

Ekev

עֵקֵב

“Reward”

First Pray

Father God,

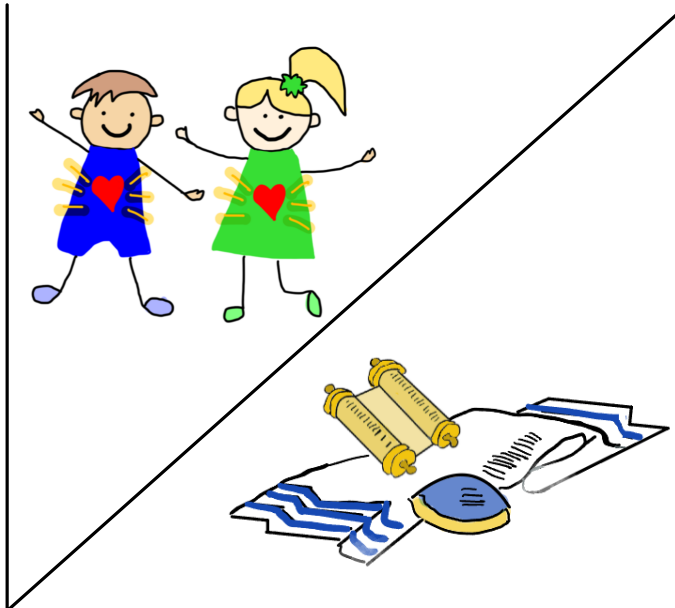
We are thankful that You are a God whose greatest desire is to bless all those who belong to You. Please help us to live in a way that is worthy of Your love.

Help us to know and keep Your commandments in order to show You that we love You and that we are grateful for all that You have done and will do for us.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Next Read

Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25



“And a reward shall come about if you listen to these judgments and you keep them and do them, and the LORD your God shall keep you and the Covenant of Grace which He swore to your forefathers.”

Deuteronomy 7:12

In this week's Parasha Moshe (Moses) spoke to the next generation of the Children of Yisra'el (Israel) concerning God's reward for obedience to His Word. He stressed the importance of keeping all the commandments, statutes and judgments contained in God's Covenant of Grace they had entered into. If they demonstrated their love for God by keeping His commandments they would be rewarded with His blessings.

Moshe warned the Children of Yisra'el not to forget that it is the LORD God Who redeemed them from bondage in Egypt, Who protected and sustained them for forty years in the terrible wilderness and Who would deliver them into the Promised Land of blessings and prosperity - a land that flowed with milk and honey. Forgetting to give thanks to God for all the miraculous works He had done for them would lead them to falsely believe they had accomplished these things by their own power and might. This form of arrogance would only result in their destruction.

Moshe assured the Children of Yisra'el they would defeat all their enemies who were stronger and mightier if they obeyed God and placed their trust in Him. He warned them not to mistakenly believe their victory over the enemy was because of their own righteousness. Their victory would be the result of God's judgment upon evil. It would also fulfill the oath God made to their forefathers: Avraham (Abraham), Yitzchak (Isaac), and Ya'kov (Jacob).



~ Personal Reward for Obedience ~

Deuteronomy 7:12-26

In Deuteronomy 7:12-14 Moshe explained to the Children of Yisra'el why keeping God's commandments, statutes and judgments would result in a reward. The reward for obedience was because God loved them, and His greatest desire was to bless them and multiply them.

He desired to bless their children, their livestock and their crops in the Land of Promise. Because of His love for them, He would bless them more than all other people on the earth! Every family would be blessed with children and all their livestock would reproduce without fail.

In Deuteronomy 7:15 we learn that the LORD God would reward all the Children of Yisra'el who obeyed Him with good health. He would not plague them with any of the terrible diseases they experienced while they were in Egypt. In fact He would plague those who hated them with these diseases instead.

"And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you."

Deuteronomy 7:15

In Deuteronomy 7:16-21 we learn of another personal reward the Children of Yisra'el would receive if they kept their covenant with God by obeying Him. God would protect them and make them victorious over their enemies! God commanded them not to serve the gods of their enemies as this would disqualify them from receiving His reward for obedience. Rather, they were to destroy all the people He would deliver into their hand and have no pity on them.

The Children of Yisra'el were to fearlessly fight those greater and mightier without questioning how they would be able to defeat them. They could be confident of success while at war by remembering what the LORD God did to Pharaoh and to all of Egypt on their behalf. Through great trials with many signs and wonders the LORD freed them by His mighty hand and His outstretched arm, bringing them out of bondage in Egypt. God would use this same power to give them victory. They had nothing to fear because the LORD God, the Great and Awesome God, was among them!

