

B'chukotai

בְּחֻקֹּתַי

“in My Statutes”

Pray First

Father God,
We Praise You because You are
Righteous and Just. Teach us to
seek Your will and Your purposes
and help us not to seek our will.
Father, teach us to be obedient to
Your commands and to submit to the
truth of Your Word.

In Yeshua's name we pray,
Amen

Read next: Leviticus 26:3 – 27:34

Leviticus 26:3-27:34

This is the last Parasha for the book of Leviticus! The title for this Parasha, B'chukotai, means “in My statutes.” In this teaching God states the many blessings that would occur for the children of Yisra'el (Israel) if they obeyed His Word and followed the instructions that He gave them. God also instructs the Children of Yisra'el on the curses that would happen if they did not obey His Word and did not follow His commands. We will learn that these curses were not to punish the Children of Yisra'el. God's heart was for them to repent and to turn their hearts back to Him so that He could be with them. The blessings and the curses are not just for the people, but they are also for the land. We end the book of Leviticus learning that Yisra'el's (Israel) response and our own

responses to God's commands have consequences. We serve a just and loving God. He loves Yisra'el and He loves us and desires for us to obey His commands and walk in His ways.

Focus Passage: Leviticus 26:3 – 46

The Children of Yisra'el (Israel) had been given instructions by God on the priestly code of sacrifice, the priesthood, purity, holiness, and how they should conduct themselves in the land. In Leviticus 26 the Children of Yisra'el are told through Moshe on Mt. Sinai what will happen in the promised land if they are obedient to God's commands and what will happen if they disobey His commands and laws. Their decision will not just affect them personally but it will affect the nation of Yisra'el as a whole. The land will be fruitful when there is obedience and barren when there is no obedience. Obedience is the heart of this lesson and the spiritual principles still apply to us. Obedience to the Word of God is the mark of a true disciple and will bring blessings. The children of Yisra'el had been freed from the bondage of Egypt and that freedom gave them the freedom to obey God. God told them that if they walked in His statutes (a written law) and kept His commands that He would give the land the blessing of rain and the land would yield produce and the trees would produce fruit.

“If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,”
- Leviticus 26:3 NKJV

In Leviticus 26:5, God told the Children of Israel that they would have an abundance in their food supply and dwell safely in their land. Obedience to God's law, keeping His Sabbaths, and placing priority on

"I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright."

