

## Re'eh "Behold"

**Torah Reading: Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17**

**Haftarah Reading: Isaiah 54:11 - 55:5**

### Study Notes

#### The Nitty Gritty

- In terms of the covenant format, we now begin the "Stipulations" section, having completed the Preamble and the Historical Prologue.
- The three areas we will look at are Worship, Tithing, and Pilgrim Mo'adim (appointed times).

#### Worship

- When the Covenant is applied to everyday life, the first area it affects is worship. (12:1-13:19).
- Acceptable Worship
  1. The biggest problem Israel faced was not their enemies swords and shields. It was the demons and idols so prevalent throughout the ancient Near East.
  2. Warnings against idolatry are listed first here in the stipulations just as they also came first among the Ten Commandments.
  3. What is foremost on the Lord's mind is that He be given the rightful place in the lives of His Holy Community.
  4. They were to utterly destroy the places of idol worship. The act of destruction also obliterated the names of the idols from the land.
  5. Israel was not completely faithful to follow this command and later in their history they copied these forms and gods during times of apostasy.
- Unifying Worship
  1. Unlike the idolatry they would find, there was to be only one place where they were to bring their sacrifices, tithes, and offerings. The "...place where the Lord your God will choose to rest His name." (12:11)
  2. Today God has also chosen a place to rest His name. In I Cor. 6:19 we see that the individual believer in Yeshua is a "temple of the Holy Spirit." The word for temple in this verse was a common Greek word used to refer to the Holy of Holies.
- Guarded Worship
  1. This section also teaches that we must guard the worship of God and trust anyone who would lead us away from His Word. (13:2-6)

2. “Signs and wonders are then no criterion of true prophecy...Whatever success attests him, whatever wealth, honor and praise he enjoys we are not to believe his message or subscribe to his teaching...since truth cannot be established by miracles or any visual spectacle.” (Leibowitz)

### Justice

- In this section we see a quick teaching on justice. They were taught to stone a false prophet and 13:14 reminded them to “seek out and investigate, and inquire well” to discern if he is indeed a false prophet.
- Accusations based on mere rumors are to have no sway in our thinking about any individual.
- All too often believers think that they can make decisions about people based on whatever so-called “spiritual discernment” they think they have. This verse guards the community from such abusive thinking.

### Tithing

- Besides the Levite Tithe mentioned in Numbers 18:21 there is second tithe set apart to be spent on themselves when they came to worship in Jerusalem. (14:22-29)
- This tithe was to help them “...realize that this wealth did not originate with the power of their own hands.”
- 14:28-29 taught to set aside a tithe of crops every three years for the Levites, sojourners, the orphans and the widows.
- One is “...only truly blessed when he permits others to join with him in their enjoyment.”

### The Shemittah Year (Chapter 15)

- At the end of seven years there was to be a year of release or remission. Shemittah means remission.
- During this year, several things were to happen.
- First, the soil was not to be planted.
- Second, personal debts were to be canceled.
  1. Verses 15:2-3 say, however, that only a fellow Israelite had to be release from debt.
  2. Also, 15:7 teaches that even if a Shemittah Year was approaching you were not to deny a destitute person if they needed help.
- The last aspect of the Shemittah Year was that slaves were to be set free. And not sent away empty handed. A slave could also choose to stay with their master. (15:13-16)

### Pilgrim Mo'adim (16:1-17)

- The Torah gives a short summary of the three major calendar appointments each Israelite was to make with God. All Israelite males were to travel to the national center of worship during these times. Refer to Leviticus 23 for a full listing of the mo'adim.