

## EKEV (*Because or heel*)



**Deuteronomy 7:12** Wherefore, it shall come to pass if you will listen to **את** judgments (*commands*) and keep and do **אתם** *them*, יהוה your Elohim will keep *with* you **את** the covenant **ואת** *and* the mercy which He swore to your fathers: C-MATS

**Question:** With what word does this verse begin? “Wherefore” has been translated “because” or “heel”. “Because” you will hearken to יהוה’s commandments, you will receive the reward. The word also means “heel” and alludes to the sort of commandments that people may regard as relatively unimportant, so they tend figuratively to “tread on them with their heels”. Thus, the Torah assures Israel that if they are careful to observe even these neglected commandments, they can be certain that יהוה will reward them with His covenant and kindness. Chumash

**Question:** What does Moses mean by “**את** the covenant”? The covenant is יהוה’s oath to Abraham (I will establish **את** My covenant between Me and you and your descendants for all generations as an everlasting covenant, to be an Elohim to you and to your seed. Genesis 17:7). This refers to יהוה’s special relationship with Israel, whereby His bounty flows directly to His people, without intermediaries. Chumash



**יהוה covenant with Abraham to bless his seed**

**Deuteronomy 7:13** And He will love you and bless you and multiply you: He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the flocks of your sheep in the land, which He swore to your fathers to give you. **14** You will be blessed above all people: there will not be a male or female barren among you or among your cattle. **15** And יהוה will take away all sickness from you and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt upon you; but will lay them upon all *those* who hate you. **16** And you will consume את all the people who יהוה your Elohim delivers to you; your eye will have no pity upon them: neither will you serve את their gods; because that *will be* a snare to you. **17** If you say in your heart, these nations outnumber us; how can I conquer them? **18** You should not be afraid of them: *but* should remember את what יהוה your Elohim did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt; **19** The great evils and the signs and the wonders and the mighty hand and the out stretched arm which you saw by which יהוה your Elohim brought you out of Egypt: יהוה your Elohim will do *these things* to all the people of whom אתה you are afraid. C-MATS

**Deuteronomy 7:20** Also את יהוה your Elohim will send the hornets among *all* those who are left and are hiding from you and will destroy them. C-MATS



**Question:** What does this verse mean by “the hornets”? The tzir’ah: a species of flying insect which injected poison into the Canaanites, making them impotent and blinding their eyes wherever they hid. Chumash

**Deuteronomy 7:21** Do not be afraid of them: because יהוה your Elohim *is* among you, a mighty and terrible Elohim. **22** And יהוה your Elohim את *those* nations before you little by little: you cannot put an end to them all at once, because the beasts of the field will *become too* numerous for you. C-MATS

**Question:** What promise is made to us here? If we obey, *then* יהוה your Elohim, את will drive out *those* nations...that is to say, that יהוה through את will drive out those nations... יהוה Father and את Yahusha His Son working together as ONE protecting the obedient covenant children who obey His commandments from their enemies. C-MATS

**Deuteronomy 7:23** But יהוה your Elohim will deliver them to you and will destroy them with mighty disasters until they are destroyed. **24** And He will deliver their kings into your hand and you will destroy את their name from under heaven: no man will be able to stand against you until you have destroyed אתם them. C-MATS

**Question:** Why did יהוה tell the Israelites not to be afraid? Since יהוה will be among you and He is great and awesome, any fear you might have of the Canaanite nations should be overshadowed by your greater fear of יהוה (Ibn Ezra), and if so, you should consider the Canaanites to be insignificant. יהוה assured the people of an overwhelming victory, and, furthermore, told them that they would win in a way that would not cause them a different kind of harm: For if all the Canaanite nations fled immediately, vast stretches of the Land would be unpopulated and open to uncontrolled habitation by wild beasts, many of them dangerous. If so, the great victory would come at an unacceptable cost. True, if the people were absolutely righteous, they would have nothing to fear from beasts, but Moses knew that, realistically, the people would fall short of such a high degree of righteousness. He told them, therefore, that although they would conquer most of the Land quickly (v. 23), and that the "mighty" kings would suffer such a resounding defeat that they would soon be forgotten (v. 24), the victory would not be such that beasts would take over the Land (Ramban).

**Question:** What is true confidence in יהוה? True confidence is the courage that comes with knowing we are doing what is ethically right. יהוה told the people they need not fear even stronger-looking enemies since they are doing what He asked of them. We can tap into that confidence to accomplish great things.

**Question:** Do you consider confidence a good trait? Like nearly every trait - it is neutral and only becomes good or bad depending on how we use it. For instance, confidence to stand up for true values is a very good thing, whereas over-confidence that makes us slack off or become conceited is not.

**Question:** What, if any, relationship do you see between confidence and faith in יהוה? The deeper someone's faith in יהוה is, the more true confidence he will have. This is because a person with faith knows that יהוה is with him constantly and can help him succeed at whatever he tries to do. Such a person will ask himself what it is that יהוה would most want him to do in every situation and knows that if he doesn't succeed it simply means יהוה knows it's ultimately best for him that way.

**Deuteronomy 7:25** Burn *the* graven images of their gods with fire. Do not desire the silver or gold *that is on them* and *don't take it for yourselves*; or you will be trapped by it: for it *is* an abomination to יהוה your Elohim. 26 Do not bring an abomination into your house, or you will *share in the curse that is on it*: but utterly detest it and hate it; for it *is* a cursed thing. C-MATS



**Question:** Should you do some "Housecleaning" in your house? Is there anything in your home that may cause you demonic problems caused by curses coming into your house through idols? Look through your home as you pray and יהוה will let you know what items need to be destroyed that have become an idol to you. You do not have to worship any item for it to be idolatry. Just having these things in your home give demons legal right to be in your home.

SOME OBJECTS TO DESTROY, preferably by burning with fire: (Deut 7:25 Burn *the* graven images of their gods with fire. Do not desire the silver or gold *that is on them* and *don't take it for yourselves; or you will be trapped by it: for it is an abomination to יהוה your Elohim.*) Some objects that may have curses on them are: owls, frogs, unicorns, dolphins, dragons, horseshoes; items from other countries such as Africa, China, Japan; American Indian artifacts, carvings, pictures, Buddha statues, dolls and stuffed animals. Voodoo dolls, Collections, Pictures of movie stars, some items passed down from ancestors, Shamrocks, Any kind of good luck charm, Statues. Any items that are used in witchcraft, The Book of Mormon, satanic bible, books on other religions, vulgar or demonic music, charms, magic books, sacred religious pictures and all objects that are "highly thought of", including New Age objects, drug paraphernalia, death metal comics and some record covers, occult based computer games and video games, and everything from the occult, dark and evil including dream-catchers, idols, masks and pagan statues. If you have any doubt about it, any doubt at all - get rid of it. Often the Holy Spirit will convict you and make you uncomfortable until you do this. Idols are often very expensive and superficially attractive objects and the temptation to keep them "just as decorations", heirlooms, or ornaments is often great BUT we are not to covet the silver or gold on them.

**Question:** What are the effects of the curses of these items? These effects include many chronic troubles or accidents, chronic sicknesses, chronic disease, chronic nightmares or mental attacks, constant argument, continued disobedience or rebelliousness, fearfulness, anxiety, and many others. One symptom a Believer may notice is that when idols are present in the home, prayers may be difficult to speak, or there seems to be a lack of יהוה's presence and peace in the home, or a lack of understanding and/or acceptance of יהוה's Word.

HOUSE DELIVERANCE: After these things have been destroyed then break curses over you and your family and cast the demons out of your house; also anoint your house.

PERSONAL DELIVERANCE: Confess, repent and ask forgiveness for the iniquity of idolatry for you, your ancestors, spouse, former spouses, former sex partners and their ancestors. Break the curses and cast OUT demons (of yourself) having to do with idolatry.



