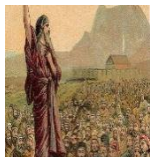


# Parasha 46: Ekeb (Because/On The Heel Of) D'varim/Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

\*All Scripture References from The Orthodox Jewish Bible- Referred to as OJB- unless otherwise noted

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As we open this week's parasha, we don't make it past the opening verse before we come to our first 'nugget of Truth'. We have already seen many times, these nuggets are 'hidden by YHWH' solely within the 'Hebrew text itself' in the Torah. We are reminded of a verse in Mishle/Proverbs that states,

*"It is the Kavod Elohim [glory of The Mighty One] to conceal a thing, but the kavod melachim [glory of kings] is to search out a matter." (Mishle/Proverbs 25:2 OJB- definitions mine)*

This is exactly what we have here in our opening verse. It reads in most English translations,

*"Then it shall come about, BECAUSE you listen to these judgments and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you His covenant and His lovingkindness which He swore to your forefathers..." (D'varim/Deuteronomy 7:12 NASB- New American Standard Bible- emphasis mine)*

Other translations may use the word 'if' instead of 'because'. The 'Orthodox Jewish Bible', which I use, also does this. The 'conjunction' is intended to 'draw our attention' to the result of listening. In this case, the word 'listen' comes from a 'derivative' of the Hebrew word 'shema'. To 'shema' in Hebrew not only means 'to hear', but it also has the connected meaning 'to do'. So, what YHWH is wanting us to understand about the 'D'varim/words' that Yisrael is receiving is, that by both **HEARING AND DOING** the 'promised blessings' will come upon them. But there is something even beyond this that the 'Hebrew sentence structure' is expressing. So, let's look closer. The first few words of the opening sentence in Hebrew with its transliteration reads,

**וְהָיָה עִקֵּב תִּשְׁמָעוּן** [read right to left]  
*'V'haya ekeb ti'shma'un'...*

The above 'transliterates out differently in its literal sense', then how we have it in our English translations. The word to really pay attention to is the last one... 'ti'shma'un'. You of course see within this Hebrew word, the underlined/highlighted word... 'shma', which we have discussed before. However, 'ti'shma'un' is a 'conjugation of the verb... shema in the future tense'. So, what YHWH is really wanting to get across to us here is, **SOMEONE** in the **FUTURE** who will **ALSO BECOME HEARERS AND DOERS** of His words! Sound familiar? Amein and Amein! Baruch HaShem YHWH! For Your faithfulness and Your 'covenant promises'. But, hold on we're not quite finished yet.

There is so much 'to be seen' with this word 'ekeb'. We don't have the space here to delve into it all. But just in case if anyone is wondering if we are 'stretching' in what we have been saying above. The 'confirming witness' is right here in the 'very same verse'! According to the 'Gesenius-Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon' the word 'ekeb' can also mean 'end, as in or at the end'. So, the verse could actually read,

*'And it shall be **At The End** there will be those who hear'...*

Beloved, the above can 'easily be connected' over to D'varim chapter thirty. This is where YHWH prophesies of a **FUTURE TIME** for Yisrael. Who, because of their disobedience and rebellion, have 'incurred YHWH's judgment'. This will have caused Yisrael to be 'scattered among the nations'. In that day, **AT THE END**, they will be **AWAKENED!** They will 'come to themselves' and remember' **WHO** they are and **WHERE** they are from. In turn, they will **SEEK TO RETURN TO YHWH AND HIS TORAH!**

*"And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the berakhah [blessing] and the kelalah [curse], which I have set before thee, and thou shalt cause them to return to thy heart among kol HaGoyim [all The Nations], whither Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] hath driven thee,*

*And shalt return unto Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One], and shalt obey His voice according to all that I command thee today, thou and thy banim [children], bekol levavcha uvekol nafshecha [with all your heart and with all your soul];*

*That then Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] will **BRING YOU BACK** from the **GOLUS [EXILE- SCATTERING AMONG THE NATIONS- BOTH HOUSES]**, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from kol ha'amim [all the peoples] whither Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] hath dispersed thee.*

*If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of Shomayim [the Heavens], from thence will Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] gather thee, and from thence will He bring thee back;*

*And Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] will bring thee into ha'aretz [The Land-**YISRAEL**] which Avoteicha [Your Fathers] possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and He will do thee good, and multiply thee above Avoteicha [Your Fathers].*

*And Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] will circumcise thine lev [heart], and the lev [heart] of thy zera [seed], to love Hashem Eloheicha bekol levavcha uvekol nafshecha [YHWH your Mighty One with all your heart and with all your soul]; **THAT THOU MAYEST LIVE.***

*And Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] will put all these curses upon thine enemies, and on them that hate thee, which persecuted thee.*

*And thou shalt return and obey the voice of Hashem [YHWH], and do all His mitzvot [commandments] which I command thee today.*

*And Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] will make thee abound in every work of thine hand, in the pri [fruit] of thy womb, and in the pri [fruit] of thy animals, and in the pri [fruit] of thy adamah [ground], for tovah [good]; for Hashem [YHWH] will again rejoice over thee for tov [good], as He rejoiced over Avoteicha [Your Fathers];*

