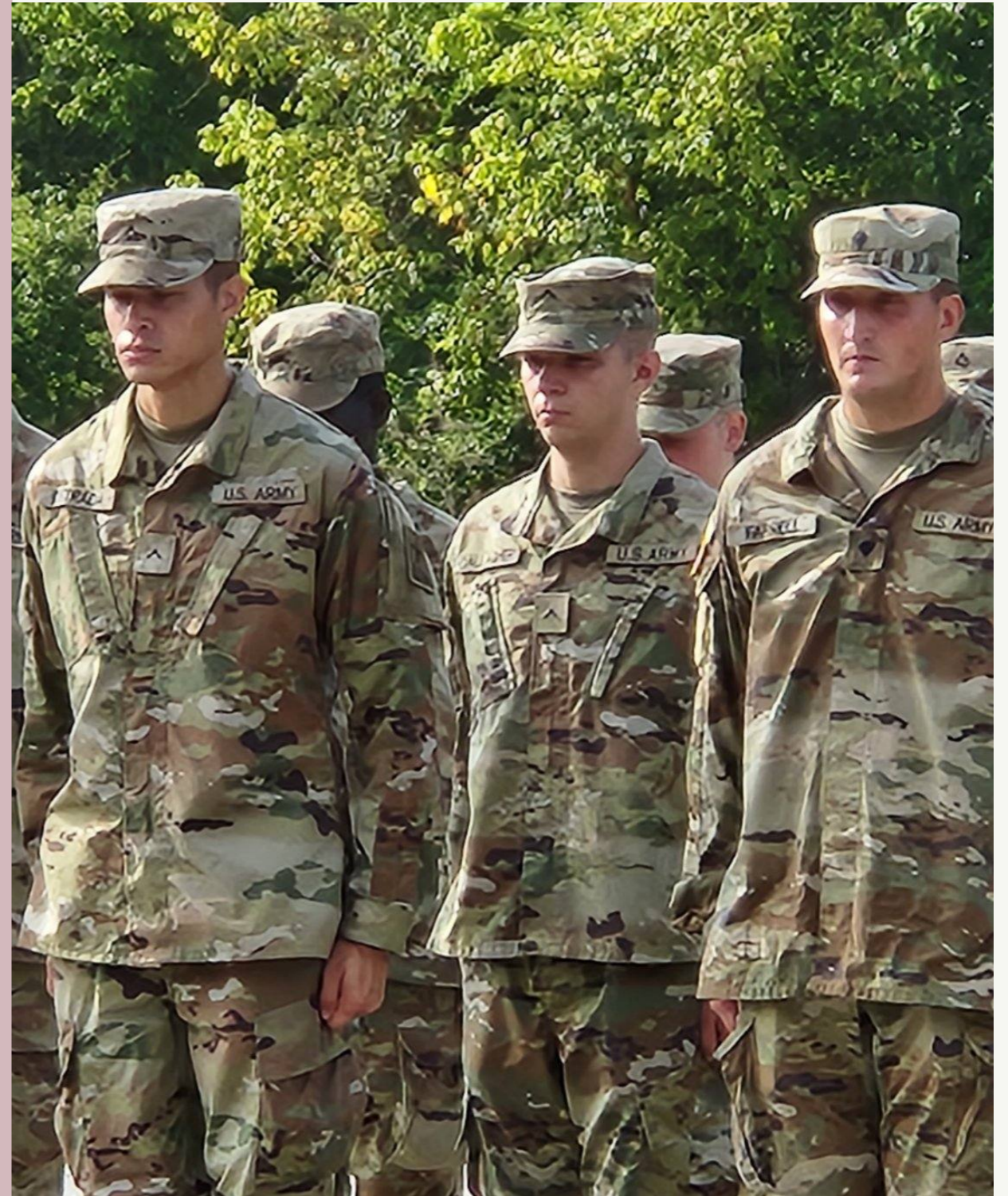
**לָחָם**: tsvah - A verb meaning to wage war, to muster into service, to serve. This word is primarily used to describe a gathering of people waging war against another city or country (Num 31:7, Num 31:42; Isa 29:7-8; Zec 14:12). In one instance, it was used to depict the Lord waging war (Isa 31:4). In several contexts, this word referred to the mustering of people into service (2Ki 25:19; Jer 52:25). Finally, this word described the religious service in the Tabernacle (Exo 38:8; Num 4:23; Num 8:24; 1Sa 2:22).