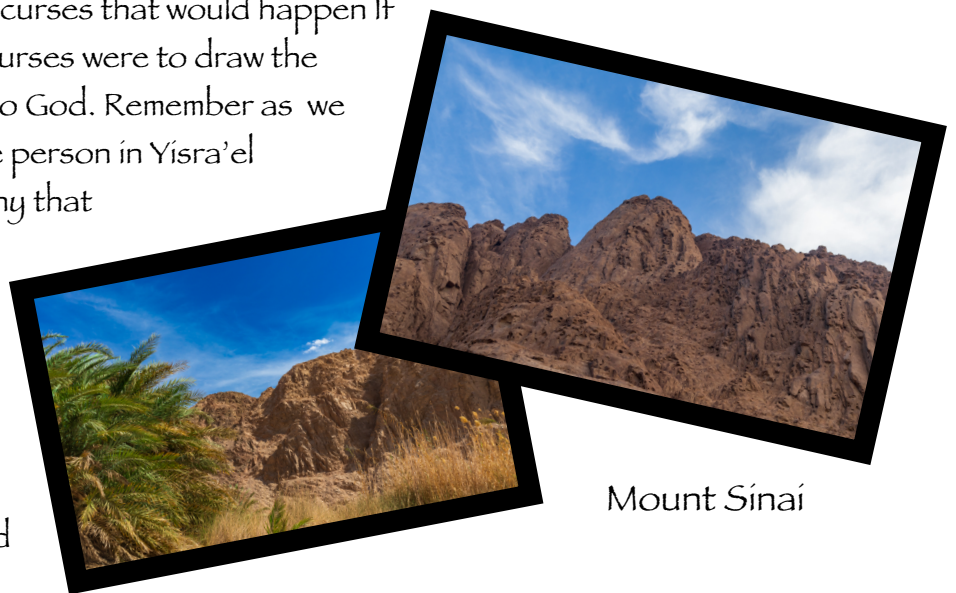
Leviticus 26:12-13 NKJV

worship produces safety. God tells them He will give them peace in the land and no one will make them afraid. This peace that God is describing is referred to as Shalom (שָׁלוֹם). This word means peace but it represents the deepest level of peace. Nothing can disturb this peace. God promised to rid the land of evil beasts and that the sword would not go through the land. God would give the children of Yisra'el a supernatural anointing and their enemies will fall.

Leviticus 26:9 states that God will have favor upon Yisra'el for their obedience and multiply them. This was part of the covenant promise that God gave to Avraham (Abraham) when He told him that he would be the father of a great nation and that his descendants would be a great multitude.

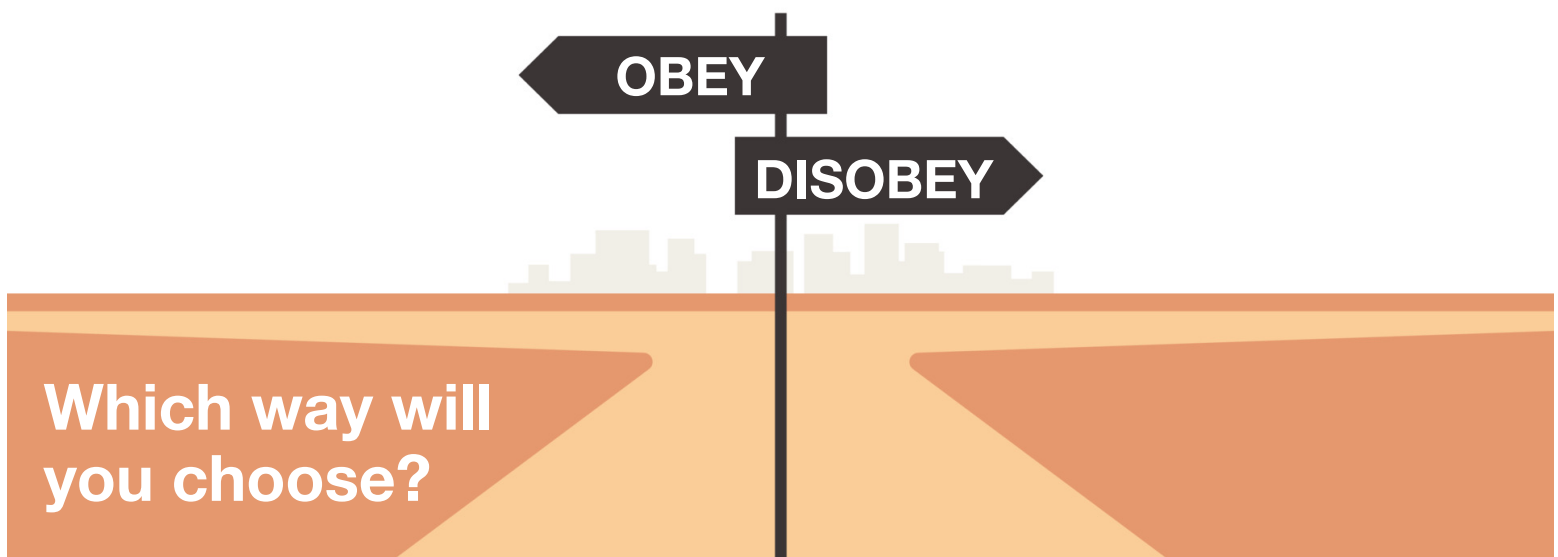
In Leviticus 26:11-12 God says that He will set His Tabernacle among them, and He will walk among them and He will be their God and they shall be His people. Obedience to God brings God's Presence into our lives and this is what the children of Yisra'el would experience. There is nothing that this world can offer us that compares to the Presence of God in our lives. God told the Children of Yisra'el that when they would submit their will to Him, and live obediently to His Word, the benefits of serving Him would exceed anything that they could desire.