*If thou shalt give heed unto the voice of Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One], to be shomer [guard] over His mitzvot [commandments] and His chukkot [ordinances] which are*

*written in this sefer hatorah [book of the instructions], for thou WILL TURN unto Hashem Eloheicha bekhoh levavcha uvekhoh nafshecha [YHWH your Mighty One with all your heart, and with all your soul].” (D’varim/Deuteronomy 30:1-10 OJB- emphasis/definitions mine)*

In our last parasha, ‘Va’Etchanan’, we saw that YHWH has promised throughout the writings of the nevi’im/prophets that He will ‘reunite His broken House’. We saw in Yeshayahu/Isaiah these **TWO HOUSES**: the ‘house of Yehudah/Judah and the non-Jewish house of Yosef-Ephraim’, are identified. Both ‘houses have been dispersed and/or scattered’ among all the nations of the earth. Then in 1948, the ‘house of Yehudah/Judah, the Jewish house’, became a recognized nation again. Jews from all over the world started making ‘aliyah/return’ to The Land of Yisrael. Also, beginning since the mid-1990’s, the ‘non-Jewish house of Yosef/Ephraim’ has also begun to be ‘re-gathered’. Hopefully, our promised time of ‘aliyah/return’ to The Land of Yisrael will also becoming a reality. This hope is promised through the navi/prophet Yeshayahu’s/Isaiah’s ‘prophetic identification’ of each house with ‘peculiar terms’.

*“And it shall come to pass in Yom HaHu [that Day], that Adonoi [my Lord/Master] shall set His yad [hand] again the SECOND TIME to recover the She’ar (Remnant) of His people, which shall be left [as survivors], from Assyria, and from Mitzrayim, and from Patros, and from Kush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Chamat, and from the islands of the sea.*

*And He shall raise up a nes [a banner, i.e., send a signal] for the Goyim [Nations], and shall assemble the outcasts of Yisroel [also identified in the TaNaKh/Hebrew Scriptures as the house of Yosef-Ephraim], and gather together the dispersed of Yehudah [house of Judah] from the four corners of ha’arets [the earth].” (Yeshayahu/Isaiah 11:11-12 OJB- emphasis/definitions mine)*

Those of Yisrael from the ‘non-Jewish house of the northern kingdom of Yosef-Ephraim’ are called ‘outcasts’. This is because, in their being ‘scattered among the nations’, they became ‘mixed by assimilation, intermarriage and integration’ with the peoples of these ‘goyim/nations’. They in turn ‘lost their identity’ as Yisrael and as a result, in the ‘eyes of their Jewish counterparts’, were no longer to be considered to be Yisrael. **\*\*[This is confirmed in The Jewish Traditional Writings of the Talmud in Tractate Yebamot 17A]** Hence, they are ‘identified’ by the navi/prophet Yeshayahu/Isaiah as ‘outcast’. However, while the ‘house of Yehudah/Judah’ have ‘also been scattered among the goyim/nations’, they have been able to ‘retain their cultural identity’. Therefore, they are ‘simply identified’ by the navi/prophet as the ‘dispersed’.

Baruch HaShem/Bless YHWH! The day is coming, when we will no longer be known by either moniker of the ‘separated houses of Yisrael’. We will be known only as, **THE HOUSE OF YISRAEL! ONE House... ONE King... ONE People... ONE Kingdom.** May that day come quickly, and in our time... Amein!

YHWH has ‘hidden this message of hope’ within the Hebrew Torah. There **IS A PEOPLE** who is ‘prophesied to come’ IN/AT THE END. ‘Yom Ha Hu’... **TODAY IS THAT DAY AND I BELIEVE WE ARE A PART OF THAT PEOPLE!** May we continue to take up the ‘yoke of heaven’, YHWH’s Torah and **CONTINUE TO GUARD, HEAR AND DO** His mitzvot/commandments.

## Circumventing The Curse: Walking In The Blessings

Our insights into YHWH's mind are still keeping us focused on our opening verse. The Torah is so full of wonderful insights. You see Hebrew is an amazing and versatile language. The letters in the title of our parasha 'Ekeb/ עֵקֶב - **beit-kuf-ayin**' **\*\*[read right to left]** can be arranged using what is known in Hebrew as 'vowel points'. These 'arrangements' while containing the 'same letters', actually 'create different words'. Each of these 'words' have meanings of their own, which give 'different perspectives and provides deeper insights' into the verses where they occur. Therefore, as long as each different meaning 'does not conflict with the context of the verse' where they are found, then we get 'further revelation' as to YHWH's mind and purpose.