**Question:** Do you have pictures of movie stars you form a soul tie with? One woman had a problem with men and drugs. יהוה impressed upon her that the picture of Marilyn Monroe that was hanging above her bed was part of the problem. Marilyn Monroe had trouble with men and drugs and she died because of it.

**Question:** Is it alright with יהוה to have pictures of Yahusha in your home? Do we really know what Yahusha looks like? Exodus 20:4 "You shall not make yourself any graven image [to worship it] or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. C-MATS



**Question:** Should you have any good luck images? 1 Samuel 15:23 "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim (household good luck images). Because you have rejected the word of יהוה, He also has rejected you from being king." C-MATS

**Question:** Do you value a person more than you should? At the Jackson, Mississippi zoo in March, a Dallas Cowboys' quarterback was there to sign autographs. 5,200 people showed up, and it was the biggest turnout in zoo history for a celebrity. Have you done this? Do you still have something that you treasure with an autograph? It could be an idol.

**Question:** Could some of your clothes be offensive to יהוה? The clothing manufacturers even put images into our clothes. The leviathan alligator is the symbol of high pride. It portrays the idea of "if you can afford that, then you are really dressed." There are many satanic symbols hidden in clothing such as the yen and the yang, the baphomet (goat's head), which is the symbol of the church of Satan. Many labels are expressions of defeat or pride. Everyone puts their names on the clothing so man, by wearing these name brands, can feel built up and mighty in his own stature. The world wants to make a statement that they have money and position. This deception is a lie from Satan. He is trying to make people think they are something they are not. The ties that men wear - the neck represents the will, so if a man puts on a tie that has satanic symbols on it he will be in bondage in certain areas of his service to יהוה. Satan wants to change the identity of man which is יהוה's love. Satan wants to produce a beast incapable of love or feelings. If man wears Satan's labels, then Satan has the right to attack.

**Question:** What are Idols of the heart? These idols are based on man's use of them. They include such objects as the *teraphim*— objects that were used as a 'mighty-one' to bring healing, and objects used to bring good luck or fortune. In this category an idol is defined by man's response to, and affection for the object, which becomes a **substitute** for the True Mighty One, hence it is a worship-substitute for יהוה. Gold, silver, money, cars, etc are examples of idols of the heart. Other examples of idols of the heart are 'my will' instead of יהוה's will; my own understanding, my own ambitions, my own strength, my own self-reliance, and many others of man's own making, all of which become substitutes for יהוה, His Word, and His will.

**Question:** Did Yahusha worship other gods? Luke 4:1 Yahusha, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of יהוה, tell this stone to become bread". 4 Yahusha answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" 5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 So if you worship me, it will all be yours." 8 Yahusha answered, "It is written: 'Worship יהוה your Elohim and serve him only.'" 9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of יהוה," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; 11 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" 12 Yahusha answered, "It says: 'Do not put יהוה your Elohim to the test.'" 13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. C-MATS

Deuteronomy 8:1 You will observe all the commandments which I command you this day, so that you may live and multiply and go in and possess את the land, which יהוה swore to your fathers.

**Question:** Must you keep "all the commandments" to receive a blessing? Moses stressed that no Israelite could pick and choose among the commandments of the Torah. The blessings promised by יהוה were contingent on Israel's acceptance of the entire Torah, as if all of it, in its entirety, is a single, combined command. The Midrash interpretation is: do the whole commandment. If you begin a good deed, finish it, for a blessing is credited to the one who concludes the task. (Rashi).Chumash

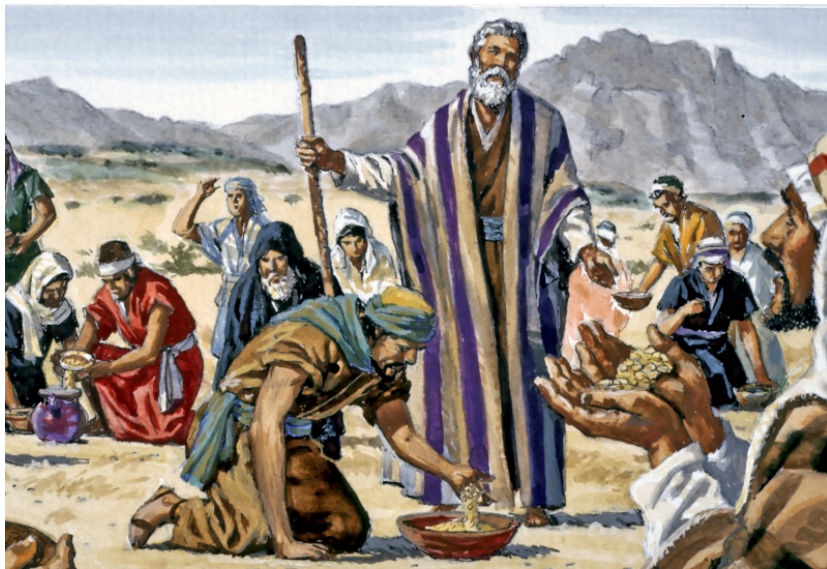
Deuteronomy 8:2 And you will remember את all the ways, which יהוה your Elohim led you these forty years in the wilderness to humble you and to test you, so He would know את what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 He humbled you and you suffered hunger and He fed you with את Manna, which you and your fathers had never known; so that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man shall live by every word that comes out of the mouth of יהוה. 4 Your garments did not grow old and your feet did not swell during those forty years. 5 Consider this in your heart: as disciplines a man את his son, so יהוה your Elohim chastens you. C-MATS

**Question:** Why did יהוה test and afflict His children in the Wilderness? The forty-year experience in the barren Wilderness proved that יהוה supplies all the needs of those who follow Him. Just as a father may chastise his child to prepare him for the future, so יהוה imposed the hardships of the Wilderness so that the people would appreciate the riches and pleasures awaiting them in Israel (Ramban). Chumash

**Question:** Which afflictions did יהוה use to test His people?

- יהוה subjected the Israelites to the uncertainty of not having any reserves of food, and forced them to trust that there would be manna awaiting them the next morning on the desert floor (Rashbam).
- יהוה afflicted them with the hardship of travel and let them hunger by not affording them extraneous pleasures (Ibn Ezra).
- Even the miraculous manna was a test for the people, because they had no prior experience with anything like it, and they did not know whether human beings could exist for long on such food (Ramban).
- The clothing, too, proved that יהוה was with them, for it is a miracle that clothing could last for forty years without deteriorating or wearing out, even without being subjected to perspiration and harsh use (Ramban). The Midrash also teaches that clothing grew with the children and always remained clean and fresh (Rashi). Chumash

**Question:** What is the purpose of a "life test"? The point of a "life-test" isn't to simply pass or fail. יהוה sends these tests to us to help us grow. When we are in a challenging situation and meet the challenge, we find out about a strength inside of us we might not have known we had. Even if we don't respond to the tests the way that we would have hoped, we still learn to do better next time. Anything we learn from the test will help us grow, and that means we've passed.



Picking up manna was a test for the Hebrews.

**Question:** What is the purpose of life? The purpose of life is spiritual growth. The world is like a giant gym to help us strengthen all aspects of our character. Each type of "life test" is like a different exercise machine to train us in a specific way. Annoying people and situations test and strengthen our patience. People in need who come across our path may test and strengthen our ability to give. When our friends make the wrong choices, we are tested to see if we are strong enough to make the right choices. When others around us are gossiping or slandering another person, we are tested to see if we will enter into the conversation or guard our tongue. When we take on the challenge of whatever "life-test" the moment brings, we train ourselves spiritually and become more developed people.