In Deuteronomy 7:22-24 Moshe explained to the people that the LORD would drive out the nations before them little by little as their population grew. God would not give them victory over the entire land at once because the wild beasts of the field would be too numerous for them. However, He would deliver the enemy into their hand and defeat them until they were all destroyed, including their kings whose names would not even be remembered.

In Deuteronomy 7:25-26 Moshe commanded the Children of Yisra'el to burn the carved images of the enemies gods with fire. No matter how attractive they were and no matter how valuable the silver and gold on them they were not to covet them. To have these idols in their possession would be an abomination to the LORD God and would disqualify them from receiving any personal blessings from God.

~ National Reward for Obedience ~

Deuteronomy 11:8-25



It is important to remember that when the first census for war was taken only men aged twenty years and above were counted. All 603,550 men counted in the first census for war had died. Therefore, the oldest men living among the next generation of the Children of Yisra'el were approximately fifty-seven to fifty-nine years old. These men would have been seventeen to nineteen years old when their parents rebelled against God, disobeying His command to enter and conquer the Land of Promise from Kadesh Barnea. These men witnessed all the signs and mighty acts God demonstrated against Pharaoh and the Egyptians. They could recall being delivered from bondage in Egypt by the blood of the lamb. They could remember being saved when God completely destroyed Pharaoh the King of Egypt with his entire army as the waters of the Red Sea crashed around them. They were present to celebrate total victory and experience a new beginning with all their debts paid after the defeat of the enemy. They were fully aware of God's judgment for His redeemed people because they had witnessed how He consumed Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, by opening the mouth of the earth to swallow them and everyone attached to them in rebellion against God. Because God loves us, He disciplines us to direct us back to His blessings through obedience. All those who rebel against God's discipline choose to experience His curse.

The next generation of the Children of Yisra'el had witnessed with their eyes every great act that the LORD God had done. Now, they and their children would be required to obey the commandments of God while living in the land. As a result of their obedience, the land itself would be a blessing to the nation of Yisra'el just as the LORD God had promised.



In Deuteronomy 11:8-9 Moshe explained to the Children of Yisra'el that obedience to their covenantal agreement with God would make them strong, enabling them to take possession of the Promised Land across the Jordan River. Their obedience would also prolong their lives in the land God had set apart for them to possess. The land that the LORD had sworn on an oath to Himself to give to the descendants of Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'kov was a land that flowed with milk and honey.



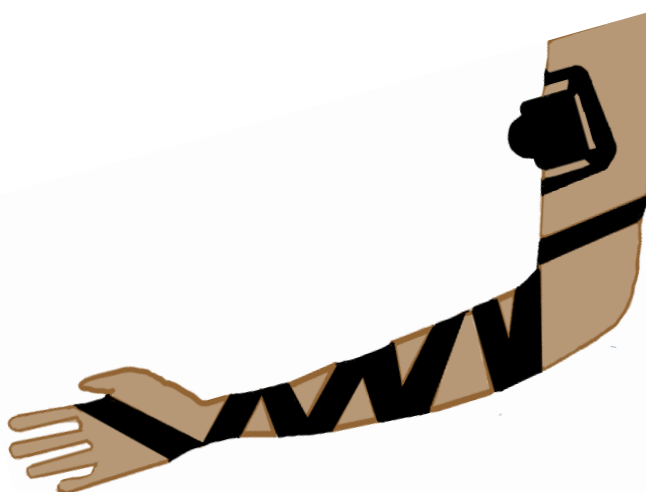
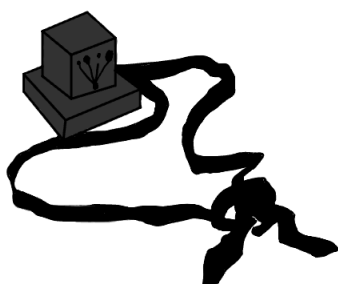
In Deuteronomy 11:10-12 Moshe taught the people more about the uniqueness of the land. It is not like the land of Egypt which required that they water their crops in the fields like a vegetable garden. This land is a land of hills and valleys which drink water from the rain of heaven. The LORD God personally cares for this land! His eyes are always on it from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.



