Research from Janet on connections between Matthew 15 and Quotations from the Hebrew Bible

2021-11-07

1. Matthew 15: 3-4: He answered them, "And why do you transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him surely die.'
2. Exodus 20: 12: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the LORD your God gives you.
3. Deuteronomy 5: 16: "'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you; that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you, in the land which the LORD your God gives you.
4. Proverbs 23: 22: Hearken to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.
5. Exodus 21: 17: "Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.
6. Lev 20: 9: For every one who curses his father or his mother shall be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his blood is upon him.
7. Deuteronomy 21: 18-21: "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son, who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they chastise him, will not give heed to them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives, and they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall purge the evil from your midst; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.
8. Proverbs 30: 17: The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.
9. “Honor your father and your mother” is one of the Ten Commandments, which are listed in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. This is the only one of the Ten where the Hebrew word for “no” or “not” (לֹא) is not used.
10. No distinction is made between father and mother; both are to be honored.
11. Matthew 15: 7-9: You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.'"
12. Isaiah 29: 13: And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment of men learned by rote;
13. Isaiah 29: 14: therefore, behold, I will again do marvelous things with this people, wonderful and marvelous; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hid."
14. The Hebrew words pahla (פָּלָא), translated “marvelous” and feleh (פֶּלֶא ), translated “wonderful” by the RSV in verse 14, have the same consonants – only the vowels are different. They have an array of meanings and translations. For example,
15. NRSV: so I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing…
16. NIV: Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; …
17. JPS: Truly, I shall further baffle that people With bafflement upon bafflement; …
18. Robert Alter: therefore I will continue to strike this people with wonder upon wonder; …
19. Genesis 18: 14: Is anything too hard ( הֲיִפָּלֵא) for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, in the spring, and Sarah shall have a son."
20. Exodus 3: 20: So I will stretch out my hand and smite Egypt with all the wonders (נִפְלְאֹתַי ) which I will do in it; after that he will let you go.
21. Isaiah 9: 6: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful (פֶּלֶא) Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
22. Exodus 15: 11: "Who is like thee, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like thee, majestic in holiness, terrible in glorious deeds, doing wonders (פֶּלֶא )?

Sources:

* Barbara E. Reid, O.P., The Gospel According to Matthew, 2005
* The Torah: A Modern Commentary, 2005
* Robert Alter, The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary, 2019
* www.blueletterbible.org

Scripture quotations are from the Revised Standard Version (RSV) except where noted.