The next half of Leviticus 26 lists the curses that would happen if they chose to disobey God. These curses were to draw the heart of the people of Yisra'el back to God. Remember as we study these that this was not just one person in Yisra'el disobeying; it was the actions of many that would cause the entire nation to turn its back on God. There are spiritual truths that apply to us today in this passage of Scripture. In Leviticus 26:14-16 it says, "But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your



Mount Sinai

soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform My commandments but break My covenant, I will also do this to you.” God commanded the children of Yisra’el to obey but if they chose not to obey there would be consequences. A Biblical covenant always contains commandments, expectations, or obligations. God is always faithful but the nation of Yisra’el is being warned that if they violated His laws God would respond in an adverse way. The first set of curses were sickness, crop failure and warfare. This should have been enough to turn the heart of Yisra’el back to God, But if it was not enough, God said He would strike a second curse of drought and destruction. God would punish them 7 times more if they would not obey Him. Leviticus 26:19 says that God would “break the pride of your power.” There would be no blessings from heaven and no harvest. If the Yisra’elites still would not repent and continued to act with hostility against God, He would increase the plagues on them 7 more times



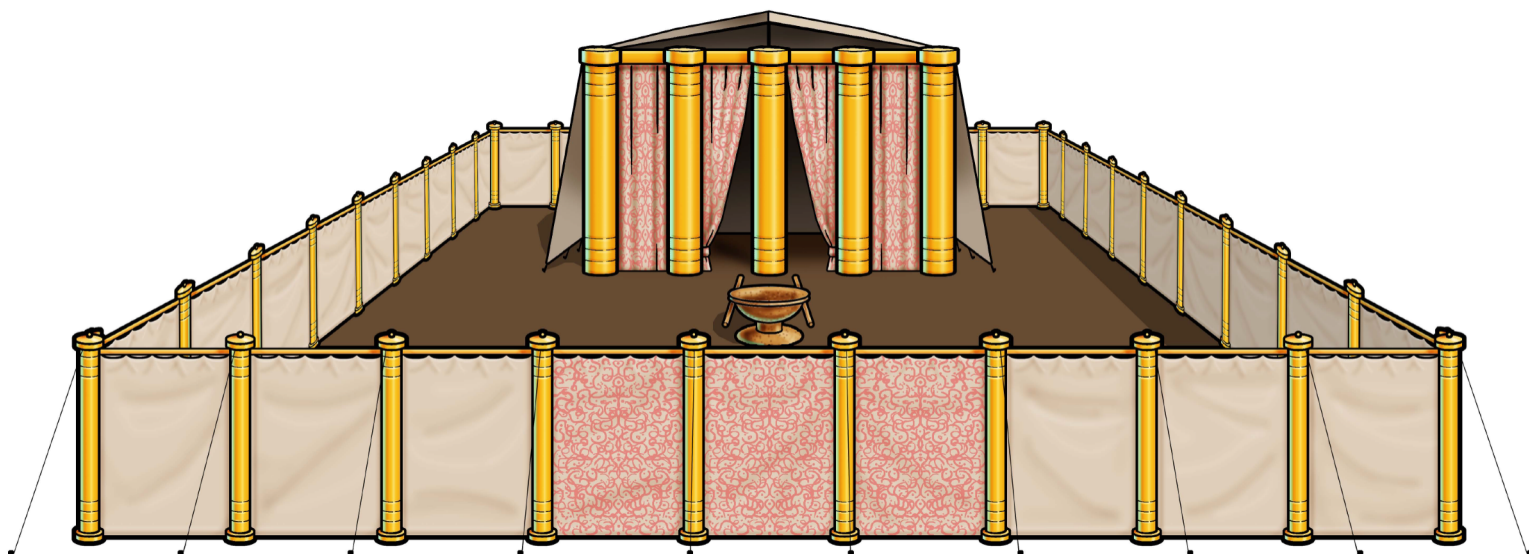
according to their sins. This is the third curse and it involved wild beasts. These were all difficult things that could happen to Yisra’el and we should be reminded that difficult things happen to us when we choose to disobey. Recognize that God loves us enough to discipline us and stop us from going our own way. Yisra’el would determine what would happen to them based on how they responded to God and to His Word.

