

# Parashat Eikev

## פרשה עקב

Shabbat Av 20, 5770, July 31, 2010

32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of God

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5

### By Grace are We Saved (Ephesians 2:8)

#### השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

הפטרה: Isaiah 49:14-51:3

הברית: Hebrews 11:8-13 Romans 8:31-39

החדשה

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In this week's reading from the Triennial cycle (*Devarim / Deuteronomy 10:12-11:25*) Moshe is calling Yisrael to walk by faith and to walk in God's ways by submitting to the authority of the Word of God (His commandments). In last week's study (*Parashat Vaetchanan*), we looked at how Ezra set for us an example of a life lived for the Lord and drawing near to God by (i) studying the Scriptures, (ii) practicing what he learned, and (iii) teaching what the Lord had laid upon his heart for the people. *Ezra 7:10* **כִּי עֲזָרָא הִכִּין לִבּוֹ לְדַרְוֹשׁ אֶת־תּוֹרַת יְהוָה וְלַעֲשׂוֹת וּלְלַמֵּד בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל הָאֵל וּמִשְׁפָּט:** (*Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.*) This week, Moshe recounts the story of Yisrael's covenant relationship with God and her miraculous exodus from Egypt (see *Devarim / Deuteronomy 9:1-29*). After recounting the history of Yisrael's deliverance, Moshe instructs the people to fear the Lord, obey His commandments, and to love the Lord with all your heart and all your soul in *Devarim / Deuteronomy 10:12*

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### דברים 10:12-17

12 וַעֲתָה יִשְׂרָאֵל מִה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ שְׂאֵל מֵעַמֶּיךָ כִּי אִם־

לְיִרְאָה אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְלַבֵּת בְּכָל־דַּרְכָּיו וּלְאַהֲבָה

אֹתוֹ וּלְעַבְדוֹ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל־לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל־נַפְשְׁךָ:

13 לְשֹׁמֵר אֶת־מִצְוֹת יְהוָה וְאֶת־חֻקֹּתָיו אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוֶּה

14 הַיּוֹם לְטוֹב לָךְ: הֲנֵן לִיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ הַשָּׁמַיִם וּשְׁמֵי

15 הַשָּׁמַיִם הָאָרֶץ וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ: רַק בְּאַבְתְּיָךָ חֲשֵׁק

יְהוָה לְאַהֲבָה אוֹתָם וַיִּבְחַר בְּזֶרְעִים אַחֲרֵיהֶם בְּכֶם

16 מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים כִּי הָיָה: וּמִלֵּתְךָ אֵת עָרַלְתָּ לְבַבְכֶם

17 וְעָרַפְכֶם לֹא תִקְשׁוּ עוֹד: כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הוּא אֱלֹהֵי

הָאֱלֹהִים וְאֵדְנֵי הָאֲדָנִים הָאֵל הַגָּדֹל הַגִּבּוֹר וְהַנּוֹרָא

18 אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִשָּׂא פָנָיִם וְלֹא יִקַּח שֹׁחַד: עֲשֵׂה מִשְׁפָּט

#### Devarim / Deuteronomy 10:12-17

10:12 'Now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 10:13 and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? 10:14 'Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. 10:15 'Yet on your fathers did the Lord set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day. 10:16 'So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer. 10:17 'For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. (NASB)

30 Moshe understands that Yisrael will be victorious because God has  
promised they will be. He also knows that because of this victory the people may  
fall into pride and self confidence when he says in *Devarim / Deuteronomy 9:4*  
“Do not say in your heart ... because of my righteousness the Lord has brought  
me to posses this land.” From a practical aspect for us today, success, blessing,  
35 and prosperity, it is easy for us to look at those who have no relationship with  
God having rejected Yeshua the Messiah to turn around and put ourselves in a  
higher category believing that we are somehow favored by God and have a  
special status before God by our own doing. This mindset goes something like  
this: “because, when I was confronted by the gospel I was smart enough to make  
40 the right choice and therefore am worthy of God’s blessings.” When we have  
embraced Yeshua as our Messiah and Savior, followed the Torah, reaped the  
rewards of righteous living, our families are blessed, kept away from the  
abominations of the nations, enjoyed the blessings of the festivals, and the  
Shabbat, what response do we have? That we deserve this life because we have  
45 obeyed and thus we have earned it? Are we better than the unsaved because we  
have kept God’s commands? Be very careful about this kind of mindset, “watch  
out.” The desire to obey God, faith, and the blessings that come, and even our  
decision to follow the Lord is the result of God having chosen us to be His. The  
way we are today, who we are, where we live, our jobs, salvation, and even our  
50 faith is a matter of His grace being imparted to us, He has shown us the Messiah  
and given us His Spirit as a gift of His infinite grace. The rewards God gives us  
are an extension of His own gracious work within us. In fact, the process of  
drawing near to God, the blessings that are mentioned are revealed to us in His  
Word this week. God wants us to have a one to one relationship with Him. Like  
we discovered in last week’s reading (*Parashat Vaetchanan*) the use of the  
55 singular pronoun is also used in *Devarim / Deuteronomy 10:12* when Moshe  
speaks to Yisrael, he uses the singular pronoun instead of the second person plural  
pronoun.

