

ראה

R'eh

(behold)

Devarim 11:26-16:17

A Blessing or a Curse

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 11:26-28

26 *“Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;*

27 *the blessing, if you shall listen to and obey the commandments of YHWH your Elohim, which I command you this day;*

28 *and the curse, if you shall not listen to and obey the commandments of YHWH your Elohim, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which you have not known.”*

29 *“And it shall come to pass, when YHWH your Elohim shall bring you into the land where you go in to occupy it, that you shall set the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal.*

30 *Are they not beyond the Yarden, behind the way of the going down of the sun, in the land of the Canaanites that dwell in the Arabah, over against Gilgal, beside the oaks of Moreh?*

31 *For you are to pass over the Yarden to go in to occupy the land which YHWH your Elohim gives you, and you shall occupy it, and dwell therein.*

32 *And you shall observe to do all the statutes and the ordinances which I set before you this day.”*

On the day that Moshe was speaking to the Nation of Yisrael, he set before them a blessing and a curse. They needed to choose which one it was that they wanted to have from the hand of YHWH: the blessing or the curse. It is doubtful that any of those listening that day actually wanted the curse.

Likewise, there is most likely no person reading this study this day who would purposefully choose the curse. Yet, how many of us make this very choice by not keeping and obeying all of His Torah. There are many people today who call themselves Messianics or Nazarenes who have come out of the church system who are interested in keeping Torah. Yet, many of these same people still have the mindset that some parts of the Torah have been done away with. They feel completely justified in thinking this, all the while knowing that Yeshua Himself taught us that He did not come to do away with the Torah.

In order to obtain the blessing, they needed to listen to and obey each and every commandment that YHWH had given to them. They needed to actively pursue keeping and obeying all of His Torah. If they did not want His blessing, then all they needed to do was nothing! That’s right, nothing. For it takes no effort whatsoever to not obey His Torah commandments. However, in order to obey His commandments, a person needs to willfully choose and act upon that choice in such a way, as to do his best to walk in complete and total obedience to His Voice.

This was a national choice that was being given to them. It is true that each person needs to be responsible to choose to keep His Torah. If an individual person chooses not to obey Him, then he faces

disciplinary action from the nation, which may include the death penalty in extreme cases. This is part of the Torah commandments in order to remove the evil from our midst. An evil influence in our midst can keep us from obeying His commandments the way we know that we should obey them. This is why it is actually merciful to carry out the death penalty at times; for this can keep others, or even the whole nation from turning away from YHWH our Elohim.

Destroy All Forms of Paganism

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:1-4

1 “These are the statutes and the ordinances which you shall observe to do in the land which YHWH, the Elohim of your fathers, has given you to occupy it, all the days that you live upon the earth.

2 You shall surely destroy all the places wherein the nations that you shall drive out served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree;

3 and you shall break down their altars, and dash in pieces their pillars, and burn their Asherim with fire; and you shall hew down the graven images of their gods; and you shall destroy their name out of that place.

4 You shall not do so to YHWH your Elohim.”

Part of the Torah commandments that YHWH has given to Yisrael, is that when they go in to occupy His Land that He is assigning to them, they are to destroy all elements of pagan idolatrous worship from within His Land. Basically, YHWH commands Yisrael to cleanse the Land. If YHWH has not commanded it in Torah, it has to go!

You Shall Not Do So to YHWH Your Elohim

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:4-7

4 “You shall not do so to YHWH your Elohim.

5 But to the place which YHWH your Elohim shall choose out of all your tribes, to put His name there, even to His habitation shall you seek, and there you shall come;

6 and there you shall bring your burnt-offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and the heave-offering of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill-offerings, and the firstlings of your herd and of your flock:

7 and there you shall eat before YHWH your Elohim, and you shall rejoice in all that you put your hand to, you and your households, in which YHWH your Elohim has blessed you.”