“So they made war against Midian, just as the LORD had commanded Moses, and they killed every male.” (Numbers 31:7, NASB)



# The Service of a Priest Was Like a Soldier:

One Who Wages (Spiritual) War



## **Priests Went Out to War with the Armies of Israel**

**Joshua 6:6-7 (NASB) So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." 7 Then he said to the people, "Go forward, and march around the city, and let the armed men go on before the ark of the LORD."**

# Believers in Messiah are Soldiers

“Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Messiah Yeshua. No one serving as a soldier entangles himself in the activities of everyday life, so that he might please the one who enlisted him.” (2 Tim. 2:3-4 TLV)

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, **having been taken captive by him to do his will.**” (2 Timothy 2:24-26, NKJV)



2 Corinthians 10:3-4  
(NASB) For though we  
walk in the flesh, we do  
not war according to  
the flesh, 4 for the  
weapons of our warfare  
are not of the flesh, but  
divinely powerful for  
the destruction of  
**fortresses.**



G3794 (Thayer) ὀχύρωμα ochurōma Thayer Definition: 1) a castle, stronghold, fortress, fastness. 2) anything on which one relies. 2a) of the arguments and reasonings by which a disputant endeavors to fortify his opinion and defend it against his opponent.

2 Corinthians 10:5-6 We are destroying speculations (imagination/reasoning) and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive (making it a prisoner) to the obedience of Christ, 6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.

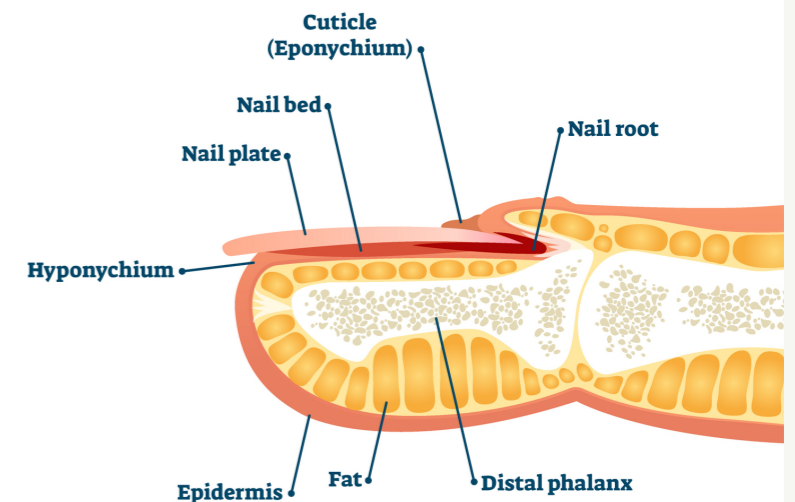
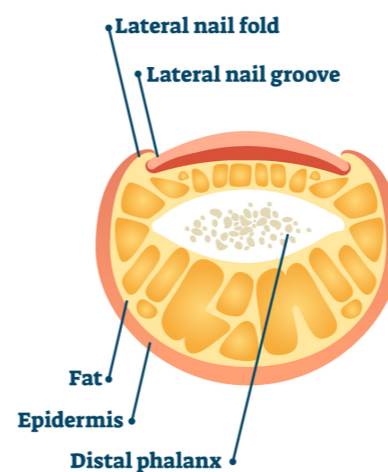
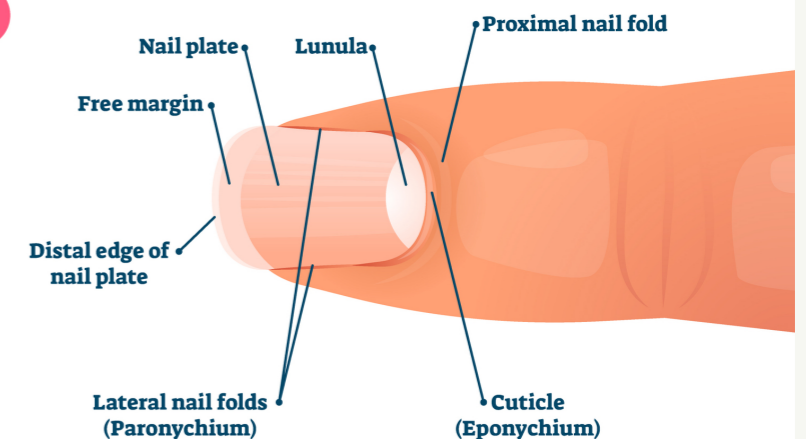
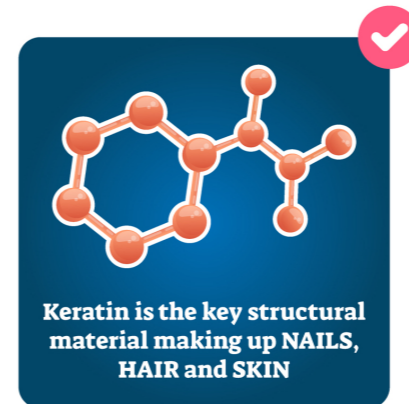
# "She shall shave her head and pare her nails ..."