So, with the word 'ekeb', by adding 'vowel points' to the Hebrew letters which 'change the pronunciation' you get the word... עֵקֶב- 'akab'. The meaning is 'to supplant or circumvent'. It can also mean 'to take at the heel'. Akab is also the 'root word' contained in the name of the patriarch 'Ya'akob/Jacob'- יַעֲקֹב. If you remember, his name meant 'thief or supplanter; one who circumvents'. What was Ya'akob/Jacob doing during the birth with his twin brother Esab/Esau? He was 'holding Esab's/Esau's foot'. Now, you see a reason why the 'second name' of our parasha is 'On The Heel'. Ya'akob/Jacob by YHWH's sovereign choice, 'supplanted and circumvented' his brother Esab/Esau from receiving the 'blessing of the birthright'. It was through Ya'akob/Jacob, that YHWH brought forth his twelve sons. Subsequently, 'out of these brothers' would come the 'twelve tribed nation' of Yisrael. Now, placing the word עֵקֶב- akab' into our opening sentence you get this,

***“Then it shall come about, that because you HEAR and DO these judgments, you shall CIRCUMVENT **\*\*[EVADE – BYPASS]** THE CURSES and YHWH your Mighty One WILL KEEP with you the covenant and the lovingkindness which he swore to your fathers. He will love and bless you and multiply you...”***

Beloved, YHWH is a 'covenant keeping Mighty One'. **HE CANNOT AND DOES NOT LIE!** If we 'seek after Him' with **ALL** 'our heart', desiring to 'guard and obey' His Torah, His Loving Instructions, then He will bless us just as He has promised. In turn, 'by our obedience' we will **CIRCUMVENT/EVADE/BYPASS- ESCAPE THE JUDGMENTS** which our stiff-necked stubbornness would have resulted in! It was so for Yisrael then and it is so today. YHWH is 're-gathering His scattered people' Yisrael **\*\*[the 'outcast' 10 tribes of the house of Yosef-Ephraim and the 'dispersed' 2 tribes of the house of Yehudah/Judah]** from 'among the nations'. All praise be to our Mighty One!

Let us take a moment and read over the 'list of the blessings' that will come as we endeavor to 'guard and keep the Loving Instructions' of YHWH our Mighty One,

***“And He will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee; He will also bless the pri [fruit] of thy womb, and the pri [fruit] of thy land, thy grain, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy cattle, and the flocks of thy sheep, in ha'arets [in the land] which He swore unto Avoteicha [your Fathers] to give thee.***



*Baruch [Blessed] shalt thou be more than kol ha'amim [all the peoples]; there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.*

*And Hashem [YHWH] will take away from thee every choli (disease), and will put none of the evil diseases of Mitzrayim [Egypt], which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.*

*And thou shalt consume kol haAm [all the people] which Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them; neither shalt thou serve eloheihem (their g-ds/false mighty ones); for that will be a snare unto thee.*

*If thou shalt say in thine lev [heart], These Goyim [nations] are more than I; how can I dispossess them?*

*Thou shalt not be afraid of them; but shalt well remember what Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Mitzrayim [Egypt];*

*The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the otot [signs], and the mofetim [wonders], and the yad chazakah [mighty, powerful hand], and the stretched out zero'a [arm], whereby Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] brought thee out; so shall Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] do unto kol ha'amim [all the peoples] of whom thou art afraid.*

*Moreover, Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] will send the hornet swarm among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed.*

*Thou shalt not be afraid of them; for Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] is among you, an El Gadol v'Norah [Great and Awesome Mighty One].*

*And Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] will put out those Goyim [nations] before thee m'at m'at (little by little); thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the sadeh [field] increase upon thee.*

*But Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be shmad [destroyed].*

*And He shall deliver their melachim [kings] into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their shem [name] from under Shomayim [the Heavens]; there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them.” (D'varim/Deuteronomy 7:13-24 OJB- definitions mine)*

## **The Inescapable Path Of YHWH's Dealings**

Now, we are beginning to press into some very meaty portions of our parasha. Let us remember that those who are standing here listening to Moshe's speech are the 'Second Generation of Yisrael'. Most of the 'First Generation' having perished, except for Kaleb/Caleb and Yehoshua/Joshua along with those under twenty years old at that time. The rest died as a result of their faithless disobedience and stiff-necked, stubborn rebellion. Let us take a moment to remind ourselves of where we are regarding the breakdown of this 'speech'.

- 1.) The Introduction- Chapters 1-4
- 2.) The Main Body- Chapters 5-26
- 3.) The ReNewed Covenant- Chapters 27-28
- 4.) The Call to Repentance- Chapters 29-30

We are now past the 'Introductory' part of the speech and well into the early portion of the 'Main Body'. If you take a moment, you can sense that the 'tone' has begun to change. Here now in chapter eight, Moshe is 'assuming the role of a father'. What does that mean? Fathers are called to show

love, patience and encouragement to their children. Yet, they are also charged with the responsibility of being honest and truthful. In many cases, this may seemingly come off as hard or uncaring. It is neither. It is love *'with an edge'* that demands those they love also face the *'uncomfortable things'* about themselves. Things that, if left undisclosed, may well end in terrible consequences. Fathers have the *'hard task'* of not only telling the *'good'*, but the *'bad'* and the *'ugly'* to their children. Yisrael has proven how easy it is for their *'waywardness of character'* to surface. They *'need to understand'* clearly that it was not their *'own goodness or righteous behavior'* that has resulted in them standing on the edge of the Yarden/Jordan River poised to cross over. It is YHWH's *'faithfulness and His lovingkindness'*, **DESPITE** their *'failures and sinfulness'* that has brought them here. It will be His *'continued faithfulness and lovingkindness'* that will bring them into *'possess The Land of their promised inheritance'*. These facts are acutely emphasized in chapter nine.