Please note that in the previous passage, Moshe reminds them where it was that those who worshipped their pagan gods were worshipping them. It was on the high mountains and upon the hills and under every green tree. Basically, they were worshipping them anywhere and everywhere. And in so doing, they were defiling His Land. YHWH was not pleased with this activity.

But His commandment for living in His Land, is that we are only to worship Him in the exact way that He prescribes. We are not to add to it, nor are we to take away from it.

We are to bring our burnt-offerings, our sacrifices, our tithes, our heave-offerings, our vows, our freewill-offerings and all the firstborn of our flocks and herds. I wonder if we are willing to go this far in our service to YHWH our Elohim?

Doing Right – In Whose Eyes?

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:8-9

8 “You shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes;

9 for you have not yet come to the resting place and to the occupancy, which YHWH your Elohim assigns you.”

YHWH has commanded us that we are not to do right in our own eyes! We are to do right in His eyes! The only way to do right in His eyes is by obeying His Voice.

Shophetim [Judges] 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

This verse is repeated all too often in the book of Shophetim (Judges) or its companion verse, which says that Israel did evil in the sight of YHWH and served the Ba'alim. This is very serious as YHWH prepares us once again to reenter His land. We need to work hard and diligently to remove all those things from our lives that are not pleasing to YHWH. There are things that are a part of our lives that we have no idea are of a pagan origin and are displeasing to YHWH. Removing these things is a process and it takes time and effort. The question is: Are we willing to put forth that much time and effort to serve YHWH?

Where to Properly Worship YHWH

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:10-14

10 “But when you go over the Yarden (Jordan), and dwell in the land which YHWH your Elohim causes you to occupy, and He assigns you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety;

11 then it shall come to pass that to the place which YHWH your Elohim shall choose, to cause His name to dwell there, there shall you bring all that I command you; your burnt-offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave-offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which you vow to YHWH.

12 And you shall rejoice before YHWH your Elohim, you, and your sons, and your daughters, and your men-servants, and your maid-servants, and the Levite that is within your gates, forasmuch as he has no portion or occupancy with you.

13 Take heed to yourself that you offer not your burnt-offerings in every place that you see;

14 but in the place which YHWH shall choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt-offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.”

When YHWH has brought us into His Land and has caused us to dwell in safety, then we are to be careful to do and obey all His commandments. We are to bring all the commanded offerings and sacrifices before Him. We are also to bring all of our tithes and vows which we make.

Please note that verses 13 and 14 are speaking of burnt offerings. One of the things that we need to see in this, is that the Pesach offering that we do in our homes is not a burnt offering. It does not fall under this commandment not to do it in our homes. YHWH is also not commanding us to offer the Pesach offering only where He places His name.

One of the clarifications of this is found in the very next verse.

The Question is Who, Not What!

Deuteronomy 12:15-16

15 “Notwithstanding, you may kill and eat meat within all your gates, after all the desire of your being according to the blessing of YHWH your Elohim which He has given you: the unclean and the clean may eat thereof, as of the gazelle, and as of the deer.

16 Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it out upon the earth as water.”

The phrase, “*the unclean and the clean may eat thereof,*” is a reference to who may eat of the meat that is being discussed in this passage. It is not a statement that one can eat unclean meat. What this is teaching us is that when a person becomes unclean for any reason, that person can still eat meat within his gates (at home).

What we must remember is that when eating this meat we must not eat it with the blood in the meat. We will say more on this subject in a few verses.

Notice that we may kill and eat meat in our homes regardless of how far away from Jerusalem we might be living. So, when it comes to the Pesach offering that each family is to kill and eat, this is certainly well within the scope and commandment of Torah to do this.

What Not to Eat at Home

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:17-19

17 “You may not eat within your gates the tithe of your grain, or of your new wine, or of your oil, or the firstlings of your herd or of your flock, nor any of your vows which you vow, nor your freewill-offerings, nor the heave-offering of your hand;

18 but you shall eat them before YHWH your Elohim in the place which YHWH your Elohim shall choose, you, and your son, and your daughter, and your man-servant, and your maid-servant, and the Levite that is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before YHWH your Elohim in all that you put your hand to.