Hair and nails are actually dead keratin cells that accumulate, which we choose to keep and cultivate, decorate and adorn.

Though dead, they are attached to living structures that continue to push out the keratin cells and those structures - the papilla for hair and the matrix for nails.

A bird's feathers and claws/talons, and cow hooves are also made of keratin.

## NAILS



H6856 **צפרן** tsippôren BDB Definition: 1) fingernail, stylus point. 1a) finger-nail. 1b) point (of a diamond). Part of Speech: noun masculine. A Related Word by BDB/Strong's Number: from H6852 (in the denominative sense [from H6833] of scratching.)

Repentance requires our nephesh to cut off all “old” thought patterns, perspectives, and mindsets. Hair and nails are dead, which is why you don't feel pain when they are cut; hence, they can figure the realm of death or something old. They must go if we are to be transformed into the image of Yeshua.

Surely God will shatter the head of His enemies, the hairy crown of him who goes on in his guilty deeds. (Psalms 68:21 NASB)

Fingernails can symbolize grabbing ahold of things one shouldn't, and the damage they leave behind as one scratches and claws their way over others to get what they want. These are the hands that shed innocent blood with words and deeds.

# **“She shall also remove the clothes of her captivity...”**

Rashi notes that the daughters of the Gentiles used to adorn themselves in war, that they might cause others to commit fornication with them.

R. Abraham Saba said that the daughters of Heathens used to adorn themselves in raiment of silk, and purple, and fine linen, and needlework, to allure and entice men with them.

So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves and change your garments." (Gen. 35:2 NASB)





# New Moons, Feasts, & War

## The Alarm of the Shofar

Numbers 10:9-10 (NASB) "**When you go to war** in your land against the adversary who attacks you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, **that you may be remembered before the LORD** your God, and be saved from your enemies.

10 **Also in the day of your gladness and in your appointed feasts, and on the first days of your months,** you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and **they shall be as a reminder of you before your God.** I am the LORD your God."



Deuteronomy 21:10 says, “When you go out to war,” not “if” you go. Life is a battlefield whether you choose to engage in the fight or not. **Choosing to ignore the war is akin to spiritual sleep or slumber.** One becomes easy pickings for the enemy.

Every place the Bible describes war and rules of warfare, pay attention. Don’t “sleep” through these passages or become a pacifist. Shalom doesn’t mean an absence of war, but of being made whole and complete. The only way to get there is through the battle, and this battle is a life long struggle.

# Solomon's Prayer

2 Chronicles 6:34-42 (NASB) "**When Your people go out to battle against their enemies**, by whatever way You shall send them, and they pray to You toward this city which You have chosen and the house which I have built for Your name,

35 then hear from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause. 36 When they sin against You (for there is no man who does not in) and You are angry with them and **deliver them to an enemy, so that they take them away captive to a land far off or near,**

37 if they take thought in the land where they are taken captive, and repent and make supplication to You **in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have committed iniquity and have acted wickedly';**

38 if they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been taken captive, and pray toward their land which You have given to their fathers and the city which You have chosen, and toward the house which I have built for Your name,

39 then hear from heaven, from Your dwelling place, their prayer and supplications, and maintain their cause and forgive Your people who have sinned against You.

# Mourning & Elul

## Elul - 6th Month

- Preparing for the High Holy Days
- Month of Examination & Accounting
- Month of Repentance
- Month of Shofar Blasts - alarm to wake up from spiritual slumber before Yom Teruah - Rosh Hashanah
- Mourn & Lament past unrighteous deeds
- Look forward to renewal, change, & the future



James 4:1-12 (NKJV) Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

11 Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

12 There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

Romans 13:10-14 (NKJV) Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

11 And do this, knowing the time, that now **it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.**

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us **put on the armor of light.**

13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.



# Yefat To'ar

**Captive Woman has a Beautiful Appearance**

- Rachel
- Joseph (Yefeh To'ar)
- Esther
- Captive Woman in Dt. 21:11