As we learned last week, the singular pronoun in the Hebrew language can  
be used to denote the corporate identity of all of Yisrael. Also note that the  
60 independent singular personal pronoun (אני) can refer to all of Yisrael, see  
*Parashat Balak* and *Bamidbar / Numbers 22:12*. When the singular is used in  
texts where God is addressing Yisrael, the singular form of the pronoun also  
places some emphasis upon the individual highlighting the one-to-one  
relationship we have with God. This emphasis is revealed to us by the use of the  
65 singular “you” in the initial giving of the Shema in *Devarim / Deuteronomy 6:4-9*  
which is later changed to the plural form “you” in the reiteration of the Shema in  
*Devarim / Deuteronomy 11:13*. The duality of the use of the singular pronoun  
that refers to (i) all of Yisrael and (ii) to each individual believer shows us the  
connection of community, family, and individuality that is a characteristic part of  
70 being a member of the body of Messiah (Christ). As you can see below, I circled  
all of the singular pronouns used in *Devarim / Deuteronomy 6:4-9* and the  
reiteration of the Shema in *Devarim / Deuteronomy 11:13* that show the use of the  
second person plural pronoun. The singular to plural shift in the text (6:4-9 →  
*11:13*) indicates that the reiteration of the Shema is to the corporate body of

75 believers in **11:13**. However, in **6:4-9** the use of the singular pronoun shows that the command is also bound up in the one-to-one relationship God has with each believer. These Scriptures show us that we are to have a personal relationship with God; the pronoun is used to represent the corporate nature of God's family.

80

## דברים 6:3-9

3 וּבְדַבְרֵךָ כָּל יְמֵי חַיֶּיךָ וּלְמַעַן יֵאָרְכַן יְמֵיךָ: וּשְׁמַעַת יִשְׂרָאֵל וּשְׁמַרְתָּ לַעֲשׂוֹת אֲשֶׁר יִטֵּב לְךָ וְאֲשֶׁר תִּרְבּוּן מְאֹד כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתֶיךָ לְךָ אֶרֶץ זָבַת חֶלֶב וְדָבָשׁ:

4 שָׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד: וְאַהֲבַת אֶת ה' 5 יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל מְאֹדֶךָ:

6 וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוֶּה הַיּוֹם עֲלֶיךָ לִבְבְּךָ: וְשִׁנְתָם לְבִטְנְךָ וְדִבַּרְתָּ בָם בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ:

7 וּבְלִכְתְּךָ בַדֶּרֶךְ וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ בְּקוֹמְךָ: וּקְשַׁרְתָם לְאוֹת עַל יְדֵיךָ וְהָיוּ לְטָטְפֹת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ: וְכַתַּבְתָּם עַל-מְזוּזֹת בֵּיתְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ:

10 וְהָיָה כִּי-יֵבֵאֲךָ אֱלֹהֵי

## דברים 11:13-16

13 וְהָיָה אִם-שָׁמַעַת תִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶל-מִצְוֹתַי אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוֶּה אֲתֶם הַיּוֹם לַאֲהֲבָה אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם יִלְעָבוּ בְּכָל-לִבְבְּכֶם וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁכֶם: וְנָתַתִּי מִטַּר-אֲרָצְכֶם בְּעֵתוֹ יוֹרֵה וּמִלְקוֹשׁ וְאִסְפֹּת דָּגָנְךָ וְתִירְשֶׁךָ וַיִּצְהַרְךָ: וְנָתַתִּי עֶשֶׂב בְּשָׂדֶךָ לְבְהֵמָתְךָ וְאִכְלָתָ וּשְׂבַעְתָּ: הַשְׁמֵרוּ לָכֶם פְּרִיפְתָה לְבַבְכֶם וּסְרֹתֶם וְעַבְדֹתֶם אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִיתֶם לָהֶם: וְתָלָה אֶת-יְהוָה בְּכֶם וְעָצַר אֶת-

85

The fact that God rewards those who obey Him is a result of the established covenant and relationship that we have with Him in Yeshua, and is an extension of His own gracious work within us. Paul speaks of this when he wrote in **Philippians 2:12-13** to *“Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work within you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”* The Greek word used in **Philippians 2:13** is “energon” from “energos” meaning “at work, active, busy.” The concept of this word is to be “with activity” in the state of being active, that the Father in Heaven is actively doing His work through us. As the Father worked in and through Yeshua (see **John 7:16, 14:10, 12:49-50, and 14:24**) so also the Father is working in and