19 Take heed to yourself that you forsake not the Levite as long as you live in the land.”

When we have vowed and set aside things to YHWH like offerings, sacrifices, tithes and vows, we are not to eat them at home; rather, we are to eat these things in the place where YHWH our Elohim chooses to place His Name. This not only applies to oneself, but also to everyone in his household.

What YHWH has commanded us is that during the three annual pilgrimage feasts, we are to go up to Jerusalem and have a wonderful time feasting in His presence and in the presence of His people. We are

to fellowship and have a wonderful time celebrating what YHWH is doing among us. It is in this manner that we are to use our tithes.

Enlarged Borders

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:20-21

20 "When YHWH your Elohim shall enlarge your border, as He has promised you, and you shall say, 'I will eat meat,' because your being desires to eat meat; you may eat meat, after all the desire of your being.

21 If the place which YHWH your Elohim shall choose, to put His name there, be too far from you, then you shall kill of your herd and of your flock, which YHWH has given you, as I have commanded you; and you may eat within your gates, after all the desire of your being."

Here is an exciting passage. Please note that when we have been in the Land and are obeying His commandments as outlined in the verses prior to verse 20, we are able to eat meat in our homes according to the commandments above.

Then at some time in the future of being in the Land and obeying Torah, He will enlarge the Land which we occupy so that it becomes even further for some to come to the place where He will cause His Name to dwell. Those that will live in that expanded territory will also be able to eat meat as long as they will do so according to the Torah commandment.

Shemot [Exodus] 34:24

"For I will cast out nations before you, and enlarge your borders; neither shall any man desire your land, when you go up to appear before YHWH your Elohim three times in the year."

As we obey Him and shema His Voice, He will increase us and we will have an abundance.

Luqa [Luke] 6:38

"Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure you measure it shall be measured to you again."

Let us not forget the Levites and the poor as YHWH commands us and He will bless us in abundance!

Concerning the Blood

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:22-25

22 "Even as the gazelle and as the deer are eaten, so you shall eat; the unclean and the clean may eat of it alike.

23 Only be sure that you eat not the blood; for the blood is the life; and you shall not eat the life with the flesh.

24 You shall not eat it; you shall pour it out upon the earth as water.

25 You shall not eat it; that it may go well with you and with your children after you, when you shall do that which is right in the eyes of YHWH."

Here is the second time in this chapter that we are commanded not to eat meat with its blood in it. We are to drain its blood out upon the ground. We are to do this so that it might be well with us. And not only us, but that it might be well with our children after us.

Obeying this commandment is doing what is right in His eyes. Not obeying this commandment is doing right in our own eyes, which is sin.

B'reshit [Genesis] 9:4

“But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, you shall not eat.”

YHWH has commanded us not to eat meat with the blood still in it. The blood contains the life of the creature. The life is in the blood. This has prophetic significance.

Yochanan [John] 6:53

53 Yeshua therefore said to them, “Amein, amein, I say to you, except you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves.

54 He that eats My flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For My flesh is meat indeed, and My Blood is drink indeed.

56 He that eats My flesh and drinks My Blood abides in Me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father; so he that eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

58 This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate, and died; he that eats this bread shall live forever.”

Yeshua, in teaching those who would follow Him, said that we must eat His flesh and drink His Blood. He did not mean this in a literal physical way. How could He have meant this in a literal way, since His Blood is not available to us literally today? Rather, what He was teaching us, is that unless we internalize the life of Mashiach in us; i.e., choose to surrender to His Spirit and allow His Spirit to duplicate His life in us, we will not and cannot have eternal life.

Doing Right in YHWH's Eyes

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:26-28

26 “Only your set-apart things which you have, and your vows, you shall take, and go to the place which YHWH shall choose;

27 and you shall offer your burnt-offerings, the flesh and the blood, upon the altar of YHWH your Elohim; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out upon the altar of YHWH your Elohim; and you shall eat the flesh.