**Question:** What makes a given situation a "test"? A test sets up a battle inside of us. It presents us with a situation that equally draws us to respond in two opposite ways: one way models the proper value, and one way doesn't. When we use our free will to choose the right way, we pass the test. But something that is so easy to take -- like the rustling of leaves -- isn't really a challenge for most people. Everyone is different so everyone's "battle-lines" are also different.

**Spiritual Exercise:** What are some "life tests" that you have experienced recently? Look at every difficult situation as a "test" and try your hardest to pass the "test".

**Question:** Why do bad things happen to you?

The Scriptures speak of three types of "trouble" for the believer:

- 1) Discipline, judgment, or rebuke from יהוה;
- 2) Tests, trials, persecutions, suffering; and
- 3) Temptations or attacks from Satan.

So is this present trouble the hand of יהוה in direct rebuke, or the promised testing of our faith, or are we being "had" by Satan? We should know, so we can respond accordingly.

**James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the victor's crown, the life יהוה has promised to those who love him. C-MATS**

**Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of Elohim. C-MATS**

**Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that Elohim did test את Abraham and said to him, Abraham: and Abraham said, Here I am. 2 And He (*Elohim*) said, Take now, את your son, את your only son whom אתה love את Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah (*chosen by Yah*); and offer Isaac there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell you. C-MATS**

**Exodus 20:20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for Elohim is come to prove (test) you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. C-MATS**

**Psalms 66: 10 For You, O Elohim, have tested us: You have tried us, as silver is tried. C-MATS**

**Question:** What is the Cost Of Discipleship-following Yahusha?

**John 15:18-20 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own... Remember the words I spoke to you; 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also." C-MATS**

**1 Peter 4:1 Since Yahusha suffered physical pain you must arm yourselves with the same inner conviction that he had. To be free from sin means bodily suffering, and the man who accepts this will spend the rest of his time here on earth, not in being led by human desires, but in doing the will of יהוה. C-MATS**

**2 Timothy 3:12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a righteous life in Yahusha will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. C-MATS**



**Question:** Are we destined to have trials?

1 Thessalonians 3:3 None of you should turn back because of these persecutions. You yourselves know that such persecutions are part of יהוה's will for us. C-MATS

James 1:2 Regard it all as joy, my brothers, when you face various kinds of temptations;<sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your trust produces perseverance.<sup>4</sup> But let perseverance do its complete work; so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing. C-MATS

**Question:** How should we feel when we go through times of testing?

1 Peter 4:12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Yahusha, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. C-MATS

Romans 5:3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces *perseverance*; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because יהוה has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. C-MATS

**Question:** What advice does Yahusha give us?

Hebrews 10:32 ...in the face of suffering... do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to *persevere* so that when you have done the will of יהוה, you will receive what he has promised. C-MATS

Romans 8:18 I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. C-MATS

Revelation 2:10 "Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, *the devil* will put some of you in prison to *test* you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the *point of death*, and I will give you the crown of life." C-MATS

Luke 12:4 "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who can kill the body and that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after killing the body, has the power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him."

Revelation 3:10 "Because you have kept my commandment to endure trials, I will keep you safe in the time of trial which is going to come for the whole world..." C-MATS

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things יהוה works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. C-MATS

Romans 8:35 Who can separate us from the love of Yahusha? Can trouble, pain, or persecution? Can lack of clothes and food, danger to life and limb, the threat and force of arms?... No, in all these things we win an overwhelming victory through him who has proved his love for us. C-MATS

**Question:** Who would you say feels closer to יהוה: someone for whom everything is going smoothly, or someone experiencing difficulties? Why? We might hope and wish it was the former, but the truth is that when everything is going smoothly it is easy to forget about יהוה. In difficult times, especially when things seem beyond our control, it is natural to turn to יהוה for guidance and help. While we shouldn't seek troubles, if they come, we should know we have a special opportunity to grow closer in our relationship with יהוה.

**Question:** Is there any way to keep the relationship strong without the problems? יהוה loves us and wants to be close to us, and He knows that this close relationship is so good for us spiritually, that sometimes He even sends us challenges so we will turn to Him and renew this crucial relationship. When we try to focus on all the good things in our lives, realize they are gifts from יהוה, and verbally express our appreciation; we can sometimes accomplish the goal of strengthening the relationship in a positive, easy-to-take way.

**Question:** Is there any way to reach the hidden parts of who we are other than through difficulties and hardships? In theory, if we tried hard enough to use all of our abilities, we could. But practically speaking, this is very rare because human nature is just to do enough to get by. Difficulties and challenges force us to dig deeper into ourselves and reveal parts of us we would never access otherwise.

**Question:** Does that mean that a person who wants to grow should seek hardships? No. We should take life as it comes and try our best in every situation. יהוה will see to it that each of us gets just the challenges we need to optimally grow.

**Question:** Is it better to have pleasure or suffer some uncomfortable situations to stand up for our values? Often doing what's right and in line with our values requires us to put in more effort than just going with the flow. We may have to face uncomfortable reactions or loss of friends. However there is no deeper and long-lasting pleasure than choosing to do what's right especially when it's hard.

**Spiritual exercise:** Do one thing today even though it's uncomfortable, because it's worthwhile and right.

**Deuteronomy 8:6** Therefore, keep **את-** commandments of יהוה your Elohim and walk in His ways and fear **אתו** Him. **7** Because יהוה your Elohim will bring you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs that flow out of valleys and hills; **8** A land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees and pomegranates; a land of oil, olive and honey. C-MATS

**Question:** What are the seven foods listed in verse 8? This verse lists the seven foods for which the Land was praised.

1. Figs
2. Pomegranates
3. Olives
4. Dates
5. Wheat
6. Barley
7. Grapes

**Question:** What is meant by “honey” in verse 8? This is date-honey. When dates are left in the sun, their honey-like juice oozes from them. "Honey" is used to refer not only to bees' honey, but to every manner of very sweet food, such as dates (Rashi). Chumash



Olives



Wheat



Barley



Figs



Grapes



Pomegranates



Dates

**Deuteronomy 8:9** A land in which you will eat bread in abundance, you will not lack *anything* in the land; a land whose stones *contain* iron and out of whose hills you may mine (*dig*) brass. C-MATS

**Question:** What is another meaning for “**bread**” in verse 9? Allegorically, the Torah is likened to bread. Thus, the sense of the verse is that Israel, the spiritual center of the universe, is better suited than any other land for growth in Torah (R' Bachya). The Torah speaks not of the poverty of insufficient calories or of not enough money to buy food. The subject is spiritual poverty. In other lands, people fail to see that there is more to survival than food and creature comforts, but in Israel, Moses told them, they would see the hand of יהוה in every kernel of grain, and not languish in spiritual deprivation. Chumash

**Deuteronomy 8:10** When you have eaten and are full, then you will bless את- יהוה your Elohim for the good land which He has given you. C-MATS

**Question:** What commandment is given in verse 10? This is the commandment to thank את- יהוה your Elohim for your food. This is another blessing: That the bread will be blessed within the stomach, so that you may eat and be full. Chumash

**Deuteronomy 8:11** Beware that you *do not* forget את- יהוה your Elohim by not keeping His commandments and His judgments and His statutes, which I command you this day. C-MATS

**Question:** What should you always be aware of in times of prosperity? Moses warned Israel to beware lest it allow the forthcoming prosperity and security to blind it to the Source of its blessing (R' Matzliach). Chumash

**Question:** Do you think that how we relate to the good things we have can affect whether or not they will remain? יהוה teaches that our thoughts and attitudes affect reality. If we are humble and appreciative of what we have, these gifts are more likely to remain with us than if we flaunt them and relate to them haughtily.