So now, we enter into chapter eight. Moshe immediately starts out by *'reminding Am Yisrael of the one central factor'* needed for their success... **OBEDIENCE!** They must **HEAR** YHWH's Torah and His commandments, but they must also **DO WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD!** Their success for *'entering into The Land'* is hinged on this all-important ingredient. Though their enemies shall be seemingly great and the challenges just as difficult, they are called upon to **REMEMBER**. They are to **REMEMBER** all the enemies they have already faced and how powerful YHWH showed Himself on their behalf. They are to **REMEMBER** how great their needs have been, but also how **GREAT** was YHWH's provision on their behalf. They are to **REMEMBER HIS FAITHFULNESS** all along the way through the midbar/wilderness to this day where they stand. Am Yisrael **MUST NEVER FORGET** any of this. The key is their *'love and willingness to obey'* **ALL of the Loving Instructions** of YHWH's Torah. Let's read a little of Moshe's words,

*“Kol hamitzvot [All the commandments] which I command thee today shall ye be shomer [on guard] to do, lema'an (in order that) ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess ha'aretz [the land] which Hashem [YHWH] swore unto Avoteichem [your Fathers].*

*And thou shalt remember kol haderech [all the way] which Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] led thee these arba'im shanah [forty years] in the midbar [wilderness], to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine lev [heart], whether thou wouldest be shomer [guard] over His mitzvot [commandments], or no.*

*And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did Avoteicha [Your Fathers] know; that He might make thee know that man doth not live by lechem [bread] only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of Hashem [YHWH] doth man live.” (D'varim/Deuteronomy 8:1-3 OJB- definitions mine)*

As we read the first verse, did you get the promise of blessings? **OBEDIENCE BRINGS THE BLESSING!** I have said it many times, but I will say it again here: **WALKING IN OBEDIENCE TO YHWH'S TORAH IS THE WAY TO ABUNDANT LIFE.** The wording is clear. If you *'guard'* YHWH's commandments to **DO** them, then the result will be **LIFE, MULTIPLICATION** and **POSSESSION** of the inheritance.

This is what all of YHWH's *'dealings'* over the past forty years with Am Yisrael was about. It was about their *'learning to come to recognize'* those things *'within their hearts that must be removed'*. The *'dealings'* of YHWH in our lives are to **CAUSE US** to *'deal with our heart'*. Psychologists

even tell us, it is those things we ‘*go through that are the most difficult*’, that really bring the ‘*deepest most lasting changes*’ to our lives. YHWH tells Am Yisrael He brought them the way He did ‘*through the wilderness*’, in order that **THEY MIGHT KNOW what was in their heart**. He **ALLOWED** them to endure the suffering of being hungry. He **ALLOWED** them to endure having to eat manna day in and day out. There weren’t all the delights they may have ‘*wanted*’, but they were ‘*sustained*’. Yet, the ‘*pressure*’ of that testing **REVEALED THEIR HEART** and it wasn’t pretty. It **REVEALED** their faithlessness. It **REVEALED** what was **IN THEIR HEART: STIFF-NECKED, STUBBORN REBELLION!** It was **ALL** necessary. Why?

Oh beloved, it is one thing to get over into The Land. It is something entirely different to **GET IN AND STAY THERE!** One thing the Torah does is... **REVEAL THE CONDITION OF THE HEART**. It teaches us ‘*how to recognize*’ **WHAT SIN IS**. For those who believe the Torah has no place in the so-called ‘*New Covenant*’ believer’s life **\*\*[which is itself an erroneous theological term]**, here is an interesting coincidence. It is a Scripture from those very Messianic Writings (**Matthew-Revelation**) that is used to **SHOW US** it is the Torah YHWH uses to define sin!

***“Everyone practicing chet [sin] also does averah [transgressing a moral boundary; a commandment], and chet [sin] is averah [transgressing a moral boundary; a commandment] AL HATORAH [OF THE TORAH].” (Yochanon Alef/1 John 3:4 OJB- definitions mine)***

Many times, even before a building is built the foundation is put through what is known as a ‘*stress test*’. It is designed to ‘*reveal*’ whether the foundation of the building can ‘*take the pressure*’ of supporting a mass amount of weight. The subsequent ‘*faults and weaknesses*’ that maybe ‘*revealed*’ will save a great deal of time, money and a possible **FUTURE DISASTER!** This is why YHWH’s handling of us at times may seem so harsh. He is not out to destroy us. **HE IS OUT TO MAKE US FACE THE COMPLETE WORTHLESSNESS OF OUR FALLEN HUMANITY**. In return, we are to ‘*cry out*’ to Him not to ‘*make us better*’, but to **REPLACE US!** Here is the Truth that is so hard to take. **Our humanity is not only DEFECTIVE... IT IS HOPELESS!** It must be **REPLACED** with the **GLORIOUS HUMANITY** of YHWH’s Son, our blessed Mashiach Yeshua. This is the ‘*unalterable message*’ of the **EXECUTION STAKE!**

This is what Rav Sha’ul was speaking of in his letter to the Galatian assemblies. He spoke of a ‘*fourteen-year period of intense dealings*’ he went through after his having met the risen Mashiach on the Damascus Road. (**Galatians 2:1**) What happened during that time? Well Sha’ul gives us a little insight in his letter to the Romans.