In Deuteronomy 11:13-15 Moshe explained that because the land has been set apart by God for a special purpose, they must be diligent to obey all of God's commandments while in the land. They must be careful to love the LORD God and serve Him with all their heart and with all their soul. When they do this as a nation living in the Land of Promise, God will send the rain for their land in its season. He will send both the early rain and the latter rain so that the land will produce its crops in abundance. They will gather in their grain, new wine and oil, and the grass in their fields will supply food for their livestock when they obediently live in the land. All men and animals will eat and be filled while safely living in the land as a reward from God in response to their obedience to Him.

In Deuteronomy 11:16-18 Moshe warned the people that if they followed after other gods, they would be deceived! This type of behavior would cause them to turn away from obediently worshiping and serving the God of Yisra'el. If they did such a sinful thing as this, the LORD's fierce anger would be aroused against them, and He would seal up the heavens so that there would be no blessing of rain. The land would not yield its produce, and they would quickly perish from the good land that the LORD had given them.

The Children of Yisra'el needed to be very careful to hide the Words of God in their heart and in their souls. They must be diligent to do the Words of the LORD as if they were a sign bound on their hands. They must keep the Words of God in their minds at all times as frontlets between their eyes in order to obey God and receive His rich reward that flows from His love.



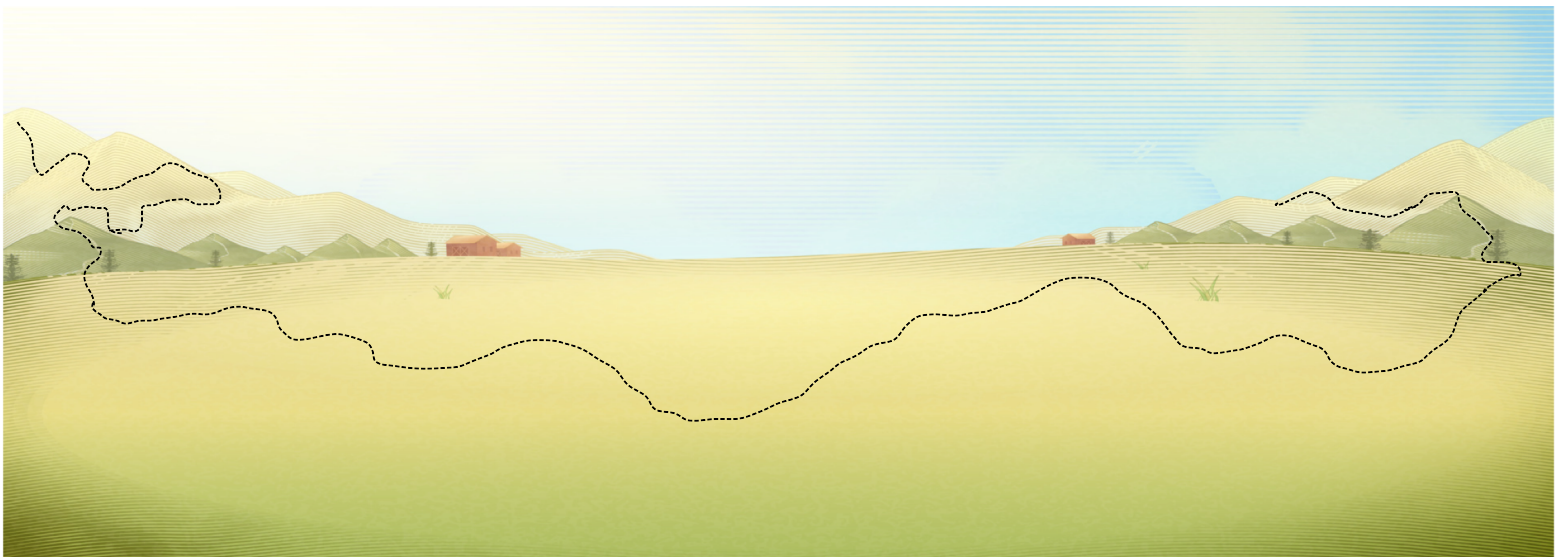
In Deuteronomy 11:19-20 we learn that since obedience to the commandments of God is what He requires to receive His blessings, it is very important that the people teach their children to obey the commandments of God. When we think and talk about God's commandments everyday it is easier to obey them. The commandments of God should be the last thing talked about before going to bed at night and the first thing talked about when waking in the morning. Furthermore, as a testimony to all children they should write them on the doorposts of their houses and upon their gates, signifying that all they have was given to them by the LORD God and will be taken away by Him if they fail to obey His Words.



"Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory."