**Question:** The wise person 'looks at the future.' What do you think this means? While it's impossible to entirely 'predict' the future, many times it's quite possible to see where the consequences of our present choices are likely to lead. A wise person always keeps one eye on the future by making the kind of responsible choices that will most likely lead to the kind of future he'd like to see.

**Question:** Is there such a thing as making 'no choice'? In almost all situations, 'not making a choice' is in effect also making a choice. That is, 'choosing not to choose' will affect our future as much as any other 'choice.' Even if we don't see right away, these choices will have consequences, and it's worth it to make the right choice. The bottom line is to remember that life is a constant stream of choices and its well worth it to choose well.

**Spiritual Exercise:** Think of all the good things that you have and thank יהוה for His many blessings believing that they all come from Him.

**Deuteronomy 8:12** *When you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and lived there; 13 And when your herds and your flocks multiply and your silver and your gold multiply and all that you have is multiplied; 14 When your heart is lifted up and you forget את יהוה your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt from the house of bondage; 15 Who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and drought, where there was no water; and He brought out water from the rock of flint for you; 16 Who fed you in the wilderness with Manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might prove you, in order to do good things for you in the end; 17 ואמרת And you say in your heart, my power and the might of my hand have brought me את wealth and all this. 18 But you must remember את יהוה your Elohim: because it is He that gives you power to get wealth that He may establish את His covenant, which He swore to your fathers, as is happening to you this day. 19 But if you do forget את יהוה your Elohim and walk after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you will certainly perish. 20 You will perish like the nations which יהוה destroyed before your face, because you would not be obedient to the voice of יהוה your Elohim. C-MATS*



**Do Not Forget**

**Question:** What must the Israelites be careful not to forget? It would be easy for the Israelites to think that their own strength enabled them to defeat the Canaanites, because Israelites are formidable warriors, whom Jacob and Moses likened to lions and wolves. To dispel such a notion, Moses urged them always to remember the Exodus and the tribulations in the Wilderness. Clearly, therefore, they would have to realize that not their strength, but **יהוה's**, enabled them to prevail (Ramban). Chumash

**Question:** Why do you think a person who has more than somebody else would put the other person down? It's easy to start to confuse the value of a person with the value of his possessions. "Since I have more, I must be better than him." This could tempt a person to act conceited and insult others.

**Question:** How can a person overcome this feeling? He can try to remember that everything he has is only a gift from **יהוה** and therefore there is no reason to feel like he's better than anybody else. **יהוה** gives everybody just what they need to accomplish their mission in life. It has nothing to do with who's "better" or "worse". Every person has infinite value just because he or she is a person.

**Question:** Would you say that if somebody worked hard to earn what he amassed that he now has the right to feel proud of himself and even to feel superior to those who didn't work as hard as he? While being hard-working is certainly an admirable trait, still it is important to remember that everything we have, or have accomplished is ultimately only a gift from **יהוה**. He gave us the strength and the tenacity to work hard, gifts that perhaps others lack. Also, our success is only in His hands. Many people may work as hard or even harder than we, yet not succeed. It's important to feel grateful and take pleasure in our success. But it's unwise to look down on others because of it.

**Question:** A person should desire to be neither poor nor rich, but rather in the middle. Why do you think this is so? Both poverty and wealth are difficult tests for a person who wants to be good. If one has too little one can be tempted to steal from others. Whereas if one has plenty, one could become conceited and forget that everything is a gift from **יהוה**. A person with just enough and not too much is most likely to succeed on a personal character level, which is the level that counts.

**Deuteronomy 9:1 Hear, O Israel: אתה *You will cross over this day את- the Jordan to go possess nations greater and mightier than you, having great cities fenced up to the heavens: 2 A numerous people and as tall as the children of the Anakims, whom אתה you know ואתה and you have heard say, who can stand against the children of Anak?! 3 Understand therefore, this day, that יהוה your Elohim goes before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and He will bring them down before your face: you will drive them out and destroy them quickly as יהוה said to do. C-MATS***

**Question:** Who can stand before "a consuming fire"? Righteousness is a blazing flame; Torah study and prayer require a flaming heart. Chumash



**Deuteronomy 9:4** After יהוה your Elohim has cast אֹתָם *them* out before you, do not think in your heart that *because of my righteousness* יהוה has brought me in to possess אֶתְּ הָאָרֶץ *this* אֶתְּ land: but because of the wickedness of these nations יהוה drives them out before you. C-MATS

**Question:** What does “do not think in your heart that *because of my righteousness*” mean? Better a sinful person who knows that he has sinned, than a righteous person who knows that he is righteous. Chumash

**Question:** Why were the Israelites given victory over the Canaanites? If physical strength was not the determining factor, then it must be either the Israelites spiritual merit or the overwhelming wickedness of the Canaanites. Moses said, “Do not think that you will triumph because of a combination of your righteousness and Canaanite wickedness. Your righteousness is not sufficient to be a factor, at all. Instead, you will conquer because of Canaanite wickedness and because of יהוה's oath to the Patriarchs.” Chumash

**Deuteronomy 9:5** אַתָּה *You* do not go in to possess אֶתְּ their land *because of your righteousness* or the uprightness of your heart: but יהוה your Elohim will drive them out before you, because of the wickedness of these nations, so that He may perform אֶתְּ the word, which יהוה swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. 6 Understand that יהוה your Elohim does not give you אֶתְּ הָאָרֶץ *this* אֶתְּ land that *is good to possess, because of your righteousness*, because אַתָּה *you are* a stiff-necked people. 7 Remember and don't forget אֵת how you provoked אֶתְּ יהוה your Elohim to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that יָצָאתָ *you came out* of the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against יהוה. 8 Also in Horeb you provoked to wrath אֶתְּ יהוה, so that יהוה was angry *enough* with you to destroy אֶתְּכֶם *you*. 9 When I went up the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which יהוה made with you and I remained on the mountain *for forty days and forty nights*, אֲכַלְתִּי *I ate* no bread or drank water: 10 And delivered יהוה to me אֶתְּ two tablets of stone written with the finger of Elohim; and on them all the words *were written*, which יְהוָה spoke with you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly. C-MATS



Mount Horeb blackened on top where יהוה came down

Deuteronomy 9:11 And it came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights, *that* יהוה gave me את־ two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant. 12 And יהוה said to me, Arise, go down quickly; because your people, which you have brought out of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*; they have quickly turned aside *from* the way which I commanded them; they have made themselves a molten image. 13 Furthermore יהוה spoke to me saying, רֵאִיתִי *I saw* את־ people and see that they *are* a stiff-necked people: 14 Let Me alone that I may destroy them and blot out את־ their name from under heavens: and I will make from אותְךָ *you* a nation mightier and greater than they. 15 So I turned and came down from the mountain and the mountain burned with fire: and the two tablets of the covenant *were* in my hands. 16 And I looked and saw that you had sinned to ליהוה your Elohim and had made a molten calf: You had turned aside quickly from the way which יהוה had commanded אתְכֶם *you*. C-MATS



Adoration of the Golden Calf, oil on canvas by Nicolas Poussin 1634



**Deuteronomy 9:17** And I took the two tablets and threw them out of my hands and broke them before your eyes. C-MATS



*Moses Breaking the Two Tablets of Stone*

**Deuteronomy 9:18** And I fell down before יהוה for forty days and forty nights: אָכַלְתִּי *I ate* no bread or drank water, because of all your sins which you had done by doing wicked *things* in the sight of יהוה to provoke him to anger. 19 I was terrified of the anger and hot displeasure with which יהוה was angry with you *and wanted to* destroy אתכם *you*. But יהוה listened to me at that time also. 20 And יהוה was very angry with Aaron *and wanted to* destroy him: and I prayed for Aaron *at the same time*. 21 וְאַתֶּם *and* your sin, which you had made, אֶת־ the calf I took and burnt אֹתוֹ *it (him)* with fire and stamped (*beat to pieces*) אֹתוֹ *it (him)* and ground *it* very small until *it was* as small as dust: and I cast אֶת־ *the* dust from it into the brook that descended out of the mountain. 22 Again at Taberah and at Massah and at Kibroth-hattaavah, you provoked to wrath יהוה אֶת־. 23 Likewise when יהוה sent אתכם *you* from Kodesh-barnea saying, Go up and possess אֶת־ *the* land, which I have given you; then you rebelled against אֶת־ *the* commandment of יהוה your Elohim and you did not believe him or listen to His voice. 24 You have been rebellious against יהוה from the day that I knew אתכם *you*. C-MATS

**Question:** What are some other places besides Horeb that Israel provoked יהוה to wrath by their stubborn rebelliousness?