***“For I do not have da’as [intimate understanding of] what I do. For that which I commit is not what I want; no, it is what I hate that I do!***

***But if that which I do is what I do not want, I agree with the Torah that the Torah is good.***

***But now it is no longer I doing this, but [the power of/a spirit of] Chet (Sin) which dwells within me [my flesh].***

***For I have da’as [intimate understanding] that there dwells in me, that is, in my basar (my fallen humanity/my flesh enslaved to Chet Kadmon/to spiritual strongholds) no good thing; for the wish [to do what is right] lies ready at hand for me, but to accomplish the good is not.***

***For I fail to do good as I wish, but HaRah (The Evil) which I do not wish is what I commit.***

*But if what I do not wish is that which I do, it is no longer I doing it but [the power of/a spirit of] Chet (Sin/strongholds of spiritual darkness) which dwells within me [in my flesh].*

*I find then it to be a law [a firm guarantee] that for me who wishes to do HaTov (The Good), that for me HaRah (The Evil) lies ready at hand.*

*For I rejoice, I have simcha [rejoicing in] Torah in the Torah of Hashem [YHWH], so far as the inner man [reborn human spirit/the mind of Mashiach] is concerned,*

*But I see another Chok (decree, law) in my natural capacities [my flesh/fallen humanity] at milchamah (war) with the Torah of my mind and making me a prisoner to the Chok (law) of Chet (Sin) which is [a power/a spirit] in my natural capacities [flesh/fallen humanity].*

*Wretched man am I! Who will deliver me from the body of this mavet (death)?*

*Hodu l'Hashem (thanks be to G-d/YHWH) b'Moshiach Yehoshua Adoneinu [in Mashiach Yeshua my Master]. So, then I myself with my mind [of the reborn human/spirit; the mind of Mashiach] serve the Torah of Hashem [YHWH] and with my basar [flesh/fallen humanity] I serve the Chok of Chet (the Law of Sin).” (Romans 7:15-25 OJB- definitions mine)*

Beloved, Sha’ul ‘*thought he was ready*’ right after his ‘*initial encounter*’ with the risen Mashiach, to begin his ministry. He had been ‘*knocked off his horse, blinded and then healed*’. He ‘*thought*’ he was good to go. Yet his first initial approach at ministry ended with his being let down over a wall in the city of Damascus. There were some among the ‘*Orthodox Jewish element*’ there who became violently incensed. They saw how mightily Sha’ul had ministered, proving Yeshua of Natzaret/Nazareth to be the ‘*promised Mashiach of Yisrael*’ from the Hebrew Scriptures (**TaNaKh**). They were ‘*at a loss*’ to refute his words. So, they desired to kill him. Their plot was discovered and a group of the talmidim/disciples in the city succeeded to help him escape.

From there Sha’ul, still with ‘*self-willed determination*’ to begin his ministry, went to Yerushalayim/Jerusalem. The same circumstances arose there too. A segment among the ‘*Hellenistic/Greek secular Jews*’ devised a plot to kill him. Again, there were those among the believing Jewish brethren who found out about the plan and helped Sha’ul escape. These brothers helped him get down to Caesarea and from there he made it back to his hometown of Tarsus. (**Ma’asim/Acts 9:22-30**) Basically, the consensus of the talmidim/disciples there was a kind of like, ‘*don’t call us, we’ll call you*’ when it’s safe to come back. **THAT CALL NEVER CAME!** It was **FOURTEEN YEARS** before Sha’ul was called by YHWH to return to Yerushalayim/Jerusalem!

Sha’ul was a very learned man within the scope of the Judaism of his day. There were none who could hold a candle to him in his element. Yet, for all that, YHWH was not impressed. Sha’ul reminds you of another ‘*strong willed Yisraelite*’ from long ago. One Moshe, who thought he too was ready to be a ‘*deliverer of his people*’. It was not until the ‘*hand of YHWH*’ had left its ‘*indelible imprint*’ upon him that he was ‘*qualified*’ to fulfill that destiny. What Moshe was feeling was so real in his heart there in Mitzrayim/Egypt. Yet, it would be **FORTY YEARS** before the call he felt so real then would finally be realized. You cannot ‘*circumvent/escape the necessity of YHWH’s dealings*’. All of our destiny in YHWH is ‘*marked by the path of the principle*’ of the **EXECUTION STAKE... LIFE OUT OF DEATH!**

First came death to Moshe’s dream. He killed the Egyptian that was abusing one of his brother Yisraelites. In turn, he had to flee Pharaoh’s house in order to escape his own death. He was exiled on the backside of the desert and became a shepherd. Always remember, the ‘*mark of YHWH*’ that



'qualifies' any vessel, corporate or individual, is always **LIFE OUT OF DEATH!** These are the 'indelible marks of true qualification' YHWH waits to see 'worked into our life'. It was **FORTY YEARS** for Moshe, and it was **FOURTEEN YEARS** for Sha'ul. But, in YHWH's way, **THE CALL WAS REALIZED!** In the end, **ALL THE GLORY** was YHWH's!