Deuteronomy 11:24

In Deuteronomy 11:21-25 we learn even more about the rewards God will give to the nation of Yisra'el when they live obediently to His Word in the Land of Promise. Not only will He drive out the nations before them who are greater and mightier than they are, but He will give them every place they walk in. He will give them all the land from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea! He will give all the land that He has set apart for His purposes to the Children of Yisra'el when they live obediently to Him. No man will be able to stand against them. The LORD God of Yisra'el will put the fear and dread of Yisra'el upon all the lands they have walked in just as He has spoken!



~ Torah Test ~

Directions: Match the following phrases to complete the correct statement.

- | | |
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| 1. Keeping the commandments of God will be | A. He loves us. |
| 2. Neglecting to thank God for all He has done | B. our own righteousness. |
| 3. Arrogance leads to | C. God's judgment upon evil. |
| 4. Victory over the enemy is never because of | D. rewarded with His blessings. |
| 5. Our victory over the enemy is the result of | E. destruction. |
| 6. God's reward for obedience is because | F. confident of total victory. |
| 7. Obeying God's Word protects us | G. leads to arrogance. |
| 8. Because we know what God has done for us we can be | H. gives strength and prolongs life. |
| 9. Because God loves us He disciplines us to direct | I. from the enemy, who is the Devil. |
| 10. Anyone who rebels against God's discipline will not experience His blessing, they will | J. us back to His blessings through obedience. |
| 11. Obedience to God while living in the Land of Promise | K. God will give them the land they walked on. |
| 12. When the Children of Yisra'el live obediently in the land | L. experience His curse. |
| 13. When the Children of Yisra'el live disobediently in the land | M. God will send the early and latter rains. |
| 14. When the Children of Yisra'el live obediently in the land | N. they will quickly perish. |

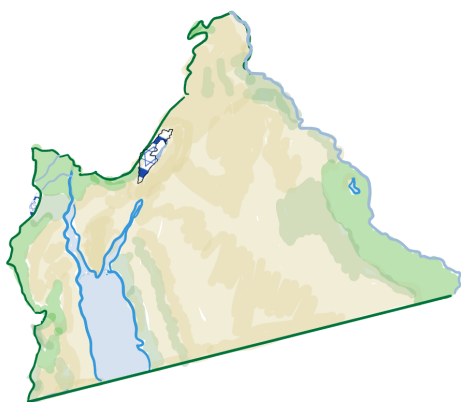
Haftarah

Isaiah 49:14-51:3



At a time when the Children of Yisra'el felt like the LORD God had abandoned them, Isaiah a prophet of God, spoke words of encouragement to them about the future state of Jerusalem (Zion). He explained to the people that although it was very unlikely, it was possible for a woman to forget to feed her baby or not have compassion on her son. However, in contrast it is not possible for the LORD God to forget to nourish His children or have no compassion on His first born son, Yisra'el. God has made a promise; He swore an oath to Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'kov concerning their descendants and the Land of Yisra'el. He has engraved the Children of Yisra'el on the palms of His hands. Their prayers are constantly before Him! For this reason their descendants will experience the restoration of the LORD!

Those living in the days of Isaiah who believed in the promises of God will be restored with the future generation in the Kingdom of God. They will be prepared as a bride to participate in the marriage banquet in heaven. During the days of Isaiah the land would become barren and desolate due to the sin of the people, but a day is coming when there will not be enough room in the current boundaries of the land for all who will return to reside there.



The land will go through a transforming restoration, and those who caused destruction in the land will be cast far away from it. There will be so many descendants of Ya'kov returning to the Land of Promise that the inhabitants will say, "There is no more room!" When God gathers the elect who have been in exile back to the land, the boundaries of the Land of Promise will expand. The LORD will lift His hand to all the nations of the world, proving He was crucified and resurrected for the forgiveness of the sins of the world, and the people will understand the gospel message of His crucifixion and resurrection.

At this time the LORD God will bring an end to the exile from the Land of Promise for all the Children of Yisra'el. Kings will teach the law of God, and queens will nourish the people. All those who have trusted in Messiah Yeshua will not be ashamed.

No one can take prey from a lion nor can the captive of a righteous one escape, but with God all things are possible! God will do these miraculous things for Yisra'el. He will be against everyone who opposes Yisra'el. When God does this last work of reconciliation, He will feed those opposed to His purposes for the land and people of Yisra'el with their own flesh. They will become drunk with their own blood. All humanity will know throughout the entire world that the LORD, Messiah Yeshua, is the Savior and Redeemer of Yisra'el, the Mighty Knight of Ya'kov.