One of God’s judgements for disobedience would be a siege of the land of Yisra’el by their enemies. A siege refers to a massive invasion where the people in the rural areas retreat to the safety of the walled cities. If the people of Yisra’el still did not repent they would bring on the fifth set of curses which included starvation and desolation (Leviticus 26:27-29). God would break the supply chain for their food. It would take 10 women baking bread in one oven. This would be an extremely long process and when they finally ate, and Leviticus 26:6 says they would eat and not be satisfied. If you want to be satisfied then you must be committed to the purposes of God. The Yisra’elites needed to recommit themselves to the purposes of God for true satisfaction to come. Once again the Yisra’elites could decide not to repent and turn back to God. If they made that choice the curses would continue to

escalate. We are learning that there are serious consequences to disobeying God and God says again that He will punish them seven times more for their sins if they refuse to repent and obey Him.

Leviticus 26:30 says that God will destroy their high places which had been used for idolatry. When we engage in idolatry it will kill whatever is good. God told them that their cities will be laid to waste due to this idolatry. A sixth curse would happen if they continued to walk in disobedience. They would go into exile. The land of milk and honey would fall into desolation. God was sending this message to the children of Yisra'el, He does not tolerate sin. God is merciful though and loves His children, so we read in Leviticus 26:40-42 that if they confessed their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to God, humbled their hearts and accepted their guilt, then God would remember His covenant that He made with Avraham (Abraham), Yit'chak (Issac), and Ya'akov (Jacob).

This is our loving Father's nature. He will always remember His covenant with His people. God will return His people to their nation and He will redeem His nation. Leviticus 26 is a sober reading, but the same God that warned Yisra'el of the curses He would send if they did not obey His commands and walk in His ways also promised blessings and redemption. These curses are true and each one of them have significance for the children of Yisra'el and for us. The blessings and the promises of God are also true and we as believers in Messiah Yeshua should seek to obey the commands of God daily. We should daily examine our lives in light of the commands of God and seek to live for the purposes of God.



Word Search

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 judgements
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LORD
 obey
 peace
 rain
 sabbath
 slaves
 statutes
 strength
 sword
 yoke

New Testament - A Deeper Dive

Pray First

Father God,

We praise You because You are a loving Father. You tell us that when we become followers of You that we are Your children. Father, show us how to set boundaries in our lives based upon Your teachings, so that we may be a people set apart for You.

In Yeshua's name we pray,
Amen

Read next: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

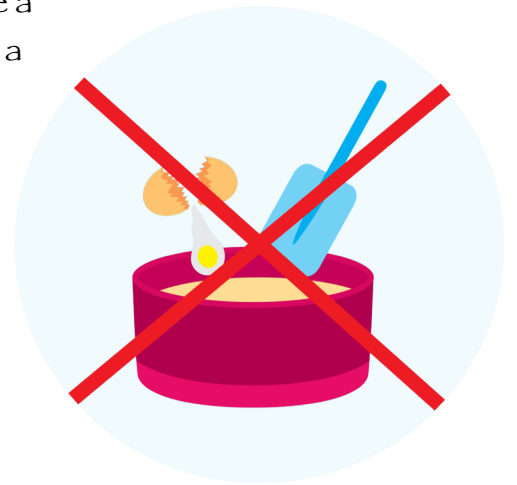
2 Corinthians 6:14 - 18

Faith in Messiah Yeshua has serious implications on the decisions we make. We want to make decisions that reflect God. Our Torah portion teaches that the faith of the Israelites had those same implications. Paul is teaching the Corinthians some boundaries that they can set so that they can be a people who reflect God.