- At Taberah, by their complaining and discontent (Numbers 11:1 And *when* the people complained, it displeased יהוה: and יהוה heard *it* and his anger flared up; and the fire of יהוה burnt among them and consumed *those who were* on the outskirts of the camp. 2 And the people cried to Moses; and when Moses prayed to יהוה, the fire was stopped. 3 And he called the name of the place Taberah (*burning*): because the fire of יהוה burnt among them. C-MATS)
- At Massah, by their murmuring because of the want of water (Exodus 17:7 And he called the name of the place Massah (*testing*) and Meribah (*quarrel*), because of the contention of *the* Children of Israel and because they tested אֶת־ יהוה saying, Is יהוה among us or not? C-MATS)

- At Kibroth-hattaavah, by despising the manna, and lusting for flesh to eat (Numbers 11:4 *The Children of Israel also wept again and said, Who will give us meat to eat? 5 We remember אֶת־ the fish, which we ate for free in Egypt; אֶת־ the cucumbers וְאֶת־ and the melons אֶת־ and the leeks וְאֶת־ and the onions וְאֶת־ and the garlic: 6 But now we are withering away: there is nothing at all to eat besides this Manna. C-MATS )*

- At Kadesh-barnea, when on the confines of the Promised Land, they distrusted יהוה, reproached him for having brought them there to be destroyed, and sought to return to Egypt (Numbers 14:1 **And lifted up all the congregation and cried אֶת־ their voice and the people wept that night. 2 And all the Children of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron and the whole congregation said to them, We wish that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or that we had died in this wilderness! C-MATS).**

"The list is not arranged chronologically, but advances from the smaller to the more serious forms of guilt: For Moses was seeking to sharpen the consciences of the people, and to impress upon them the fact that they had been rebellious against יהוה from the very beginning, "from the day that I knew את־כם you." Pulpit Commentary

**Deuteronomy 9:25** So I fell down before יהוה את־ forty days וְאַת־ and forty nights, as I fell down *the first time*; because יהוה had said He would destroy את־כם you. 26 I prayed therefore, to יהוה and said, O Adonai יהוה, do not destroy your people and your inheritance, which you have redeemed through your greatness, which you have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. 27 Remember your servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; do not focus on the stubbornness of this people or their wickedness and חַטָּאתוֹ his sin: 28 Otherwise the land from which you brought us would say, because יהוה was not able to bring them into the land which He promised them and because He hated אותָם them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness. 29 Yet they *are* your people and your inheritance, which you brought out by your mighty power and by your stretched out arm. C-MATS

**Deuteronomy 10:1** At that time יהוה said to me, Cut out two tablets of stone like the first *ones* and come up to Me *on* the mountain and make an ark of wood. C-MATS

**Question:** What happened to this temporary ark of wood? At the end of the forty days of prayer, Moses was instructed by יהוה to prepare new Tablets upon which He would inscribe the Ten Commandments again. To hold these Tablets, as well as the pieces of the broken ones, יהוה had Moses make a wooden Ark, which would be used until the permanent Ark of the Tabernacle was built (Exodus 25:21 **In the Ark you will put אֶת־ the testimony that אֶת־ I will give you.**) After the Tabernacle was built, both the whole and the broken Tablets were kept in the wooden Ark; after the Tabernacle was ready, both sets of Tablets were transferred to the permanent Ark, and the wooden Ark was hidden. Chumash

**Deuteronomy 10:2** And I will write on the tablets אֶת־ the words that were in the first tablets, which you broke and you will put them in the Ark. 3 And I made an ark *of* acacia wood and cut two tablets of stone like the first *ones* and went up on the mountain *with* the two tablets in my hand. 4 And He wrote on the tablets inscribing the first את־ ten *of* the commandments, which יהוה spoke to you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly: and יהוה gave them to me. C-MATS



**Deuteronomy 10:5** And I turned and came down from the mountain and put את the tablets in the Ark which I had made; and they remain there as יהוה commanded me. **6** And the Children of Israel traveled from Beeroth, where the children of Jaakan live, to Mosera: there Aaron died and was buried; and Eleazar, his son, ministered in the priest's office in his place. C-MATS

**Question:** Why was Aaron's death interjected in Moses' narrative after the broken tablets? The First Tablets were replaced by the Second Tablets; nevertheless, the loss of the First Tablets was a great tragedy, just as the loss of Aaron was a great tragedy for the Israelites (Divrei David). Chumash

**Deuteronomy 10:7** From there they would set out to Gudgodah; and from Gudgodah to Jotbath, a land with running streams. **8** At that time separated את tribe of Levi to carry את Ark of the Covenant of יהוה, to stand before יהוה to minister to Him and to bless in His name, as they still do today. **9** Therefore, Levi has no share or inheritance with his brothers; יהוה is his inheritance as יהוה your Elohim has promised him. **10** And I stayed on the mountain like the first time, for forty days and forty nights; and יהוה listened to me at that time also and יהוה would not destroy you. **11** And יהוה said to me, Arise, lead the people, so they may go in and possess את the land, which I swore to their fathers to give to them. **12** And now, Israel, what does יהוה your Elohim require of you? Fear את יהוה your Elohim, walk in all His ways and love את Him and serve את יהוה your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul, **13** To keep את commandments of יהוה and His statutes, which I command you this day for your own good. C-MATS

**Question:** And now, Israel, what does יהוה your Elohim require of you? Even now, after the Golden Calf, יהוה asks only that you fear Him. "Everything is in the power of Heaven, with the exception of whether a person will have fear of Heaven (Rashi)." Only people can develop this spiritual quality in themselves. Chumash

**Question:** What are the two levels of fearing יהוה?

- The higher of the two is a sense of awe and reverence, and this is what Moses called for here. Intellectually it is easy to recognize that people should feel this way toward יהוה, but it is hard for ordinary people to achieve it.
- The second and lower of the two is the instinctive fear of punishment. That is the fear referred to in Deuteronomy 11:6 (And what He did to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how opened the earth אֶת her mouth and swallowed them up אֶת and their households אֶת and their tents אֶת and all the substance that was in their possession before all Israel.), where Moses recalled the destruction wrought upon Dathan and Abiram (Derashos HaRan). Chumash



Deuteronomy 10:14 Yes, the heavens and the highest of heavens to ליהוה your Elohim; the earth is his and all that there is in it. 15 Only יהוה found enough pleasure in your fathers to love אותם them and He chose their descendants after them, above all people, as it is today. 16 Circumcise therefore, את the foreskin of your heart and do not be stiff-necked anymore. C-MATS



**Question:** Why does the word say to “Circumcise therefore, את the foreskin of your heart”? Figuratively, the heart is the seat of desire and emotion and when people become habitual sinners so that their impulses for holiness are weakened, it is described metaphorically as if the heart is surrounded by a covering that dulls its spiritual perceptions.

