

## Parashat Re'eh / פרשת ראה

Shabbat Av 27, 5767, August 11, 2007  
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### **This Weeks Reading List:**

Torah: Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:11-55:5

B'rit HaChadashah: John 7:37-52 1 John 4:1-6

### ***Deuteronomy 11:26-12:3***

*11:26 "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse - 11:27 the blessing, if you listen to the mitzvot of ADONAI your God that I am giving you today; 11:28 and the curse, if you don't listen to the mitzvot of ADONAI your God, but turn aside from the way I am ordering you today and follow other gods that you have not known. 11:29 "When ADONAI your God brings you into the land you are entering in order to take possession of it, you are to put the blessing on Mount G'rizim and the curse on Mount 'Eival. 11:30 Both are west of the Yarden, in the direction of the sunset, in the land of the Kena'ani living in the 'Aravah, across from Gilgal, near the pistachio trees of Moreh. 11:31 For you are to cross the Yarden to enter and take possession of the land ADONAI your God is giving you; you ! are to own it and live in it. 11:32 And you are to take care to follow all the laws and rulings I am setting before you today. 12:1 Here are the laws and rulings you are to observe and obey in the land ADONAI, the God of your ancestors, has given you to possess as long as you live on earth. 12:2 You must destroy all the places where the nations you are dispossessing served their gods, whether on high mountains, on hills, or under some leafy tree. 12:3 Break down their altars, smash their standing-stones to pieces, burn up their sacred poles completely and cut down the carved images of their gods. Exterminate their name from that place.*

Reading through sefer Devarim (book of Deuteronomy) we find that it is divided into two main sections. The two distinct sections are (i) "ha'Mitzva" – commands, chapters 6 thru 11; here we find repeated reminders (tocheichot) regarding the proper attitude we should have towards God (ahavat Hashem, see Deut. 6:5, 10:12, and 11:22). (ii) Chukim u'mishpatim" – statutes and judgments, chapters 12 thru 26; contains more detailed and specific laws which Bnei Yisrael (children of Israel) must follow while establishing the nation in the Promised Land.

This week's Parashat Re'eh we are entering into the second distinct section of sefer Devarim. The interesting part about this parsha is that we can see how God wants Beni Yisrael to transform the land they are entering into a place where God's name is recognized. We can see this by summarizing this parsha and looking at the first verse starting at Deuteronomy 12:1 which says: "*ele hakhukim vehamishpatim asher tishmerun laasot baarets asher natan adonai elohei avoteikha lekha lerishta kol-hayamim asher-atem khayim al-haadama:*" (Here are the laws and rulings you are to observe and obey

*in the land ADONAI, the God of your ancestors, has given you to possess as long as you live on earth.)*

נָתַן לְפָנֵיכֶם הַיּוֹם: אֱלֹהֵי הַחֻקִּים וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמְרוּן יִבְרַךְ  
לְעֲשׂוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נָתַן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתֵיךָ לָךְ לְרִשְׁתָּהּ  
כָּל-הַיּוֹמִים אֲשֶׁר-אַתֶּם חַיִּים עַל-הָאָרֶץ: אַבְרָם תִּאֲבָרוּן <sup>2</sup>

Summarizing the parsha shows God's strategic plan to transform the land and then establish his name forever.

### **Chukim u'mishpatim Summary**

- This parsha gives a blessing and a curse (Deut. 11:26)
- You must totally destroy all of the wicked nations and their places of worship “avoda zara” (idol worship) upon the hills and mountains ... totally eradicating their name from the land. (Deut. 12:1-3)
- Do not worship God in the way the nations worship. (Note it is inferred the nations worship in multiple places where God is going to establish his name in one place.) (Deut. 12:4-6)
- Rather, worship God at the place he chooses, the place where his name will live forever. (Deut. 12:5-6)
- Bring all of your offerings and tithes, and eat in the presence of the Lord. (Deut.12:7, 12:18)
- Repeatedly talks about how we are to eat in the presence of the Lord; doing so will help us to learn to fear the name of the Lord (Deut. 14:22-23).
- Talks about blood, not to drink the blood, and that the blood is for the altar of God (Deut. 12:16, 12:23, 12:27, and 15:23). These are obviously the same korbanot (sacrifices) described in Sefer Vayikra (book of Leviticus), which relate specifically to the Mishkan/Mikdash (tabernacle).
- Gives kosher laws on what animals are clean to eat as meat (i.e. deer, fish, etc) (Deut. 14:4-21)
- Sh'mittah – the seven year release of debt is discussed. (Deut. 15:1)
- Command to observe the Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot. (Deut. 16:15-17)

From this simple outline clearly God is working to make us an “Am Kadosh” holy people. Repeatedly we see God saying we are to take and eat in his presence which is a sort of fellowship with God. For example, the Jewish dinner table is far from just being a place to eat, rather, the dinner table was an opportunity for family fellowship, praise, worship, and instruction in the Word of God. With the family reclining at table, the father led in prayer, in the singing of songs, and in the instruction of the Torah. In other words, mealtime was a time of “doctrine, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayers”! When God calls us to eat in his presence in the Torah, he is demonstrating that we were created to have fellowship with Him (God). And in the B'rit Ha'Chadashah we find commentary from the apostle John that speaks similarly of our fellowship with God and His desire to have fellowship with us.

### ***1 John 1:1-5***

*1:1 The Word, which gives life! He existed from the beginning. We have heard him, we have seen him with our eyes, we have contemplated him, we have touched him with our hands! 1:2 The life appeared, and we have seen it. We are testifying to it and announcing it to you - eternal life! He was with the Father, and he appeared to us. 1:3 What we have*

*seen and heard, we are proclaiming to you; so that you too may have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Yeshua the Messiah. 1:4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him - none! (CJB)*

Having fellowship is to have a friendship and togetherness with others. In order for us to have fellowship with God, our lives need to be cleaned up in a similar manner in which God commanded Bnei Yisrael to clean up the Promised Land. It is only then we can have a close and intimate relationship with our creator, the Most High God.

Today, when we believe upon God's messiah, we gain help from the Ruach Hakodesh (Holy Spirit) to shape our character as God's special people, God makes us a nation of kings and priests for the explicit purpose of (i) so we can have fellowship with Him, and (ii) so we can be a light to the nations so Hashem's name will be glorified.

In conclusion, in light of our understanding of the framework of this parsha, Bnei Yisrael is about to enter into the Promised Land in order to become God's special nation. God desires the land to be transformed by the commandment to eliminate the names of the other gods and the establishment of His name which will become a light unto the nations. Here I believe we find a Remez hinting towards the work that is to be done in our own lives. By faith in God's Messiah Yeshua we become the children of God. Regardless of your social status, gender or ethnic group; God is calling all people to himself, in fulfillment of His promise to Avraham avinu (see Parashat Lech-Lecha).

**Genesis 12:3**

*12:3 vaavarkha mevarakheikha umekaleikha aor venivrekhu vekha kol mishpekhot haadama:*

*12:3 I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse anyone who curses you; and by you all the families of the earth will be blessed." (CJB)*

Consequently all peoples can have a deeper relationship and fellowship with Abba Father in Heaven if they will place their faith and trust in God's promised Messiah Yeshua. Isn't it a time for great celebration and joy? Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi, Yeshua, King, and Messiah forever and ever! Amen!

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**הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:**

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,  
"Yeshua" King Messiah for ever and ever