In this New Testament passage, Paul is writing to both Jew and Gentile believers in the church at Corinth to tell them that they are to have the mind of Messiah. Paul is explaining that we need the perspective of Messiah so that we can make proper decisions. Messiah's perspective will guide us and it can restrict us. These restrictions are good, and they bring joy into our lives and protect us from the attacks of the enemy. Corinth was a most ungodly place at that time and believers of Messiah Yeshua were learning how to live and behave in the new life that belief in Messiah had given them.

They were learning how to have the perspective of God. They were a new creation and they had been given a new nature. We are all given a new nature when we accept the gift of salvation that Messiah Yeshua offers us.

We start our New Testament reading with Paul teaching the new believer the implications of their new life with Messiah. Paul instructs them not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers. This is a command. The application that you can make to this command is not to marry someone who is not a believer in Messiah Yeshua. You can also apply this to business. Do not go into business with a non-believer. Marriage and sharing a business with someone are partnerships, and what fellowship does light have with darkness? These are boundaries that we need to keep. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 6:14, "For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?" Righteousness is a Kingdom word and remember that the law defines righteousness. Paul told them and us that you are either moving in righteousness or moving in lawlessness. 2 Corinthians 6:15 says, "and what accord has Christ with Belial?" Belial is a term that means something is completely evil. We want no association with evil.



Do Not Be Unequally Yoked!

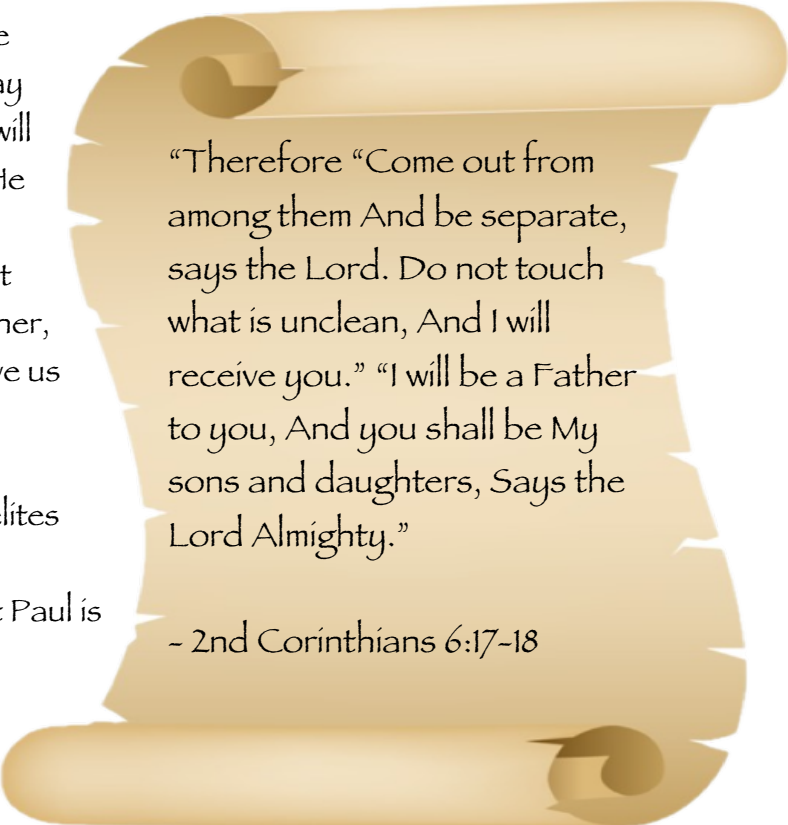
Paul goes on to ask “What agreement has the temple of God with idols?” Idolatry is all about that person exalting themselves and getting what they want. As believers in Messiah we should be committed to the purposes of God. Men and women who are not followers of Messiah Yeshua are not committed to the purposes of God. Commitment to God’s purposes is the outcome of redemption. Paul tells us that we are the temple of the Living God and he quotes a verse from our Torah reading this week, Leviticus 26:12. It says, “I will dwell in them and walk among them, I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” This verse also applies to believers in Messiah Yeshua today. Because of redemption we become heirs to the Kingdom of God. We will dwell with Him and we shall be His people. We are to come out of this world by not being connected to this world. This is what Paul is teaching the Corinthians. We are to be a people who set boundaries and these boundaries are based upon God’s teaching and based upon the commandments in the Torah.