95

### Devarim / Deuteronomy 6:3-9

6:3 ‘O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. 6:4 ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! 6:5 ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6:6 ‘These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 6:8 ‘You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 6:9 ‘You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (NASB)

### Devarim / Deuteronomy 11:13-16

11:13 ‘It shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul, 11:14 that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil. 11:15 ‘He will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. 11:16 ‘Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them. (NASB)

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through us by the power of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit). Paul is emphasizing the unbroken unity and fellowship of a person who dwells in Yeshua by faith and further emphasizes the one-to-one relationship which is being illustrated in the Hebrew text by the use of the singular personal pronoun.

527

ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΥΣ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΗΣΙΟΥΣ

2:9–22

ὑπήκοος μέχρι θανάτου θανάτου δὲ σταυροῦ. διὸ καὶ ὁ θεὸς αὐ- 9  
 τὸν ὑπερύψωσεν καὶ ἐχαρίσατο αὐτῷ ὄνομα τὸ ὑπὲρ πᾶν ὄνομα.  
 ἵνα ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ πᾶν γόνυ κάμψη ἐπουρανίων καὶ ἐπιγείων 10  
 καὶ καταχθονίων. καὶ πᾶσα γλῶσσα ἐξομολογήσεται ὅτι κύριος Ἰ- 11  
 ησοῦς Χριστὸς εἰς δόξαν θεοῦ πατρὸς. Ὡστε ἀγαπητοὶ μου καθὼς 12  
πάντοτε ὑπηκούσατε μὴ ὡς ἐν τῇ παρουσίᾳ μου μόνον ἀλλὰ νῦν  
πολλῷ μᾶλλον ἐν τῇ ἀπουσίᾳ μου μετὰ φόβου καὶ τρόμου τὴν ἑαυ-  
τῶν σωτηρίαν κατεργάζεσθε. ὁ θεὸς γὰρ ἐστὶν ἐνεργῶν ἐν ὑμῖν καὶ 13  
τὸ θέλειν καὶ τὸ ἐνεργεῖν ὑπὲρ τῆς εὐδοκίας. πάντα ποιεῖτε χωρὶς 14  
 γογγυσμῶν καὶ διαλογισμῶν. ἵνα γένησθε ἀμεμπτοὶ καὶ ἀκέραιοι 15  
 τέκνα θεοῦ ἀμώμητα ἐν μέσῳ γενεᾶς σκολιᾶς καὶ διεστραμμένης  
 ἐν οἷς φαίνεσθε ὡς φωστῆρες ἐν κόσμῳ. λόγον ζωῆς ἐπέχοντες εἰς 16  
 καύχημα ἔμοι εἰς ἡμέραν Χριστοῦ ὅτι οὐκ εἰς κενὸν ἔδραμον οὐδὲ  
 εἰς κενὸν ἐκοπίασα. ἀλλ' εἰ καὶ σπένδομαι ἐπὶ τῇ θυσίᾳ καὶ λει- 17  
 τουργία τῆς πίστεως ὑμῶν χαίρω καὶ συγχαίρω πᾶσιν ὑμῖν, τὸ ὅ 18  
 αὐτὸ καὶ ὑμεῖς χαίρετε καὶ συγχαίρετέ μοι. Ἐλπίζω δὲ ἐν κυρίῳ 19

**Philipians 2:12-13**

So that, my beloved, as at all times you obeyed, not as at my arrival only, but now much rather in my absence, with fear and trembling your own deliverance work out. For God is the one operating in you both to want and to operate for the good-pleasure. (Literal Translation).

If God is actively operating / working within us can we really take the credit for the blessings which God has brought upon us? *Romans 11:36 "For from Him and through Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."*

105

In the Scriptures for this week we are reminded that the covenant God made with Yisrael and with us today is a two sided covenant. A covenant in which Yisrael was required to obey in order to be blessed and was also promised punishment for their disobedience. In the face of Yisrael's blunt disobedience, idolatry, and desire to be like the nations, God blesses Yisrael with His presence and His Word demonstrating (testifying) in the end His sovereign grace. The reiteration of the deliverance story (*Devarim / Deuteronomy 9:1-27*) reveals to us that God is very merciful because He ultimately was not limited to Yisrael alone. The conversation God had with Moshe about starting new by making a nation out of him illustrates that He could have wiped out all of Yisrael. The point is that God made a promise and a covenant with Yisrael and He will always keep His Word.

