

Torah Portion Ki Tavo  
Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8 (9)

Meaning, “when you go in”.

All throughout the book of Deuteronomy Moses instructs the people to keep the Torah of Yahweh. In this portion the covenant is renewed and Moses delivers to them the blessings and the curses.

What is amazing to me is that the people needed to be reminded about the curses that would come upon them if they disobeyed. They had been wandering in the wilderness because they disobeyed. How soon the human heart wanders. Mankind has had, from the very beginning of time, until the end of time, a wandering heart. A heart that knows no limits on evil. After all that God had done for them one would think that their heart would remain loyal for eternity, yet Moses has to remind them about the blessings and curses. This is still the problem with mankind today—a wandering heart, unloyal to the Creator.

To bless is a very important principal to God and to the Hebrew people. Modern Christians usually fall short in this area. Hebrews bless their Creator numerous times a day, saying blessings over things in everyday matters and blessing God even for the bad things that happen to them. They bless their children and families and literally every detail of life.

The lesson of Balak and Balaam should teach one about curses. Mankind brings curses upon themselves when they disobey the commandments of Yahweh. His teachings and instructions are given for protection. Just as good parents set boundaries for their children so they will be safe and secure, Yahweh sets boundaries for His people. These boundaries should not be seen as a bad thing or limitation to one's freedom. Instead, they are to bring freedom. They are for our protection and security. God has promised His protection and provision if we stay within the boundaries of His teachings and instructions. When we step outside of this boundary we open ourselves up to Satan and his attempts to lie to us, steal from us, and his attempts to kill us; both spiritually and physically.

We have all been guilty of breaking His teachings and instructions. Hence, the curses of this portion have come upon us. This is why Yeshua nailed “the curses of the law” (Torah) upon the cross. Listed in this portion are the curses that He nailed to the cross when He took our sins upon Himself. We were guilty and should receive the death penalty, but He took the death penalty for us. The innocent for the guilty. A concept most understood by the ancient Hebrews in their sacrificial system.

If we want blessings from God then we must obey. If we disobey we get the curses. Only Yeshua, through the sacrifice of His own body, can forgive us when we trespass against a Holy God and His Torah.

Shalom!

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