It took fourteen years to **EMPTY** Sha'ul out. He thought with his 'knowledge and understanding' of Torah (**his Jewish pedigree**), he could just 'immediately transfer' those qualifications over to the 'Yeshua side of things'. Well he couldn't. Why? Because it was not a 'Pharisaical seal of approval' that YHWH was looking for. **NO!** It was the 'one mark' that no man can get on his own or from other men's approval. It was the **INDELIBLE MARKS THAT ONLY THE EXECUTION STAKE** can leave on a person's **SOUL-LIFE**. (**Luke 9:23-24**)

Here it is again... **LIFE OUT OF DEATH!** That is the 'qualification' that YHWH not only looks for... **HE DEMANDS!** These are the 'footsteps' of our Master beckoning all who would follow Him 'to walk in'. Only the 'execution stake' can deal with a foe as formidable as the 'soul-life, untouched and unrestrained'. In ways, it is 'more to be feared' than any demon or sin one may encounter. This is what hell and the devil himself 'fears the most': **A BELIEVER WHO IS DEAD TO HIS OWN SELF WILL AND DETERMINATION**. For if that one **TRULY SURRENDERS** and allows such a state of being to be procured by the 'power of YHWH through His HaRuach HaKodesh/The Spirit of His Holiness', then **NOTHING IN HELL'S ARSENAL WILL PREVAIL!** The 'life that motivates' this kind of man/woman is **RESURRECTION LIFE**. Hasatan (**may his memory be blotted out forever**) has met that before and the One who possesses it. The 'marks of that battle', the **EMPTY TOMB**, reminds him forever: **HE IS NO MATCH FOR THIS ONE!** It spells sure defeat for all entities in the realm of darkness.

The 'preparation' of the vessel in whom that life resides for its 'release and unleashing' must be 'thorough and intense'. Sha'ul learned this to its depth. **FOURTEEN YEARS** it took until he cried out, 'O wretched man that I am!' Sha'ul, Pharisee among Pharisees, so adept in his religious prowess and comfortable in his strength of will. In the end of that long **FOURTEEN YEAR 'night of travail'** came the 'dawning of the morning light of a new day'. Sha'ul was **FINALLY** brought to the place where he could say, not in depression, but in praise: **I KNOW, THAT IN ME, THAT IS IN MY FLESH, THERE DWELLS NO GOOD THING!** O happy day. **WHEN SHA'UL GOT SHA'UL OFF OF HIS HANDS AND INTO THE HANDS OF HIS MASTER!** What a day! Baruch HaShem YHWH! Nitzachon b'Mashiach/Victory in Messiah!

Beloved, this is not only the 'way of the elite' in YHWH's purposes. It is the way for **ALL** who live before our great Master YHWH! It was the path of our Master Yeshua when He came to earth clothed in the 'likeness of human flesh'. (**Romans 8:3; Ivrim/Hebrews 5:8**) It is 'in His footsteps' that everyone who desires to be His talmid/disciple must follow. (**Kefa Alef/1 Peter 2:21**) It was this 'path of dealings' that the nation of Yisrael had to follow also. It was the 'necessary process of preparation' needed to take them over into The Land... **AND KEEP THEM THERE!**

## **Entering The Land Of Yisrael: The Inheritance**

Now, in chapter eight verse six, YHWH begins to extol the beauty and virtue of The Land of Yisrael. It is a land flowing with brooks of waters, fountains and springs in the valleys and hills.

For those of us who have been to Yisrael, we can attest to this very fact. I remember walking through many of the parks where the streams of waters passed through. They were clear and pristine. YHWH further tells Am Yisrael that The Land was also a place of *'seven different kinds'* of grain, fruit and oil. They would find:

- 1) Wheat
- 2) Barley
- 3) Grape Vines
- 4) Fig Trees
- 5) Pomegranates
- 6) Olive oil
- 7) Honey

It was a *'Land of provision'* given by YHWH as a *'promised marriage gift'*. It testified of His great love and faithfulness. A Land where as long as Yisrael remained in trusting faithful obedience to His Torah, the Ketubah, the marriage covenant, they would **NEVER** lack for anything. It is why, according to the Torah, the *'blessing over the meal'* should come at the end. You may pray before, but the *'blessing at the end'* is made as a *'remembrance'* of thanks to YHWH for His loving provision. Please note it is **NOT** a *'blessing on the food'*. This is the idea, in most cases, when it comes to such prayers. However, if you are *'eating'* what the Torah *'designates as food'*, then it is **ALREADY BLESSED!** **\*\*[See the teaching in our *'Foundation Series'* section of our website, for a 3-part article entitled *'Did Rebbe Yeshua Really Declare All Food Clean'*? It will give you an in-depth understanding of what YHWH considers to be *'real food'* and also brings clarification to what His instructions regarding food under the auspice of the final ReNewed Covenant-Kethuvim HaNotzrim-Writings of the Nazarenes are. Click here: [\*'Did Rebbe Yeshua...'\*](#)]**

