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# Breaking Down Barriers
# 15: 4-6

**Breaking down barriers DIG: Why is the TaNaKh important for believers today? How is it linked to the B'rit Chadashah? What does it mean for believers to have "the same attitude" toward one another? How are we to persevere? In whom do we place our hope?**

**REFLECT: Is there a relationship that needs to be restored in your life? What have you done in the past six months that has led to a spirit of hope and unity among your place of worship? Have you lost hope? The blessed hope is waiting with open arms to reassure you.**

**Everything written in the TaNaKh was written to teach us, so that we might have hope.**

In a brief detour from **his** main argument, **Paul** reminds his readers that what **he** has just said about **Psalm 69** is entirely appropriate (**to see link click Dk – Building Up Others**). **For everything written in the TaNaKh was written to teach us, so that through perseverance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope (15:4).** This thought is the core of **Paul's** ministry. Knowledge of **the whole plan of God (Acts 20:27)** was critical in **Paul's** day, and today **the TaNaKh** is our blueprint for living (see the commentary on **Exodus Dj – The Ten Commandments**). **The TaNaKh** looks forward and the B'rit Chadashah looks back. Both are essential, and linked together so that one cannot be fully understood without the other.

**Paul** reminded the believers in **Corinth** that the events of the **Exodus** under **Moses happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved . . . Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come (First Corinthians 10:6** and **11).**



**Perseverance** (Greek: *hupomones,* meaning *to be patient, to endure under the pressures of life*)**:** Our part in this blessing is **perseverance**, which is closely related to **patience**. In regard to **the Lord's return**, **James** warns us to **be patient until the Lord returns. See how the farmer waits for the precious "fruit of the earth" – he is patient over it until it receives the fall and spring rains. You too, be patient: keep up your courage; for the Lord's return is near (James 5:7-8).** Like saving faith, **perseverance** is both commanded of us and given to us by **God**, as **Paul** assures us in **15:5** below. It is continuing faithfulness to **the Lord** regardless of all circumstances. **Second Thessalonians 1:4** says that is faith that does not fail **in all the persecutions and troubles you are going through.** The clearest **encouragement** to **persevere** is given in **Colossians 1:22-23a, "He has now reconciled in the Son's physical body through His death; in order to present you holy and without defect or reproach before Himself – provided, of course, that you continue in your trusting, grounded and steady, and don't let yourselves be moved away from the hope offered in the Good News you heard."**



**Hope** (Greek: *elpida,* meaning *expectation, trust, confidence*)**: Jeremiah** speaks of

**ADONAI**, the author of Scripture, as **the hope of Isra'el, her Savior in time of trouble (Jeremiah 14:7a). The Psalmist** repeatedly speaks of **their hope** in **ADONAI. "My soul, why are you downcast? Why are you groaning inside me?** Giving answer to **his** own question, **he** says, **"Hope in God, since I will praise Him again for the salvation that comes with His presence" (Psalm 42:5).** In the great chiastic **Psalm 119** that so majestically glorifies **God's** Word, the writer calls on **the Lord** to **remember your promise to your servant, through which You have given me hope (Psalm 119:49),** and pleads: **Uphold me, as You promised; and I will live; don't disappoint me in my hope (Psalm 119:116),** and testifies: **I wait longingly for ADONAI; I put my hope in His Word (Psalm 130:5).**

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** for **Your** love in giving us **Your** Word which is filled with so many great stories that help **Your** children grow strong in **You**. Thank **You** for the many stories of Israel's great King David. The true stories encourage us when we are facing hard times to persevere and to trust in **You** as David trusted in **You**, even when being hunted down to be killed by King Saul. **My soul, wait in stillness, only for God – from Him comes my salvation. He alone is my Rock and my salvation, my fortress – I will never be moved (Psalms 62:1-2).** David shares how **Adonai is my shepherd, I shall not want (Psalms 23:1).***

*There is a marvelous story of forgiveness even when the **sin** is great, but the person responds with repentance and seeking **Your** face. **Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your mercy. According to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin (Psalms 51:1-2).** You are our Mighty warrior-going to battle for us and our problem**. Thus, ADONAI says to you, "Do not be afraid or be dismayed because of this . . . for the battle is not yours, but God's" (Second Chronicles 20:15c).***

*Thank you for telling us of your wisdom in creation **(Genesis 1)** making a fire-breathing leviathan **(dinosaur). Out of his mouth go flames, sparks of fire shoot out. Smoke pours from his nostrils, as a boiling pot over burning reeds. His breath sets coals ablaze and flames dart from his mouth (Job 41:19-21).** Praise **You** for the many messages/parables your prophets/disciples wrote about how important and valuable it is to live as their most important treasure in life, as in the Pearl of Great Price parable. **Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. Upon finding a pearl***

