

Parashah 46

· Ekev

עקב

“Because”

Deuteronomy 7:12 – 11:25

Torah Together



In this *Torah* portion, Moses continues to speak for God as he pours out his heart to the Israelites. He tells the Israelites how and why God will lead them successfully into the Promised Land and he encourages them to love and obey God, keeping his commandments.

1. Driving out the Nations - 7:12-26

a) According to verses 12-15, what are some of the benefits of following God's laws?

b) According to Moses, what could the Israelites expect as they went up against the stronger nations that possessed the land?

c) Why did God say that the Israelites would take the land “little by little”? What was to be done with the people they conquered? What was to be done with their idols?

2. Do Not Forget YHWH - 8:1-20

a) What were the Israelites supposed to learn from their time of testing in the desert? How was this like a father disciplining his son (verse 5)?

Stop and ponder verse 8:2 for a moment. From God's perspective, what is the purpose of testing? Don't you think that God already knows what's in our hearts? So who, then, is to gain from knowing what's in our hearts and why is it important?

Scripture Link:

Matthew 4 records the events that led to *Yeshua* quoting **Deuteronomy 8:3**. Why do you think He might have chosen this verse?

As we learn more about God and how he deals with mankind, we see that he often uses one group of people as an instrument of judgment on another. This can be seen throughout history. In **Deuteronomy 9:4-5**, God states plainly why he will make the Israelites successful in their conquest of the Promised Land.

Scripture Link:

Exodus 17:1-7, Numbers 11:1-3 and Numbers 11:31-34 describe the events that Moses alludes to in this verse.

b) What were the circumstances when *Yeshua* quoted Deuteronomy 8:3?

c) What were some of the good things the people could expect in the land of Israel? Of what were they to beware? Does this danger still exist today?

3. Not Because of Israel's Righteousness - 9:1-6

a) How did Moses encourage the Israelites as they prepared to invade the land of Israel? What kinds of cities and people were they expecting to encounter?

b) From God's perspective, why could the Israelites expect to be victorious?

4. The Golden Calf - 9:7-29

a) Compare this version of the story of the golden calf with version in Exodus 32. What differences and similarities do you notice? Does this version explain why it appears that Aaron was not punished for his role in the affair?

b) Verse 22 mentions similar incidents that occurred at Taberah, Massah, and Kibroth Hattaavah. Can you recall and describe these incidents?

c) What argument did Moses use to convince God not to destroy the Israelites.

5. Tablets Like the First Ones - 10:1-11

a) According to this passage, who chiseled out the second set of tablets upon which the Ten Commandments were written? Who did the writing? Where were they stored?

b) How long did Moses stay on Mount Sinai the second time to receive the Ten Commandments? Why was he successful in averting God's wrath toward the Israelites?

6. Fear YHWH - 10:12- 22

a) In this very moving passage, what does God ask of his people? How does "fear of God" fit together with the command to love God?

b) Moses points out to the Israelites how remarkable it is that God chose them to be His. Based on this, what does Moses exhort the Israelites to do?

c) What are some of God's character traits that Moses lists? What does Moses say about the promise that God made to Abraham in Genesis 15:5?



Scripture Link:

Although one can find many other examples, **Micah 6:8** is also a good summary of what God expects of his people: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Other examples might be **Matthew 22:36-40** and **James 1:27**. There are many other examples.

Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that YHWH your God is giving you this good land

Deuteronomy 9:6

7. Love and Obey YHWH - 11:1-25

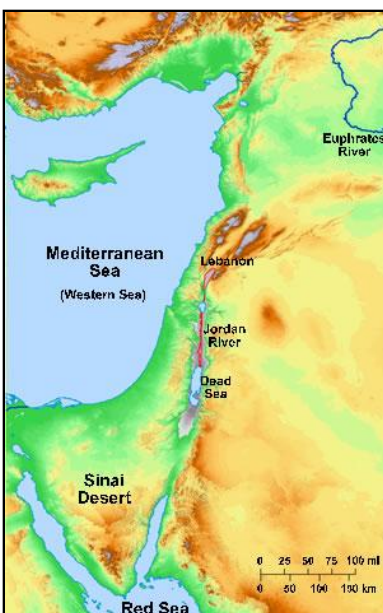
a) To encourage the Israelites to love and obey God, Moses recalls some of the miraculous events in their recent history. List some of these events. What is the significance of the fact that the people he was addressing experienced these events and not their children?

b) According to verses 8 and 9, what would be the benefits of observing God's commands?

Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, and so that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to you forefathers to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Deuteronomy 11:8-9

c) How would agricultural practices be different in the land of Israel than they were in Egypt? How might this encourage the Israelites to have a close relationship with God?



d) What is the extent of the land promised to Israel? What did the Israelites have to do so that they and their children might live prosperously in the land forever?

Digging deeper

1. According to Deuteronomy 10:12-13, why should we “observe YHWH’s commands and decrees”? Do you think God expects us to be successful in keeping all his commands all the time? Do we earn our righteousness by keeping his commands?

As a Christian, you may have been taught that Jews believe that one must “earn” God’s approval by being obedient to His Law, the *Torah*. After your study of the *Torah*, do you believe this is true of all Jews or of Judaism in general?

2. Circumcision of the heart is often thought of as a New Testament term. Is it clear from Deuteronomy 10:16 what Moses means when he exhorts the Israelites to circumcise their hearts? What does a circumcised heart mean to you?

Scripture Link:
In **Romans 2:25-29**, Paul explains his view of physical and spiritual circumcision. Do you think his view is consistent with the one given by Moses in Deuteronomy 10:16?

For further study, see

Haftarah : Isaiah 49:14 – 51:3

Brit Hadashah : Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; James 5:7-11