***"When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] for ha'aretz hatovah [the good land] which He hath given thee."***  
***(D'varim/Deuteronomy 8:10 OJB- definitions mine)***

There are many today that dismiss the blessing of The Land of Yisrael. They have been blinded by the error of the church of Christendom's *'Replacement' Theology* to believe that The Land is of no consequence. Everything has been *'spiritualized'*. The *'physical'* has been *'overshadowed or completely replaced by the spiritual'*. The church of Christendom is now the *'supposed true Yisrael of God'*. **NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!!!** The *'Hebraic mind'* has no problem allowing the *'physical to stand alongside the spiritual'*. They may *'coexist'*, as long as the *'physical does not usurp its place over the spiritual'*. The *'physical'* testifies to the *'reality'*, which is first of all *'spiritual'*. The Land is as important as it ever was. It is a *'central part'* of YHWH's *'eternal blessing'* for His soon to be restored holy nation of Yisrael. Remember this fact: **NO LAND... NO FULFILLMENT OF THE REST OF YHWH'S PROMISES!** It was *'first promised to the abba/father of our faith'...* Abraham. It will *'lastly be fulfilled'* by the restored *'Whole House of Yisrael'* in the end! As a whole, Yisrael has **NEVER** possessed **ALL** of The Land that YHWH has allotted to them. However, in the Millennial Kingdom, during the *'earthly reign of Mashiach Yeshua'*, M'lekh Mashiach/King Messiah, Yisrael **WILL POSSESS ITS INHERITANCE IN ITS FULLNESS (physical and spiritual)** as promised in the Torah.

There are those today, who also want to pressure Yisrael to give The Land away for peace. No nation, including Yisrael itself, has the right to do such a thing! It doesn't belong to anyone other

than YHWH Himself! (**Vayikra/Leviticus 25:23**) It was a 'wedding gift' to His beloved Bride, Yisrael. To give The Land away is a form of 'na'aph/adultery'. It must not be done!

## Dangers Of Forgetting YHWH's Instructions In The Torah

Beginning at verse eleven of chapter eight, Moshe begins to 'issue a warning' to Yisrael about 'forgetting the words' they are hearing. Once they cross over into The Land and begin to enjoy the blessings, the danger is two-fold. Either they will 'forget' YHWH's instructions which they have been given through the Torah. In turn, they will become lax in their 'keeping themselves set apart' to YHWH. Or, they will begin to 'believe the lie' that all of these blessings are the result of some 'degree of righteousness they have supposedly attained' on their own. Both of these mentalities will result in disaster.

Prosperity has its own set of 'peculiar pitfalls' which must be avoided. Am Yisrael is warned not to forget that it is **YHWH WHO DELIVERED THEM, BROUGHT THEM TO THE LAND AND BLESSED THEM**. They have not done anything of their 'own doing' to begin trusting in their own abilities. YHWH tells Yisrael plainly that **HE GAVE THEM THE POWER** to 'obtain the wealth needed to establish His covenant'. It is very important for you to realize just what YHWH said the blessing was. It was **NOT** 'wealth' itself that was 'the blessing'. **IT IS THE POWER TO OBTAIN IT!** This is **THE TRUE BLESSING**. The wealth was **NOT** for their own interests, though they would 'enjoy the blessing' that comes from it. The **BLESSING** was for the purpose of **ESTABLISHING HIS COVENANT** there in The Land.

*“And thou say in thine lev [heart], My ko'ach (power) and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this chayil (wealth). But thou shalt remember Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One]; FOR IT IS HE THAT GIVETH THEE POWER TO GET WEALTH, that He may ESTABLISH HIS BRIT [COVENANT] which He swore unto Avoteicha [Your Fathers], as it is yom hazeh [this day].” (D'varim/Deuteronomy 8:17-18 OJB- definitions mine)*

Immediately after the above verse of blessing, a 'warning of judgment' followed. This judgment is very interesting.

*“And it shall be, if thou do at all forget Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One], and walk after acharei elohim [strange/false mighty ones], and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you today that ye shall surely perish.  
As the Goyim [nations] which Hashem [YHWH] destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of Hashem Eloheichem [YHWH your Mighty One]. (D'varim/Deuteronomy 8:19-20 OJB- definitions mine)*

Now, here is what is interesting. The word 'perish' in the above passage occurs twice. Once in each verse. The word is 'abad' in Hebrew. While it can mean, 'to die, to be destroyed or perish'; it can also mean 'to vanish or be lost'. Knowing the history of our 'avot/fathers', especially those from the 'northern kingdom the house of Yosef-Ephraim', **ISN'T THAT EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?** They were 'destroyed' as a people and they 'vanished' over time having been 'scattered' and in a sense, 'lost among the nations' for 2730 years! It is now, Yom HaHu/That Day... **TODAY** that the 'mercies and lovingkindness' of YHWH is being poured out. The

'scattered house of Yosef-Ephraim' is being **AWAKENED!** We are being 're-gathered' just as YHWH promised, but not before His 'Word of judgment' had come to pass. It has been said, **YHWH IS AS FAITHFUL TO THE CURSE AS HE IS TO THE BLESSING!**