28 Observe and hear all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you, and with your children after you for ever, when you do that which is good and right in the eyes of YHWH your Elohim.”

Back in verse eight, YHWH commands us that we are not to do what is right in our own eyes. Basically, what this means is every man doing his own thing; particularly in regard to how we worship YHWH our Elohim. It must be done according to how He has commanded us to worship and serve Him. We are to do right in His eyes!

Verse 28 begins with the word “sh’mor”, שָׁמַר, which means to *hedge* about (as with thorns), that is, *guard*; generally to *protect, attend to*. This word appears in various forms thirteen times in this Parasha. Seven of those times it is the first word in the sentence as it is here in verse 28.

Yeshua taught us to do the very same thing many times. Here is one such passage.

Luqa [Luke] 11:28

But he said, “Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.”

Let us look a little closer at this passage from the Hebrew Peshitta.

<i>But He said, “Happy is the man that shema the Word of Elohim and keeps Him.”</i>	אָמַר לֵהּ הוּא, אֲשֶׁר־יִשְׁמָעֵם אֶת דְּבַר אֱלֹהִים וְשָׁמְרֵם אוֹתוֹ:
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This reminds us of another passage.

Yochanan [John] 10:16

“And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall shema My Voice; and they shall become one flock, with one shepherd.”

When we hear and obey His Voice, keeping and guarding His commandments to us, then we are happy and blessed.

Take Heed

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:29-31

29 “When YHWH your Elohim shall cut off the nations from before you, when you go in to drive them out, and you have driven them out, and dwell in their land;

30 take heed to yourself that you be not ensnared to follow them, after that they are destroyed from before you; and that you inquire not after their elohim, saying, ‘How do these nations serve their elohim that I may do the same?’

31 You shall not do so to YHWH your Elohim: for every abomination to YHWH, which they burn in the fire to their elohim; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their elohim.”

Once again we find this word (הִשָּׁמַר), albeit in a different form, beginning the sentence in verse thirty. We need to be very careful, that as we conquer those people that He has commanded to be driven out of His Land, that we do not follow in their footsteps; i.e., worship in the way that they worshipped, which is an abomination to YHWH.

Basically, what YHWH is commanding us is that it is not acceptable in His eyes to worship Him with mixed worship. What YHWH desires and commands is that we worship Him only according to His commandment. And we can only do this when we worship Him according to Torah.

NO Adding or Subtracting of Torah

Devarim [Deuteronomy] 12:32

“Whatever I command you, that shall you observe to do; you shall not add to, nor take away from it.”

This is the second time that we have found this command (two witnesses) in the book of Devarim; we found the first one in Devarim [Deuteronomy] 4:2. But the concept of not adding to or subtracting from His word is also found in other places in Scripture.

Mishle [Proverbs] 30:6

***Do not add to His words,
Lest He reprove you, and you be found a liar.***

And then finally,

Gilyana [Revelation] 22:18-19

***18 I testify to every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add to them, the Elohim shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book;
19 and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, the Elohim shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the set-apart city, which are written in this book.***

Also, each time in Scripture we are commanded to shomer (keep and guard) all the words which He commanded us, this same principle is strongly implied. So, this concept is actually quite common throughout Scripture.

If we add anything to how He has commanded us to worship and serve Him, then we are mixing our worship and YHWH says that is an abomination. If we take anything away from how He has commanded us to worship and serve Him, then we are incomplete in our worship of Him and doing right in our own eyes rather than doing right in His eyes.

Yeshua commanded those who are His true worshippers to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. If we worship in spirit but not in truth, it will not be pleasing to YHWH. Or, if we worship in truth but not in His Spirit, again we will not be pleasing to Him.

And if we truly desire to go back to the Land and live there and raise our families there and be secure in the Land as He has promised our fathers, then it follows that we must do things according to His commandment. That is the only way to please Him.

ABBA YHWH, teach us to keep and guard each and every one of Your commandments, that we might be pleasing in Your sight; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

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