God did not cast the Children of Yisra'el out of the land because He wrote them a certificate of divorce, nor did He cast them out to serve another master as bond servants. God cast them out of the land and into the nations because of their disobedience. But even in exile God is with them and will bring them back into the land.

The LORD God declares that He is an able God Whose power to judge has been witnessed throughout the generations. Why then didn't His people receive Him or answer His call at His first appearance upon the earth? Was it because His hand had been shortened and could no longer redeem them? Or, was it because He had no more power to deliver them? He alone dried up the sea. He alone made the rivers a desert with fish that stunk after they died from thirst.

It is the LORD Who clothes the heavens with blackness and makes sackcloth (repentance) their covering. The LORD God gave Him wisdom to know how to speak. He awakened Him every morning and opened His ear. The LORD was not rebellious, and He did not turn away. He gave His back to those who struck Him, and His cheeks to those who plucked out His beard. He did not hide His face from being shamefully spat upon.

"Who among you fears the LORD?
Who obeys the voice of His Servant?

Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust
in the Name of the LORD and rely upon his God. Look, all
you who kindle a fire, who encircle yourselves with sparks:
walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you
have kindled— This you shall have from My hand:
You shall lie down in torment."

Isaiah 50:10,11

The LORD God was His resurrection; therefore, He will not be disgraced nor ashamed. The LORD God is near to justify the LORD and who can come near Him as an adversary? No one can condemn the LORD! Therefore, whoever fears the LORD God must obey the voice of His Servant. Anyone who does not obey His voice is walking in darkness and has no light. That one must turn to walk in the light by relying upon his God to trust in the Name of the LORD, Messiah Yeshua.

Anyone who does not obey the LORD God by trusting in

Messiah Yeshua as their Redeemer and Savior kindles a fire and encircles themselves with the sparks they have kindled. That one will lie down in eternal torment, having received judgment from the hand of the LORD God Almighty.

All those who pursue righteousness by obeying the LORD God are those who seek the LORD, Messiah Yeshua. Through Him alone can one receive the life-giving water of salvation Who was present from the beginning.

Father Avraham and his wife Sarai's (Sarah) miraculous birth of their son, Yitzchak testifies to the power of God. From their offspring came the nation of Yisra'el! Avraham had faith in the Word of God, making him the recipient of God's promises.

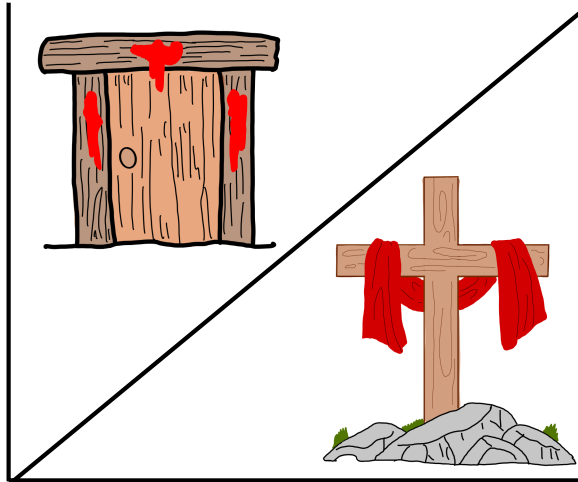
At the LORD Messiah Yeshua's return the promise of the Kingdom of God will be realized through the nation of Yisra'el. God will do the work of comforting His people and healing His land making the desert like a garden. Joy, gladness, thanksgiving and the voice of praise will be heard at that time in the land of Yisra'el.

For the LORD has comforted Zion,
He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her
wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden
of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in it,
thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

Isaiah 51:3

New Testament

Romans 8:31-39



In Paul's letter to the Romans he explained that the law is a witness of God's righteousness. It teaches what is right in His sight and how one should live in order to reflect the righteousness of God. The Children of Yisra'el had been redeemed by God and given a new beginning. They had agreed to obey God in order to worship Him for all the great things He had done for them. Blessings would be rewarded to them by God both personally and nationally if they reflected His glory by faithfully obeying His commandments. God would withhold His blessings and discipline them as a means to direct them back to obedience when they disobeyed His commandments.

The Children of Yisra'el could be confident of victory when fighting those who were stronger and mightier than they were based on the mighty works they had experienced from God. Likewise, these words can confidently be repeated by anyone who has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God, Messiah Yeshua:

"Since God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31

When we trust in the life, death and resurrection of God's One and Only Son, Messiah Yeshua, we become a Child of God. We are adopted into His family! The law of God continues to be a witness of His righteousness. God works to transform us into our eternal state as we learn to reflect His glory through obedience to His Word. Obedience to the law of God continues to be a source of spiritual blessings from the Father to His Children. When the Children of God have been rewarded with our eternal kingdom bodies we will be able to glorify God perfectly without the presence of sin in our lives.