**Question:** What does it mean to have an open heart? An open heart is one that is open to feel. This includes feeling other people's pain and joys, not just our own. Being openhearted means not being afraid to take emotional risks, and trusting that יהוה is guiding our lives. When we allow ourselves to feel deeply, we will truly grow from the experience.

**Question:** Do we need to help anyone who asks? Won't this lead to giving to people who don't really need? There is nothing wrong with evaluating whether someone deserves or needs our assistance before helping them. But we must be careful not to let this become an excuse for hardheartedness or selfishness. When in doubt, it is generally better to give too much than not to give enough. יהוה, the ultimate Giver, wants us to give, and will make sure we don't lose out in the end.

**Question:** Who do you think gets more: the person that gives to another or the one who receives? Why? At first glance it looks like the one who receives gets more. But really, in a deeper sense, the one who gives gets more - he gets the chance to be a giver, which is one of the main reasons that יהוה put us in the world. Giving is something that will make us into better people and pay us back great dividends forever.

**Deuteronomy 10:17** For יהוה your Elohim is Elohim of elohims (*gods*) and Adonai of adons, a great Elohim, mighty and awesome, who has no favorites and accepts no bribes. 18 He executes judgment for the fatherless and widow and loves the stranger and gives him food and garments. 19 Love therefore, את the stranger: for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. C-MATS

**Question:** How does יהוה show his righteousness to all people? יהוה does not show favor to the eminent and rich. Instead (v. 18), He carries out the judgment of orphan and widow (Ramban). He does not show favor to the evil son of a righteous father (Sforno); to the contrary, the greater a person's status and opportunities to do good, the more demanding יהוה is of him. An unrepentant sinner cannot bribe יהוה by bringing an offering or contributing to charity (Gur Aryeh). יהוה is angered by those who steal or otherwise obtain money dishonestly and then use their ill-gotten profits to bless or serve Him (**Psalms 10:3 For the wicked boast of his heart's desire and the covetous renounce, yea, renounces יהוה**). Alternatively, יהוה does not trade off the performance of commandments as atonement for transgressions. Rather, He gives reward for the performance of commandments, and punishment for their transgression (Ramban).

**Question:** How should you treat a stranger? Someone new to the faith is included in the commandment to love one's fellow Israelites; יהוה's love for the convert is especially great because he voluntarily accepted upon himself the yoke of the commandments. יהוה broadens this commandment to include all strangers, such as a newcomer to a neighborhood, a new student in a school, or a new employee. The Israelites should have learned from their Egyptian experience that יהוה does not tolerate the persecution of strangers (Ramban). Chumash

**Deuteronomy 10:20** את יהוה את Him; serve Him and cling to Him and swear by His name. 21 He is your praise and He is your Elohim who has done אתך for you את great ואת and הַנּוֹרָאִים terrible [things], which your eyes have seen. 22 Your fathers went down into Egypt with 70 persons; and now יהוה your Elohim has made your numbers as the stars of heavens. C-MATS

**Question:** What does “He is your praise” mean? יהוה should be the only recipient of your praise. It is because of Him that you are the most praised of nations (Ramban). To the other nations, He is only the Master of the heavenly forces through which He controls their destinies, but upon Israel He confers His bounty and judgment directly (Ramban). He is a personal יהוה to Israel, for He hears our prayers and even shares our suffering, though we may not deserve such special attention (Psalms 91:15 He shall call upon Me and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble: I will deliver him and honor him.) Chumash

**Deuteronomy 11:1** Therefore, you are to love את יהוה your Elohim and obey His commission and His statutes and His judgments and His commandments always. C-MATS

**Question:** What are the foundations of our relationship with יהוה? Moses had given the commandment to love יהוה before this (Deuteronomy 6:5 And you will LOVE את יהוה your Elohim with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.), but he repeated it often, because love and fear are the foundations of our relationship with יהוה, the pillars upon which his observance rests. You must also safeguard what is precious to יהוה. He protects the stranger, the orphan, and the widow -- so should you. He shows mercy and kindness -- so should you (Ramban). Chumash

**Deuteronomy 11:2** And know this day: I speak not with את- your children, which have not known and which have not seen את- the chastisement (discipline) of יהוה your Elohim, את- His greatness, את- His mighty hand and His stretched out arm, 3 את- And His miracles את- and His acts, which He did in Egypt to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt and to all his land.

**4** And what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and to their chariots; how He made to flow over them את- the water of the Red Sea to overtake them as they were pursuing you and יהוה destroyed them to this day. C-MATS



Pharaoh's Army Engulfed by the Red Sea (painting by Frederick Arthur Bridgman)

**Question:** Why does Moses want the Israelites to remember the defeat of Egypt? Moses asked the Israelites to recall the disastrous defeat of the Egyptians at the Red Sea, when Pharaoh's entire cavalry and chariots were swamped, leaving Egypt an insignificant military power (Ramban), and without the best of its generation of fighting men (Ibn Ezra), a blow from which it had not recovered until this day. Chumash

**Deuteronomy 11:5** And what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place; **6** And what He did to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how opened the earth אַתְּ her mouth and swallowed them up אֶתְּ and their households אֶתְּ and their tents אֶתְּ and all the substance that was in their possession before all Israel: C-MATS



Destruction of Korah Dathan and Abiram

**Deuteronomy 11:7** But your eyes have seen אַתְּ all the great acts of יְהוָה which He did. **8** Therefore, keep אַתְּ all the commandments, which I command you this day, that you may be strong and go in and possess אַתְּ the land, which אַתֶּם you go to possess it; **9** And that you may prolong your days in the land, which יְהוָה swore to your fathers to give to them and to their descendants, a land that flows with milk and honey. **10** Because the land, that אַתֶּה you go in to possess, is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you sow אַתְּ your seed and water it with your foot (to operate the irrigation system) as in a vegetable garden: **11** But the land that אַתֶּם you go to possess is a land of hills and valleys and is watered by rain from the heavens: **12** A land which יְהוָה your Elohim cares for: the eyes of יְהוָה your Elohim are always upon אַתֶּה it (her), from the beginning of the year to אַחֲרִית the end of the year. C-MATS



'Eye of God Nebula' (AKA the Helix Nebula)

**Question:** Why is Israel like no other land?

- Israel is superior even to Goshen, the choicest part of Egypt, for agriculture in Egypt was dependent entirely on the overflow of the Nile, but the river irrigated only the low-lying areas. To the rest of the farmland, especially the vegetable gardens that need more water than other crops, people had to bring water on foot (Rashi).
- Israel does not need a Nile or serfs carrying water on their shoulders to water its fields. יהוה Himself provides water for the crops, by showering the mountains and valleys with rain while you sleep in your beds (Rashi). To have the rains, the Israelites must be worthy, because if they neglect the commandments, it is inevitable that יהוה will not provide rain (v. 17).
- Although יהוה can bring droughts on Egypt, too, Israel is more directly dependent on His mercy and it will suffer drought for lesser sins than other countries. It is like a sick person, who needs greater merit to be healed than a well person needs merely to remain healthy (Ramban).
- This is an inspiring challenge, for the Israelite in Israel is always conscious of יהוה's closeness. He knows that his conduct and his prayers matter, because there is an intimate connection between his actions and his prosperity.
- יהוה understands all things and oversees the entire world, but His principal attention is focused on Israel, and only afterwards does He bless the rest of the world, which is secondary (Rashi).

