



A Torah Study Guide
for the Young
& Young at Heart

PARASHAT
EIKEV

פרשת עקב

Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

by
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& his kids

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 7:12 The Reward for Torah Obedience
- 7:18 The Assurance of YHVH's Protection Against Our Enemies
- 8:1 Trusting YHVH for Food
- 8:11 A Warning About Forgetting to Obey YHVH in Times of Prosperity
- 9:1 Do Not Become Arrogant or Self Sufficient; In Spite of Your Stiffneckedness, YHVH Delivered You Out of Egypt and Brought You Through the Wilderness
- 10:1 The Second Stone Tablets and the Ark of the Covenant
- 10:6 The Death of Aaron
- 10:8 The Tribe of Levi Is Set Apart
- 10:12 What Does YHVH Require of You?
- 11:1 Stay Loyal to YHVH Because You Experienced His Greatness and Mercy Firsthand
- 11:8 The Great Virtues of the Promised Land
- 11:13 The Second Passage of the Shema: Obey YHVH and Be Blessed, Disobey and Be Cursed; Remember to Obey YHVH



Exploring This Week's Parashah: Blessings

1 What Is a "Blessing"?

Blessing is a happy subject that everyone likes to talk about. It is especially exciting to receive a blessing—to be a blessed person and have a blessed life. The dictionary defines blessing as "God's favor or protection. It is something that brings well-being."

Among the worldly people around you, what would most of them consider to be a blessing? Perhaps it would be having a nice house to live in, having a nice car to drive, having a well-paying job, being able to go on fun vacations, having a little extra money to buy the things you want, having nice clothes, having lots of friends to do things with, and having good health.

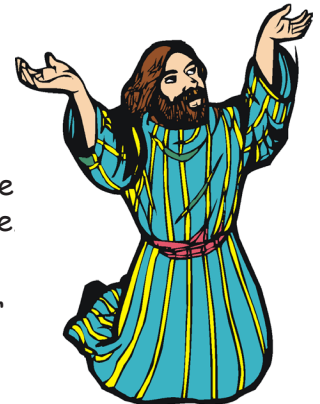
Is there anything wrong with these things? Of course not. But consider this: let's say that a flood, fire, or some other terrible disaster happened in your life and destroyed all the physical blessings in your life, would you still consider yourself blessed?


-  (a) To see what some famous people in the Bible did when faced with such a situation, read Job 13:15 and the little hard-to-find book of Habakkuk 3:17-19 (this book comes after Nahum and before Zephaniah). What was their attitude when faced with hardships?
-  (b) In Deuteronomy 7:13 and 8:10, the word "bless" is found, and in 11:26, 27, 29; 12:15; 16:17; 23:5; 28:8 we also find the word "blessing." Explore all these passages, and then make a list of who is giving the blessing and who is receiving the blessing, and why they are receiving the blessing.

Let's briefly explore the meaning of the Hebrew words "bless" and "blessing." The Hebrew words for bless and blessing are "barak" and "berakah." Berakah comes from barak. The word barak literally means "knee." What, you may ask, does a knee have to do with a blessing? That is a good question. When a man bends his knee or kneels, he is usually praying or kneeling before someone of great authority like a king. It is a sign of humility, respect or submission. It is something that a less powerful person does before a more powerful person. Whoever has more power and respect can require that others show humility and respect to him. Children should respect their parents and elders. Workers and servants should show respect for their bosses or employers. People should show respect for the leaders of their country, church, and so on. All humans should show respect to YHVH!





The word barak not only means "knee," but also means "blessing." The Bible teaches that, generally speaking, a blessing comes from a person of higher authority or power to a person of lesser power and authority. Examples of this would be a father blessing his son, a king granting a request or blessing to a subject, or YHVH blessing his people by answering their prayer requests they have made to him on bent knee

So, in summary, a blessing is granted by a person of greater authority when a person of lesser authority comes on bent knee to ask a favor or request of the greater person. In humility, the lesser person comes to the greater person recognizing that he is the source of blessing.



-  (c) Have you ever needed some money or something else and asked your parents for it? Did you come demanding that they give it to you, or did you come humbly asking them? If you came pridefully demanding money of them, do you think they would give it to you?

2 Blessings for Obeying YHVH (Deuteronomy 7:12)


-  (d) Let's start out by asking a hard question: If you obey your parents, do what they want you to do, and please them, do you think they will be more or less likely to bless you? Do you think this might give us a clue as to how and why YHVH, our Father in heaven, blesses his children?
-  (e) Read Deuteronomy 7:11-14 to learn how and why YHVH blesses his children. Write down the reasons.
-  (f) What are some of those blessings he wants to give to his children? (Read verses 13-22.) Do you think that you could handle a blessing like this???
-  (g) As a loving Father, do you think YHVH enjoys blessing his children?

Again, let's remember that YHVH is the greater authority and power here. He is the Creator


of everything, owns everything and he has the power and authority to give anything to anyone he wants. If you are his child, and you love and obey him why shouldn't he bless YOU?

3 What Do We Have to Do to Be Blessed of YHVH? (Deuteronomy 8:1)


We have touched on this subject a little already, but let's look at it some more.