You may be asking yourself, "How can these things be possible?" There is only One Way for these miraculous things to be realized. That Way is by having faith in the redemptive work of Messiah Yeshua, God's One and Only Begotten Son.

God the Father did not spare His Only Begotten Son. He sent Him from heaven to earth to die so that we can live forever in His presence. Messiah Yeshua willingly died on the cross and was buried for three days and three nights until God the Father raised Him from the dead. Father God accepted His Son's work to redeem all who trust in His Name as payment for our sins, and He promises to reward us with abundant eternal life. Just as with Father Avraham, faith is required to receive the promises of God.



Anyone who faithfully obeys God's command to trust in His Son for salvation receives it. God's greatest desire is to bless His children! Anyone who answers God's call for salvation by responding to receive His Son as their LORD and Savior not only inherits abundant eternal life with Him, but that one is rewarded spiritual blessings in this life as well. God does all these mighty works for us because He loves us!

When we faithfully respond to Messiah Yeshua's work of redemption, we enter into the New Covenant of Grace with God. This covenant was ratified by the blood Yeshua shed for us on the cross. It ensures that we will never be separated from God. He will always be with us and within us to achieve His promises. God gives freely to His Children without limitations from His grace. God's rewards are issued into our lives in this world and into eternity. Because of all these things, who can bring charges against those who have entered into the New Covenant of Grace with God?

God is the only judge and He justifies all those who believe in His Son. God is the One Who makes the believer righteous. Who can condemn what God has justified?

Messiah Yeshua died and rose from the grave by the power of Almighty God. He is seated at the right hand of God making intercession for all those who trust in His Name. Therefore, Yeshua is the One Who condemns!

Just as nothing could separate the Children of Yisra'el from the love of God, nothing can separate the believer in Messiah Yeshua from God's love. No tribulation, affliction, persecution, nakedness, danger or war can separate us from the love of God and His eternal promises. Nothing can pluck us out of His hand! Father God will discipline us when we sin against Him, but He will never leave us nor forsake us. Messiah Yeshua will return to fulfill all the promises of God!

God's Word is eternal. Even if we are slaughtered for obedience to God's Word we are more than conquerors through the One Who loves us and gave His life to save us, Messiah Yeshua. All those who have entered into the New Covenant with God need not fear life, death, angels, rulers, principalities or powers that have existed, currently exist or will exist in the future. None of these things can separate us from God and His love. Our LORD Messiah Yeshua will not let height nor depth nor any other created thing separate us from God's great love which is in Messiah Yeshua!

In this week's New Testament passage of Scripture we learn that just as the Covenant of Grace the Children of Yisra'el entered into at Mount Sinai was an outpouring of God's love, so is the Covenant of Grace a believer in Messiah Yeshua enters into today. Just as faith was required by the Children of Yisra'el to be redeemed by the blood of the lamb from Egypt and saved to new life at the crossing of the Red Sea, so is faith required to be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God, Messiah Yeshua, and saved to eternal life by trusting in His resurrection from the dead. Just as God rewarded the Children of Yisra'el with personal and national rewards when they obeyed His Word, likewise God rewards the obedience of the believer in Yeshua today with personal and eternal rewards.

~ Recap Review Fun ~

Directions: Fill in the blank

1. God will never forget to _____ His Children, nor will He lack _____ on His first born Son, Yisra'el.
2. When God gathers the elect who remain in exile back to the land, the _____ of the Promised Land will expand.
3. Whoever fears the LORD God must obey the voice of His _____.
4. Anyone who does not obey God by trusting in His One and Only Begotten Son Messiah _____, will be judged by God to receive eternal torment.
5. The law of God is a witness of God's _____.
6. A person becomes an adopted _____ of God by trusting in the work of redemption completed by Messiah Yeshua.
7. The redeemed Child of God will be able to perfectly reflect God's glory when rewarded with their eternal _____ bodies.
8. _____ is required to receive the promises of God.
9. A person enters into the New Covenant of _____ when they receive Messiah Yeshua as their LORD and Savior.
10. Nothing can _____ a Child of God from His love.

Word Bank

Righteousness boundaries Faith Servant Grace
compassion Yeshua separate Child
kingdom nourish