Thus, when Israel is in exile from its Land [or when it is undeserving of יהוה's blessing], the entire world suffers (Or HaChaim). Since the exile, not only has the Land become impoverished, but the entire world has become poorer (Daas Tevunos). Chumash

**Deuteronomy 11:13 And it will come to pass, if you listen diligently to My commandments, which I command אתכם you this day, to love את יהוה your Elohim and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, 14 That I will give you rain for your land in due season (in time), the first rain and the latter rain, so that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil. C-MATS**

**Question:** Why is it important to keep all of יהוה's commandments?

- The performance of the commandments earns reward and their neglect is punished. This concept of reward and punishment is a central principle of our faith. The primary significance of this principle is that יהוה is aware of and concerned with human activity.
- If you hearken to what you already learned, by taking care to review and understand it, you will hearken to new learning, you will gain fresh insights into the Torah you already know (Rashi). Conversely, if someone neglects his studies, he will forget what he has learned-- Today. The commandments should always be as fresh and beloved to you as if you had received them today (Rashi).
- One should perform the commandments as an expression of love of יהוה, not as a means to attain riches or honor. One should perform the commandments purely out of love, and the honor will come ultimately (Rashi).
- The observance of the commandments will bring about prosperity beyond the bounds of the law of nature. However, such miracles -- rain whenever needed, plentiful crops, lush pastures, and so on -- can take place only in the merit of multitudes of people, but not for individuals of ordinary righteousness. Only for a disciple of overarching greatness -- such as Abraham, Moses, or Joshua -- does יהוה perform such miracles.





**Deuteronomy 11:15** And I will send grass in your fields for your cattle that you may eat and be full. **16** Be careful that your heart is not deceived and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them. C-MATS

**Question:** What is the temptation of someone who has abundance? When you are very prosperous, you must be very careful not to rebel against יהוה, because man rejects יהוה only when he is satisfied, as the Torah says also in Deuteronomy 8:12 *When you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and lived there*; **13** And when your herds and your flocks multiply and your silver and your gold multiply and all that you have is multiplied; **14** When your heart is lifted up and you forget **את** יהוה your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt from the house of bondage.) (Rashi). Experience shows that the temptations of wealth are among the hardest to resist. People who are rich in wealth but poor in knowledge of the Torah often yield to temptation. Chumash

**Deuteronomy 11:17** And *then* יהוה anger will be aroused against you and He *will* shut up **את** the heavens, that there will be no rain and that the land will not yield **את** her fruit; and you will perish quickly from off the good land which יהוה gives you. **18** Therefore, you will store up **את** My words in your heart and in your soul and bind **אתם** them as **ל**אות *sign* upon your hand, so that they may be kept before your eyes. C-MATS

**Question:** What does “store up **את** My words in your heart” mean? These words should be on our hearts, in the sense that we should ponder always the words of the Torah and the duty to perform the commandments. Israelites should observe the commandments even in exile, so that when the redemption occurs, they will not have forgotten how to perform them. The commandments apply equally everywhere, but the sacredness of the Land is so great that their performance is more significant there. Chumash

Deuteronomy 11:19 And you will teach **אתם** *them* **את** *to* your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 And write them upon the door posts of your house and upon your gates: 21 That your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land, which **יהוה** swore to your fathers to give them as long as there is sky above the earth. 22 For if you will diligently keep **את** all **האֵת** *these* commandments which I command **אתכם** *you* to do, to love **את** **יהוה** your Elohim, to walk in all His ways and to cling to Him; 23 Then will drive out **את** **יהוה** all these nations before you and you will possess greater nations- mightier than you. C-MATS



**Question:** What does it mean “to walk in all His ways”?

- He is merciful; you, too, should be merciful. He does acts of kindness; you, too, should do acts of kindness.
- **יהוה** clothes the naked, as it is written: "And **יהוה** made for Adam and for his wife coats of skin, and clothed them" (Genesis 3:21); so should you, too, clothe the naked.
- **יהוה** visits the sick, as it is written: "And **יהוה** appeared to him by the Oaks of Mamre" (Genesis 18:1) after Abraham's circumcision; so should you, too, visit the sick.
- **יהוה** comforts mourners, as it is written: "And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that **יהוה** blessed Isaac his son" (Genesis 25:11); so should you, too, comfort mourners.
- **יהוה** buries the dead, as it is written: "And He buried him in the valley" (Deuteronomy 34:6); so should you, too, bury the dead. Chumash

**Question:** How can you “cling to Him”? Clinging to Him means to avoid the temptation of idol worship by always remembering **יהוה** and inspiring oneself to love Him and committing to daily Torah study. Chumash

Deuteronomy 11:24 Every place on which the soles of your feet step will be yours: you will possess from the wilderness to Lebanon, from the Euphrates River to the *Western sea* which will be your coast. 25 No man is able to stand against you: *because* **יהוה** your Elohim will place a fear of you upon all the land that you step on, as He has told you. C-MATS

**Question:** What Land was Moses describing in verse 24? The borders given in Numbers 34:1-12 are nowhere near the Euphrates. Those were the borders of the generation that entered the Land. Here Moses looked ahead to the coming of Messiah, when the Euphrates will be the border of the Land.

## Do You Know?

1. Elohim said He would send the \_\_\_\_\_ among *all* those who are left and are hiding from the Israelites and destroy them. (What animal?)
2. Elohim said He would destroy the Canaanites with mighty \_\_\_\_\_ until they are destroyed. (What did He bring?)
3. Elohim said that He would \_\_\_\_\_ what is in our heart by humbling and afflicting us.
4. When you have eaten and are full, you should \_\_\_\_\_ יהוה.
5. Be careful that you *do not* \_\_\_\_\_ יהוה by not keeping His commandments.
6. יהוה is a consuming \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ **therefore, את** *the foreskin of your heart and do not be stiff-necked anymore.*
8. What does יהוה require of you? You must \_\_\_\_\_ יהוה. Walk in all His \_\_\_\_\_. You must \_\_\_\_\_ Him with all your heart, soul, and might.
9. יהוה tells us to love the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ and give them food and garments. (Who?)
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ of יהוה *are* always upon the Land of Israel.

**Bonus:** What are the 7 fruits given to the Land by יהוה as a blessing?

### Answers:

1. hornets
2. disasters
3. test
4. bless
5. forget
6. fire
7. **Circumcise**
8. fear, ways, love
9. orphans, widows, strangers
10. eyes

**Bonus:** wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, dates

## Haftorah



Isaiah (Jesaja) - fresco at the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo

**Isaiah 49:1** But Zion said, יהוה has forsaken me and יהוה has forgotten me. **15** Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, these may forget, yet will not I forget you. **16** See, I have graven you upon the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me. **17** Your children make haste; your destroyers and they that made you waste shall go forth from you. **18** Lift up your eyes round about and surely: all these gather themselves together and come to you. As I live, says יהוה, you shall surely clothe you with them all as with an ornament and gird yourself with them, like a bride. **19** For, as for your waste and your desolate places and your land that has been destroyed; surely now shall you be too strait for the inhabitants and they that swallowed you up shall be far away. **20** The children of your bereavement shall yet say in your ears, The place is too strait for me; give place to me that I may dwell. **21** ואמרת And you say in your heart, Who has begotten me את these, seeing I have lost my children and am desolate, an exile and wandering to and fro? And who has brought up these? Surely, I was left alone; these, where were they? **22** So says Adonai יהוה, surely, I will lift up My hand to the nations and set up My ensign to the peoples and they shall bring your sons in their bosom and your daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. **23** And kings shall be your nursing fathers and their queens your nursing mothers: they shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth and lick the dust off your feet and you shall know that I am יהוה; and they that wait for Me shall not be put to shame. **24** Shall the prey be taken from the mighty or the lawful captives be delivered? **25** But so says יהוה, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered; ואת and him that contended with you I will contend with, ואת and your children, I will save. **26** And I will feed את them that oppress you with את their own flesh and they shall be drunk with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I, יהוה, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. C-MATS

