

Ekev “As a Consequence of”

Torah Reading: Deuteronomy 7: 12-11:25

Haftarah Reading: Isaiah 49:14-51:3

To many this section of the Torah is viewed as a parent's heart felt plea to listen, with God serving as the parent and Israel as the child. Basically God is trying to get Israel to see that He has their best interest at heart and how wonderful their lives will be if they would simply listen, instead of having to come to Him after trying things on their own. In other word God's 3-R's: reward, remembrance, and requirements.

Reward:

- Deuteronomy 7:12 speaks of the reward for obedience to the covenant; prosperity, power, health, and protection.
 1. The People and The Land
 - a) God would reward Israel with fertile fields, cultivated trees and vineyards, and rain and dew to water them.
 - b) Their flocks and herds will be prosperous.
 - c) Because they would be well nourished and healthy infertility would never be a problem.
 2. The Land and Politics
 - a) The land is God's land is under the care of Israel.
 - b) God has told Israel how to live in the land, how to care for the land, and how they could be expelled from the land.
 - c) He also tells us that although they would be expelled they would be brought back.
 - d) Caretakers for the land can never give it to those who care not for Him, His Torah or His people.
 3. Little by Little
 - a) Israel would defeat their enemies little by little so that they would not be overpopulated by wild beast.
 - b) Read Judges2:20-23. It would also serve as a test for the children of Israel to see if they would do as the Lord has instructed them to or not.

Remember

- To help Israel enjoy their rewards, God instructed them to be careful to remember. In fact Deuteronomy 8-10 uses the word remember four times and “not to forget” three times.
 1. Remember where you come from
 - a) Israel was to remember everything God had brought them from, including their failures so that they could experience growth.
 2. Remember the Inheritance
 - a) Not only does the Lord want us to remember our past, but to never forget what our inheritance is.
 - b) A tradition was developed from verse 8:10, the “Blessing for the Food”.
 3. Remember the Way
 - a) God wanted them to remember their physical path but also their spiritual path
 - b) ...not by bread alone does man live, rather by everything that emanates from the mouth of God does man live. (Deuteronomy 8:3)
 4. Remember the Lord!
 - a) God wants us to remember and trust Him in bad situations.
 - b) God wants us to remember who is responsible when things are going well.
 - c) Remember it is God's grace not our self-righteousness that has earned us God's provisions.
 5. Remember His Word
 - a) God wants us to talk about His word with our family all the time, when we are sitting, walking, resting; make it a part of our everyday living.

- b) God wants us to remind ourselves visually, place the words upon our “doorpost” so that we will remember His word. (Mezuzah)
- c) He wants us to feel His word, create a reminder that you can touch that will cause you to dwell upon His word.(Tefillin)

Requirements

- God is telling us that there are certain requirements in order to enjoy His blessings.
 1. To Fear Him
 - a) In order to enjoy all of God’s blessings, we need to fear, honor, respect, and revere Him above anything else.
 - b) “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Proverbs 1:7.
 2. To Walk in All His Ways
 - a) “Our walk or way of life” means to live our lives according to His Words.
 - b) It is possible for someone to fear God, yet live a life that is inconsistent with that claim. Not only does God ask us to respect Him, but to show that respect by how we live- in accordance with “all His ways”.
 3. To Love Him
 - a) God does not want us to follow His Word out of legalistic obedience, but out of love for Him.
 - b) Not only does the Lord tell us to love Him, but he tells us and shows us that He loves us.
 4. To Serve the Lord your God
 - a) Only when we Love God can we serve Him properly.
 - b) We are to serve God and God alone, with all of our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength.
- This covenant was, in reality being made with the remnant, the real Israel of God although spoken to the whole nation. So what exactly does it look like to fear, walk with, love, and serve the Lord? “... if we love Him, we will keep His commandments.” (John 14:15)