

Bechukotai "In My statutes"

Torah Reading: Leviticus 26:3 - 27:34

Haftarah Reading: Jeremiah 16:19 - 17:14

Study Notes

The Covenant

- It is necessary to interpret the blessings and the curses in light of the covenant concept.
- In Leviticus 26:9 when He affirms that He will continue to "establish My covenant with you" as we follow His commands which covenant does He have in mind?
- In the Abrahamic covenant in Bereshit chapters 12, 15, and 17 God made several promises to the children of Israel, among which was the promise of a specific piece of real estate, the land of Israel. These promises were grace promises in that the recipients did not deserve them nor earn them. Moreover, they were revealed by faith. (Gen. 15:6).
- The second covenant God made with the children of Israel was a completely different covenant, although tied closely and connected to the covenant of promise. The covenant of Mount Sinai was a covenant of obedience designed to enable Israel to enjoy the blessings promised to them by faith in the covenant with Abraham.

The Blessings

- Rainfall - (verses 3-5)
- Security and Protection (verses 6-8)
- Population Growth (verse 9) - Gen. 17:1-2
- Establishing a Promise (verse 9) - Rashi tied this to Jeremiah 31!
- God's Presence with His People (verses 10-13)
- The Shekinah did not dwell in the 2nd temple but Yeshua did visit there.

The Nature of the Curses

- The word for curses is used throughout the Tanakh to carry the sense of chastise, or discipline, such as in the parent-child relationship.
- God changes the terms in 26:23. We see that God warns Israel from dealing in a hostile way with Him or, in another way, dealing 'casually' with Him.
- The term can mean hardening yourself against God or it can mean only following Him on occasion. Either way, God strongly discourages it.
- Personal afflictions (16-17), famine (18-20), wild animals (21-22), the sword (23-26), destruction and dispersion (27-32), and exile (34-43). Compare these to Israel's actual history and then read verses 44-45. The Abrahamic covenant will never fail.