There are people today who believe that the law God gave us is no longer relevant. This is simply not true. Yeshua’s instructions to the believer are based upon the Torah. The law still has relevance. We can apply the spirit of the law to our lives. When we walk by the Spirit we will fulfill the righteousness of the law. Quoting from Isaiah, Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 6:17, “Come out from among them and be separate, Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” God is instructing us not to touch what is unclean and to set boundaries while in the world.

We see again that we have choices and when we choose something unclean, we are pushing away God’s blessings. God says in verse 18 that He will be our Father when we choose to follow Him. He will be our God and we will be His sons and daughters. This is a picture of a family, and just as we want to obey our earthly mother and father, we want to obey our Heavenly Father Who gave us life.

This Torah teaching taught us that the Yisra’elites were told that if they obeyed they would be protected, safe, and provided for. This is what Paul is showing the believers in Corinth and believers today. Paul taught the Corinthians that their own decisions to do things against God’s Word restricted them. The Israelites in our Torah portion were told the same thing.

They knew what would happen if they disobeyed God. Messiah Yeshua is moved with compassion for us and desires for us to be with Him. He shows us again and again that the decisions we make will affect us.



“Therefore “Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty.”

- 2nd Corinthians 6:17-18

B'chukotai ~ Quiz

1. What does "B'chukotai" mean?

בְּחֻקֹּתַי

2. What does "Leviticus" (Vayikra) mean?

3. Where would God walk if they obeyed His commands?

4. God said He would punish the sins of the people seven times.
What does the number seven represent?

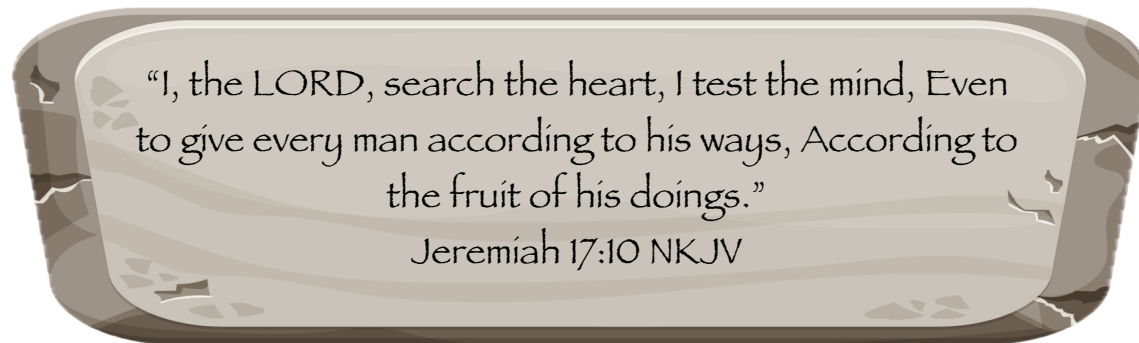
5. Where did God give the statutes and judgments and laws to the
Children of Israel?