***of great value, he went out and sold all that he had and bought it (Matthew 13:45-46).*** *Praise* ***You*** *that* ***You*** *are King of Kings and Lord of Lords.* ***He reduces princes to nothing. He makes the judges of the earth a confusion (Isaiah 40:23; Revelation 19).***

*Praise* ***Your*** *Word is a wonderful source of strength and great encouragement. Praise* ***You*** *that there is no need to worry.* ***Consider the ravens. They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn, yet God feeds them. How much more valuable you are than birds! "And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? So, if you cannot do even something very little, why do you worry about other things (Luke 12:24-26, Matthew 6:26-27)?*** *When we place our hand in* ***Yours****,* ***You*** *are always there watching over us to love and to protect* ***Your*** *child.* ***For God Himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you," so that with confidence we say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What will man do to me" (Hebrews 13:5b-6)?*** *We love* ***You*** *our Mighty and loving* ***Father!***

***Your*** *Word stands the test of time, for* ***Your*** *Word is eternal!* ***The grass withers, the flower fades. But the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8).*** *Thank* ***You*** *for the joy of seeing* ***Your*** *love, comfort and protection when we read and study* ***Your*** *word. In* ***Yeshua's*** *holy name and power of* ***His*** *resurrection. Amen*

**Paul** reminded the Gentile believers in **Ephesus** that before their conversion they **had no Messiah, and were estranged from the national life of Isra'el. You were foreigners to the covenants embodying God's promise. You were in this world without hope and without God (Ephesians 2:12).** From these passages and many others in the Bible, it is clear, as far as the believer's **hope** is concerned, **God** and **His Word** are inseparable. We know that **God's Word, Yeshua Messiah . . . is our hope, our certain hope, which is appearing of the Sh'khinah of our great God and the appearing of our Deliverer (First Timothy 1:1; Titus 2:13).**[380]

**And may God, the source of encouragement and patience, give you the same attitude among yourselves as the Messiah Yeshua had (15:5).** Relationships are always worth restoring. Because life is all about learning how to love, **God** wants us to value relationships and make the effort to maintain them instead of discarding them whenever there is a rift, a hurt, or a conflict. In fact, the Bible tells us that **ADONAI** has given us the ministry of restoring relationships **(Second Corinthians 5:18)**. For this reason, a significant amount of the B'rit

Chadashah is devoted to teaching us how to get along with one another. **Paul** wrote: **If you've gotten anything at all out of following Messiah, if His love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you . . . agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends (Philippians 2:1-2 The Message). Paul** taught that our ability to get along with others is a mark of spiritual maturity.[381]

**So that with one accord and with one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah (15:6).** The ultimate purpose of the Body of **Messiah**, however, is not to please each other, as important as that is, but to please **the Lord**, both inwardly and outwardly, both individually and corporately. It is only when **His people** are in **one accord and** worship **Him with one voice** that they truly and fully **glorify the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah (15:6).** Thus, **Paul** was emphasizing **Yeshua's** deity. **He** is not an adopted son of **God**, as are those who believe in **Him (Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5)**. **He** is the unique and **the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). He** is the promised **Messiah**, and is our **Lord**, completely equal with **God the Father** in deity.[382]

The B'rit Chadashah repeatedly speaks of this unique and unfathomable relationship of **God the Father** and **God the Son**. Immediately after **his** greeting to the church at **Ephesus, Paul** declares: **Praise be ADONAI, Father of our Lord Yeshua Messiah, who in the Messiah has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heaven (Ephesians 1:3)**, and later on in that first chapter he speaks of **the God of our Lord Yeshua Messiah, the glorious Father (Ephesians 1:17a ).** In **His** letter to the church at **Philippi, Paul** prophecies that one day **in honor of the name of Yeshua, every knee will bow – in heaven, on earth and under the earth – and every tongue will acknowledge that Yeshua Messiah is ADONAI, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).**

Through **grace** far beyond our comprehension, **our Lord Yeshua Messiah** prayed to **His Father** on our behalf, **that they may all be one. Just as you, Father, are united with me and I with you, I pray that they may be united with us, so that the world may believe that you sent me. The glory which you have given to me, I have given to them; so that they may be one, just as we are one – I united with them and you with me, so that they may be completely one, and the world thus realize that you sent me, and that you have loved them just as you have loved me (John 17:21-23).**[383]