 (h) What does YHVH require of his children for him to bless them? (Read Deuteronomy 8:1; 10:12; 11:1.)

In the Apostolic Scriptures, even Yeshua discusses blessings for obedience. In this case, he is talking about heavenly rewards for those who obey him and keep his commandments.


 (i) What are YHVH's commandments that he tells us to "shema" (to observe to do), which literally means "to be watchful or guard yourself to do or accomplish"? (See Deuteronomy 8:1, then refer back to 5:1-2, 6-21 and then read 6:1-2.)

 (j) How many or which of YHVH's commandments are we to keep? (Read Deuteronomy 8:1.)

 (k) Read Matthew 5:19. There you will find that blessing for obedience to YHVH commandments is not just for "Old Testament" people, but for the saints in our time, as well! On what basis does someone gain the blessed reward of being the greatest in the kingdom of Elohim. How does one become the least in the kingdom?


The Hebrew word for commandment is "mitzvah" (commandments is "mitzvot"). This is a very common word in the Hebrew language and commonly means "good deed."


 (l) Can doing YHVH's commands be considered doing good deeds?

 (m) What did the Apostle Paul call YHVH's law or Torah and the commandments that make up that Torah? (Read Romans 7:12.)


4 What Can Steal YHVH's Blessings from Us? (Deuteronomy 8:11)

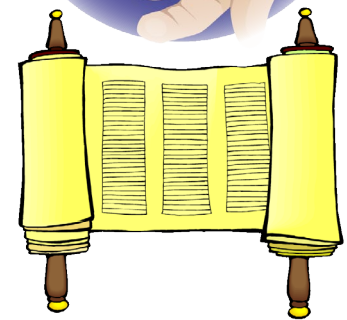
There are things that we as YHVH's people have to guard against or beware of that might cause us to forget YHVH's commandments. (Deuteronomy 8:11).

 (n) What are some things that we have to guard against that might draw us away from properly obeying YHVH's commandments? (Explore Deuteronomy 8:11-19.)


 (o) In this portion of Scripture, notice the several places where YHVH uses words like "beware," "forget" and "remember." How are these words important when it comes to walking properly before YHVH with regard to his Torah-commandments? Are these words that your parents might use when telling you what they expect of you to do?

Perhaps you get tired of hearing them all the time. Well, YHVH calls us his children of Israel and he is our Father (Isaiah 9:6). Perhaps we—no matter how young or old we may be—are really like children who, like young children, tend to forget to keep YHVH's commandments.

 (p) Do you sometimes grow weary in doing what is right? Does sometimes it seem like a lot of hard work to fight the world, the flesh and the devil all the time in order to



walk in righteousness before YHVH? Do you sometimes feel like a salmon having to fight the current of a mighty river in order to swim up stream against the current? Read the following Scriptures and be encouraged to continue to do what is right all the time for the rest of your life: Matthew 5:19; Galatians 6:9; Romans 2:6-7; Hebrews 10:35-39; Revelation 3:5,12,21. What is the most encouraging thing you find in these scriptures that will help you to continue the good fight to do what is right no matter what happens?




-  (q) Is it easy to do what is right? Do we naturally want to do what is right all the time, or are we sometimes tempted to do some things that we know are not fully right with regard to all that YHVH has commanded?




5 What Is the Key to Having a Right Relationship with YHVH? (Deuteronomy 11:18)

Like a good spiritual parent, YHVH doesn't just tell his children to keep his commandments. He also encourages us to keep them by showing us the benefits and blessings of doing so and the terrible consequences that will happen if we don't keep them. YHVH also tells us HOW to keep his commandments. He gives us all the information and help we need to walk in a right and blessed relationship with him. We really have no excuses not to obey him!

In this section let's explore HOW we learn to walk in his ways by keeping his commandments.

-  (r) What are the specific keys or guidelines that YHVH gives us that will help us to learn to walk faithfully in his ways? (See Deuteronomy 11:18-19.)
-  (s) In these two verses (18 & 19), find the four action words (verbs) that tell us HOW to stay faithful to him. These two verses may sound familiar to you, for they contain words that are very similar to those of the well-known Shema passage of Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Discuss or write down what each of these four action words means. How can you do these things each day?
-  (t) What does verse 19 show is the responsibility that parents have with regard to their children? How often are parents to be teaching their children YHVH's ways? Can you see from these two verses that learning Torah is A WAY OF LIFE? It is something that we are to be doing all day, every day?

Torah is our wisdom and light (Deuteronomy 4:6); it is our blessing (Deuteronomy 11:29); IT IS OUR LIFE (Deuteronomy 32:47). But it is our choice whether we will choose to live by it or not (Deuteronomy 11:26-28; 30:19).

-  (u) What we have been discussing above is what we might call the Written Torah of YHVH, but WHO is the Living Torah, or the Word of YHVH made in human form? (Read John 1:1-14.)

Yeshua the Messiah, the Anointed Son of YHVH Elohim, is the one who came to this earth to show man the way to walk according to the Written Torah. With him living in our hearts and minds by the power of his Holy or Set-Apart Spirit, we are able to follow and live according to his commands or instructions.