110

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The scripture in *Devarim / Deuteronomy 10:12-17*, shown below, further illustrates the kind of heart we must have. *Devarim / Deuteronomy 11:18 'You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 11:19 'You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up. 11:20 'You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, (NASB)* Again we see here the alternating use of the singular

125

pronoun verses the plural form which illustrates the corporate dialog to the children of Yisrael while at the same time directing the individual to be speaking of the scriptures at all times. Speak of how God is working in your life in your house, when you are raising up and lying down, write the Scriptures on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

130

## דברים 10:12-17

18 לְכֶם: וְשִׂמְתֶם אֶת־דְּבָרֵי אֱלֹהִים עַל־לִבְכֶם וְעַל־נַפְשְׁכֶם וְקִשְׂרֹתֶם אֹתָם לְאוֹת עַל־יְדֵיכֶם וְהָיוּ לְטוֹשֵׁפֹת בֵּין עֵינֵיכֶם: וְלִמַּדְתֶּם אֹתָם אֶת־בְּנֵיכֶם לְדַבֵּר בָּם בְּשִׁבְתְּךָ בְּבֵיתְךָ וּבְלִכְתְּךָ בַדֶּרֶךְ וּבְשֹׁכְבְךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ: וְכַתְּבֶתֶם עַל־מְזוּזוֹת בֵּיתְךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ: לְמַעַן יִרְכּוּ יְמֵיכֶם וְיָמֵי בְנֵיכֶם עַל־הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע יְהוָה לְאַבְתֵּיכֶם לֵאמֹר לְהֵם בְּיָמֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם עַל־הָאָרֶץ: כִּי אִם־שָׁמַר תִּשְׁמְרוּן אֶת־כָּל־הַמִּצְוָה הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מִצְוֶה אֹתְכֶם לַעֲשׂוֹתָהּ לְאַהֲבָהּ אֶת־יהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם לָלֶכֶת בְּכָל־דַּרְכָיו וּלְדַבְּקָה־בּוֹ: וְהוֹרִישׁ יְהוָה אֶת־כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם הָאֵלֶּה מִלְּפָנֵיכֶם וְיִרְשׁתֶם גּוֹיִם גְּדֹלִים וְעֲצֻמִּים מִכֶּם: כָּל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר תִּדְרֹךְ בְּהִירְגָלְכֶם בּוֹ לְכֶם יְהִי מִן־הַמִּדְבָּר וְהַלְּבָנוֹן מִן־הַנְּהַר נְהַר־פְּרָת וְעַד הַיָּם הָאֲחֵרוֹן יְהִי נֶגְבְּכֶם: לֹא־יִתְיַצֵּב אִישׁ בְּפָנֵיכֶם פְּחָדְכֶם וּמוֹרָאֲכֶם יִתֵּן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם עַל־פְּנֵי כָל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר תִּדְרֹכְיֶהּ כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר לְכֶם:

135

The Scriptures this week are so very important for us because we are reminded that we should not be arrogant about our righteousness. Surely God's blessings come as we obey Him, but our obedience is ultimately the result of His work within us. Are you willing to allow God to work within you to produce much fruit? We are also reminded that our position is that of being "Forgiven" in Yeshua the Messiah. This position is purely the result of God's mercy and grace and not something we have earned. When Yisrael had finally possessed the Promised Land, they knew that it was entirely by God's blessing and power, so we also know that our standing in Yeshua is today entirely by the power of God in Yeshua, and not of our own strength. Having this understanding, let's not forget to remember these scripture verses:

140

145

### *Devarim / Deuteronomy 11:18-21*

*11:18 'You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they*

150

### **Devarim / Deuteronomy 11:18-25**

11:18 'You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 11:19 'You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up. 11:20 'You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 11:21 so that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied on the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens remain above the earth. 11:22 'For if you are careful to keep all this commandment which I am commanding you to do, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and hold fast to Him, 11:23 then the Lord will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and mightier than you. 11:24 'Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours; your border will be from the wilderness to Lebanon, and from the river, the river Euphrates, as far as the western sea. 11:25 'No man will be able to stand before you; the Lord your God will lay the dread of you and the fear of you on all the land on which you set foot, as He has spoken to you. (NASB)

5

155

*shall be as frontals on your forehead. 11:19 'You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up. 11:20 'You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 11:21 so that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied on the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens remain above the earth. (NASB)*

160

As a child of the Most High God, let us have a life of worship and praise to the one who so graciously works within us to accomplish His purposes. Speak of Him during the day and during the night, when you raise and when you lay down to sleep. Be public about your faith; write the scriptures upon your door posts and on your gates. Don't be ashamed to tell others that there is One God and one mediatory between God and mankind, the man and Messiah, Yeshua. Say this short prayer with me: *"Heavenly Father, help me to be bold by proclaiming in both word and deed the good news of the Gospel of Yeshua. In Yeshua's name I pray. Amen!"*

170

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190

**Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!**

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195

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:  
Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,  
"Yeshua" King Messiah forever and ever