Isaiah 50:1 So says יהוה, where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, with which I have put her away? Or which of My creditors is it to who I have sold אתכם you? Surely, for your iniquities were you sold and for your transgressions was your mother put away. 2 Why, when I came, was there no man? When I called, was there none to answer? Is My hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Surely, at My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stink, because there is no water and die for thirst. 3 I clothe the heavens with blackness and I make sackcloth their covering. *Prophecy Fulfilled...Isa. 50:3...Heaven is clothed in black at His humiliation... Luke 23:44, 45.* 4 Adonai יהוה has given Me the tongue of them that are taught, that I may know how to speak in season to him that is את exhausted word: He wakens morning by morning; He wakens My ear to hear as they that are taught. *Prophecy Fulfilled...Isa. 50:4...He is a learned counselor for the weary... Matthew 11:28, 29.* 5 Adonai יהוה has opened My ear and I was not rebellious, neither turned away backward. *Prophecy Fulfilled...Isa. 50:5...The Servant bound willingly to obedience... Matthew 26:39.* 6 I gave My back to the smiters and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; I hid not My face from shame and spitting. *Prophecy Fulfilled...Isa. 50:6a I gave my back to the smiters...Matthew 27:26; 6b He was smitten on the cheeks...Matthew 26:67; 6c He was spat upon...Matthew 27:30.* 7 For Adonai יהוה will help Me; therefore, have I not been confounded: therefore, have I set My face like a flint and I know that I shall not be put to shame. 8 He is near that justifies Me; who will contend את with Me? Let us stand up together: who is My adversary? Let him come near to Me. 9 Surely, Adonai יהוה will help Me; who is he that shall condemn Me? Surely, all they shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up. 10 Who is among you that fears יהוה that obeys the voice of His servant? He that walks in darkness and has no light, let him trust in the name of יהוה and rely upon his Elohim. 11 Surely, all you that kindle a fire, that gird yourselves about with firebrands; walk you in the light of your fire and among the sparks that you have kindled of My hand shall have את this you shall lie down in sorrow. C-MATS

Isaiah 51:1 Listen to Me, you that follow after righteousness, you that seek יקוה: look to the rock where you were hewn and to the hole of the pit where you were dug. 2 Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah that bore you; for when he was but one I called him and I blessed him and made him many. 3 For יהוה has comforted Zion; He has comforted all her waste places and has made her wilderness like Eden and her desert like the garden of יהוה; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody. C-MATS

## Brit Chadasha

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If Elohim is for us, who can be against us? 32 He has not spared his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all. Will He not also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge on Elohim's elect? It is Elohim that justifies. 34 Who is He that condemns? It is Mashiach that died, but rather that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of Elohim, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Mashiach? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For your sake we face death all day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of Elohim, which is in Mashiach Y'shua our Adonai. C-MATS

**James 5:7 Be patient, brethren, until the coming of *our* Adonai. Behold, the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and how patient he is for it, until he receives the early and latter rains. 8 You too be patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of *our* Adonai draws near. 9 Don't grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned: the judge stands before the door. C-MATS**

### **Ups and Downs**

**Question:** Why does יהוה test us? The Torah tells us that after the Israelite people had been wandering in the wilderness, יהוה informed them that all the ups and downs they had experienced during that time were "... to test you and to know what is in your heart."

**Question:** What is a test? A test at school shows very clearly what we do and do not know. It lets us and others know where we stand. But there are other types of tests that have nothing to do with school. Any situation, which challenges us to see if we are going to act according to our true values or not, is a test. Our lives are full of such "life tests".

Sometimes the test comes in the form of difficulties to see whether we will remain positive, with faith in יהוה and pleasantness toward other people. Sometimes the test comes in the form of good fortune, to see if we will remain humble and appreciative of all the good that we have. When we keep this in mind we won't get carried away by the good times in our lives, nor will we get bowled over by the hard times. We'll feel able to take things in stride and to accept whatever comes our way, and do our best to "pass the test".

### **"THIS IS ONLY A TEST"**

Brad Ungar's family was on their annual camping vacation. This year they had set out for the clean air and majestic views of the Rocky Mountains. It was a long ride but they knew that the breathtaking scenery and relaxing quiet of nature would make the trip worthwhile. Mr. Ungar pulled their camper into the spot that the family had reserved -- by gleaming Silver Lake. Brad and his brothers piled out and headed straight for the beckoning waters. After a fun filled day of swimming, canoeing, and trail-blazing, everyone settled in for a well-deserved good night's sleep. While their mom and dad opted to sleep in the comfort of the camper, the kids chose to set up a tent and sleep under the stars. The night was quiet and still, but that peace didn't last too long, because almost as soon as their heads hit their pillows, the boys were greeted to a chorus of loud, raucous cries: "Whaaaa ... Whaaa ..."

It seemed that the camper parked in the next spot was inhabited by a couple with a young baby that just wouldn't stop screaming. In their home in the city the boys probably wouldn't have even noticed the noise, but here in the quiet mountains the baby's screams sounded like a fire engine's sirens.

The Ungar kids started to grumble among themselves. "How do we turn him off?" muttered one. "What a bummer!" sighed another. The only one who seemed undisturbed was Brad. He just quietly lay there looking totally calm. From the look on his face you could have thought that the piercing screams coming from the nearby camper made a beautiful symphony.

His brother Steve noticed this and tapped Brad on the shoulder. "Hey, doesn't that screaming baby bother you?" he asked.

Brad looked up. "Well I guess I was annoyed at first," he admitted. "But then I kept telling myself 'it's only a test' and I felt okay."

"Only a what?!" exclaimed Steve.

Brad smiled and explained, "Well, I like to think of myself as a patient, understanding person. So now יהוה is giving me a chance to prove it. This screaming baby in the middle of nowhere is my test not to lose my cool. I even started to feel sorry for the kid, who must be pretty uncomfortable, and, especially for his parents, who have to deal with him all night."

"Hmm, I hadn't thought of that," said Steve as he rolled over in his sleeping bag and tried to go to sleep. The next morning the boys awoke and discovered to their delight that the camper next to them had already pulled out and left. At least, they would get a little peace and quiet for the rest of their trip!

As the kids were rinsing out their breakfast dishes in the lake, Steve elbowed his brother and said, "Well Brad, it looks like the 'test' is over, huh?"

But Brad shook his head. "Nope," he said. "It only changed." Steve nearly dropped his plate and looked at his brother who went on: "Now the test is to see if we really appreciate the peace and quiet that we have. And if we make the most of it and really relax."

Steve smiled and shook his head and said, "Wait until I tell my teachers that I spent my whole vacation taking tests!"

**Question:** How did Steve feel when the baby in the next camper started screaming? He got angry and just wanted him to stop.

**Question:** Did Brad also feel angry when he heard the baby crying at night? No. He knew that it was really just a "test" from יהוה to see if he would be patient.

**Question:** In our story Brad realized that the crying baby was really a test of his patience, and the quiet that came after the baby left was really a test of his appreciation. Can you think of some other things that could happen to a person and how they could be testing him or her? Imagine, for example, if your mother makes you your favorite cake. Your test might be to see if you will share it with others or if you will act in a selfish manner and try to grab most of it for yourself. Another example might be just the opposite. Imagine that you are being served something you don't like at dinner -- like spinach. In that case, your test might be to see if you will be considerate of the feelings of your mother who cooked it for you and not make a fuss, if you will say something negative about it which might hurt her feelings.

**Question:** What are some "life tests" that you have experienced recently?

**Resources:**

*The Stone Edition of The Chumash*

*The Complete Messianic Aleph Tav Scriptures* **C-MATS** [www.AlephTavScriptures.com](http://www.AlephTavScriptures.com)

“Weekly Torah Portion” from [www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com) (stories)