6. Leviticus 26:26 says that "ten women shall bake their bread in one
oven." What does the number ten represent?

Jeremiah 16:19 – 17:14

Jeremiah (Yirmeyahu) was a man called by God to speak words of truth to the people of Israel (Yisra'el) concerning God's judgement that was to fall on them. Before we begin our study of our Haftarah let's look back at Jeremiah 16:10-13. In these verses Jeremiah is explaining His judgement to the children of Israel. God told Jeremiah to tell the people that His judgement was coming because they sought out other gods, served them, and worshipped them. They had forsaken God and not kept His law. Our Torah portion this week taught us about the blessings God sends when we obey Him and the consequences He sends when we choose not to. Leviticus 26 gives us a better understanding of the consequences Israel is facing for disobeying God repeatedly.

In Jeremiah 16:14, God told the Children of Israel that He would restore them back to the land after a time of captivity in Babylon. God is a covenant keeper. God said in Leviticus 26:42, "I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and my covenant with Issac, and my covenant with Abraham." He told the children of Israel that He would bring them back into the land that He gave to their fathers. God will not break His covenant with Israel, but there were consequences for their sin, because God is just.



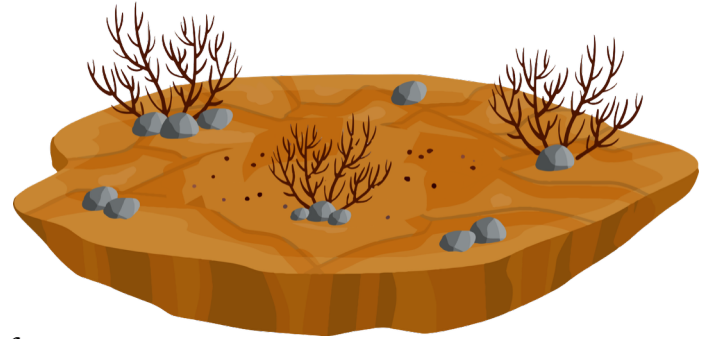
Our Haftarah begins when Jeremiah called out, "O LORD my strength and my fortress, my refuge in the day of affliction." Jeremiah recognized that only the LORD could save them. He recognized that their fathers inherited lies from following false gods. In Jeremiah 16:21 God said, "I will cause them to know My hand and My might; and they shall know that My name is the LORD." The Children of Israel knew the commandments of God and knew that there are blessings for obeying God's commands, and consequences for not obeying. We also face the consequences for our actions. It is wise for us to remember what the LORD is teaching through this Torah and Haftarah teaching. Our actions have consequences. Jeremiah 17:1 says "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with the point of a diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their hearts and on the horns of their altars." This description shows the depth of the sin in their hearts.

The people of Israel would use God's altars for idol sacrifices, which according to God's Word meant death: both physical and spiritual death.

In Jeremiah 17:5-6, God told the people, “cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength. Whose heart departs from the LORD. The person who puts their trust in man will be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when good comes.” And

in Jeremiah 17:7 the LORD says, “Blessed is the man who puts their trust in the LORD and whose hope is in the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters.” God showed the Israelites, and us, the results of what happens when you trust in man verses trusting in Him. If you trust in man, you will be a dry plant dying in the desert but if you put your trust in the LORD, you will be like a tree that is planted by the waters, drawing substance from the waters and bearing fruit.

Jeremiah 17:9 says that “the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” The LORD searches the hearts of man, and He tests the mind. He gives to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings. God is the final judge and by Him all our actions are weighed.