## YHWH Goes Before Yisrael Into The Land

*“Understand therefore this day, that Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] is He which GOETH OVER BEFORE THEE; as a consuming eish [fire] He shall destroy them [the seven nations], and He shall bring them down before thy face; so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as Hashem [YHWH] hath said unto thee.” (D’varim/Deuteronomy 9:3 OJB- definitions mine)*

Now, Moshe begins to admonish Am Yisrael about the obstacles they will face as they cross over into The Land. He **IMMEDIATELY** brings out the fact that they will face the legendary, physically enormous Anakim. These were the fierce warrior giants that dwelt in Cana’an. It was the fearfulness of these giants that 'afflicted' ten of the twelve nesi'im/leaders who originally went to explore The Land. This 'spirit of fear' caused those ten nesi'im/leaders to speak 'words of unbelief'. The hearts of almost the whole 'First Generation' became infected by that 'spirit of unbelief'. It resulted in their judgment of not being able to go into The Land promised to them thirty-eight years previous.

Now, this 'Second Generation' was going to face them again. However, this time they were to **STAND BEFORE** the Anakim in **TRUSTING FAITHFULNESS**. They would not go over alone. YHWH, their Mighty One, would **GO OVER BEFORE THEM** and fight on their behalf. He would 'destroy their enemies, bring them down before their face' and then **YISRAEL WOULD DRIVE THEM OUT!** They were to have **LO TIRAH/NO FEAR!** It was not their concern. **IT DIDN'T MATTER THE GREATNESS OF THE SIZE OF THEIR ENEMIES.** The 'trusting faithfulness' of their heart in their great Mighty One, YHWH Tzava'ot/of Hosts, would be the **GREAT EQUALIZER.**

There was one thing that Am Yisrael was **NOT TO DO:** They were **NOT** to begin to 'trust in themselves'. These coming victories **WERE NOT** the product of some 'supposed righteousness of their own'. The reason the nations that were in Cana’an were being driven out, was because of their own wickedness. Moshe was quick to 'remind Am Yisrael of the weakness of their own character' all along. They had been a 'stiff-necked and stubborn people' from the time they were brought out of Mitzrayim, even to the present. That same 'stubbornness' was also a means by which the 'spirit of rebellion' had also manifested itself over and over again in them. That was then, this is now. They were to 'shomer/guard themselves' from these traits. Remain humble and obedient before YHWH in all their ways. **YHWH WAS TO BE THEIR PRAISE.** In the end, YHWH would exalt Yisrael above all the nations. Even as He is about to do through the restoration of the **WHOLE HOUSE OF YISRAEL** in this day. Amein!

*“And now, Yisroel [Yisrael], what doth Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] require of thee, but to fear Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One], to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve Hashem Eloheicha [YHWH your Mighty One] with all thy lev [heart] and with all thy nefesh [soul],*



To be shomer [*guard/watch*] over the mitzvot Hashem [*commandments of YHWH*], and His chukkot [*ordinances*], which I command thee today for thy good?

Behold, the Shomayim and Shomei HaShomayim (the Highest Heaven) belongs to Hashem Eloheicha [*YHWH your Mighty One*]; Ha'Aretz [*The Land*] also, with all that therein is. Yet Hashem [*YHWH*] had a delight in Avoteicha [*Your Fathers*] to love them, and He chose their zera [*seed*] after them, even you above kol ha'amim [*all the people*], as it is yom hazeh [*today*].

Circumcise therefore the arlat (foreskin) of your lev [*heart*], and be no more stiffnecked. For Hashem Eloheichem [*YHWH your Mighty One*] is Elohei HaElohim [*Mighty One of the Mighty Ones*], and Adonei HaAdonim [*Master of the Masters*], HaEl HaGadol [*The Mighty One who is Great*], HaGibbor v'HaNorah [*The Mighty and The Awesome One*], which regardeth not persons, nor taketh shochad (bribe):

He doth execute the mishpat [*judgment*] for the yatom and almanah [*fatherless and widow*], and loveth the ger [*stranger*], in giving him lechem [*bread*] and simlah (clothing).

Love ye therefore the ger [*stranger*]; for ye were gerim [*strangers*] in Eretz Mitzrayim. [*The Land of Egypt*]:

Thou shalt fear Hashem Eloheicha [*YHWH your Mighty One*]; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou have thy deveykus [*trust/to cling to*], and swear by Shmo [*His Name*].

He is thy tehillah (praise), and He is Eloheicha [*your Mighty One*], that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

Avoteicha [*Your Fathers*] went down into Mitzrayim [*Egypt*] with shivim nefesh [*seventy souls*]; and now Hashem Eloheicha [*YHWH your Mighty One*] hath made thee as the kokhavim of Shomayim [*stars of the heavens*] for multitude." (D'varim/Deuteronomy 10:12-22  
OJB- definitions mine)

We say the following blessing as we continue each week's study of Torah...

*Chazak u'Barukh...  
Strength and Blessings*

**\*\*Click the link below to listen to the mp3 audio-reading of our parasha**

**[Parasha 46: Ekeb/Because – On The Heel Of](#)**