We close our Haftarah with Jeremiah’s reminder to the people that all who forsake the LORD, the hope of Israel, shall be ashamed, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters. Jeremiah told the people not to take God’s grace for granted or reject it. The judgement they experienced was to turn their hearts back to the LORD so they would stop worshiping false idols. They would know God is The One and Only True GOD. There is no other. We are no different than the people of Israel, we still have many idols today that we falsely worship. This is why it is so

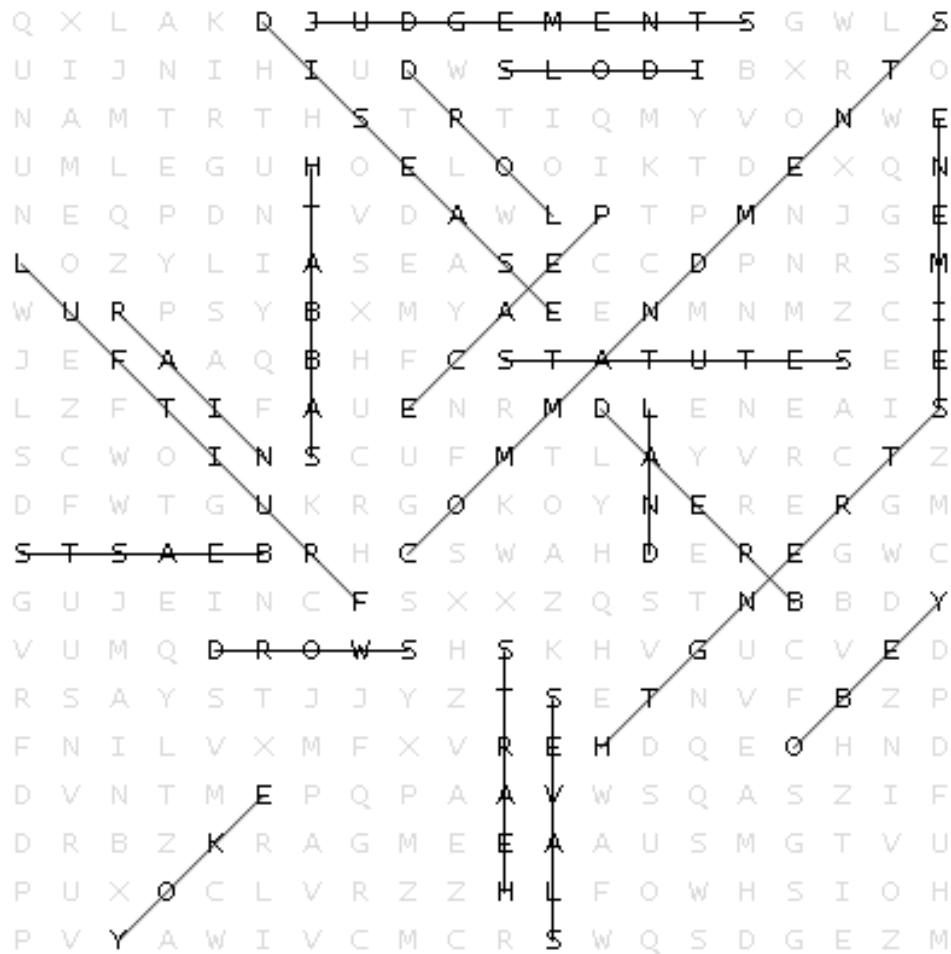
important to seek to obey God’s commandments, spend time with Him in prayer and to study the Scriptures. Only God knows the depths of the evil in our hearts. We too can look to man and not to God.

When we do we will wither and die. But when we choose to look to God and place our trust in Him, we will flourish like a tree planted besides the waters. God is our only hope and we can trust in His faithfulness to deliver us. This is what Jeremiah pleaded with the Children of Israel to do.



God’s amazing grace is endless and so is His love. Just as God keeps His covenant with Israel, He will keep His covenant with us when we repent and believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Yeshua, Who redeemed us from our sins.

Activity Answers



Quiz Answers:

1. B'chukotai means "in My statutes."
2. The name of the book of Leviticus, Vayikra, means "HE called", from Leviticus 1:1, "God called to Moses..."
3. God would walk among them.
4. the purposes of God/ Holiness
5. Mt. Sinai
6. completion