

EXPLORE EKEV!

Note: For portion-by-portion reviews of B'REISHEET, SH'MOT, VAYIKRA, and B'MIDBAR (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers), see pages 122-129.

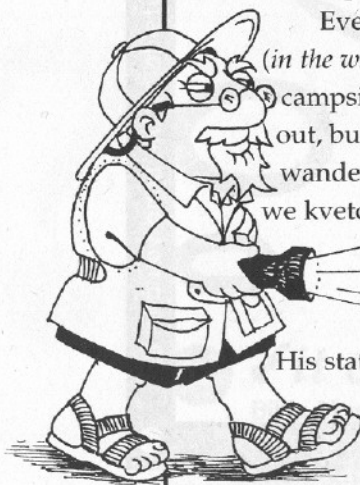
Looking Back . . .

B'REISHEET (*in the beginning*), God creates paradise, but man fails to rest. God makes Avraham father of many nations and gives him Yisra'el. Brothers fight, reunite, then live on through sons.

In Egypt for 400 years, 70 SH'MOT (*names*) grow to 2,000,000 slaves . . . until God sends Moshe to lead us out. At Sinai, God covenants to dwell in our midst. We build His Tabernacle, which He floods with His glory!

VAYIKRA ADONAI (*and the LORD called*) from inside the Tent: come close with offerings, and raise up holy priests to guard the camp's purity. In God's statutes is the path of blessing!

Everyone counts B'MIDBAR (*in the wilderness*), each with a campsite and a job. We march out, but fear the giants and wander for 40 years. Though we kvetch and revolt, God alone chooses whom to bless! We must follow His leaders and obey His statutes. We camp by the Jordan, ready to claim the Promised Land . . .



Moshe reviews past wandering and victories, then encourages us with final D'VARIM (*words*) to enter God's promise! Y'hoshua will lead as God fights for us.

Moshe continues, "VA'ET'CHANAN (*and I pleaded*) to cross over with you, but I may look only from afar. Hear, O Israel, God's commands!"

This Week's Portion . . .

"EKEV (*as a result of*) obeying, you'll receive nature's blessing. Remember past rebellion, and keep God's laws."

Looking Ahead . . .

"R'EH (*see!*), you may choose a blessing and long life . . . or a curse with Destruction, Exile, Assimilation, Death."

"Appoint SHOFTIM (*judges*) to set up a just society with cities of refuge. And love your neighbor as yourself."

"KI TETSE (*when you go out*) where God sends you, act the way God tells you. Keep your social duties and protect the assembly."

"KI TAVO (*when you enter in*), offer the land's firstfruits to God. Spell out blessings and curses on Mt. Gerizim and Ebal. They shall remind you to keep God's covenant!"

עֵקֶב

EKEV

as a result

Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

As a result of obedience,
you will reap blessings!

אפֿו

**"EKEV (as a result of) obeying,
you'll receive nature's blessing.
Remember past rebellion,
and keep God's laws."**

"NITSAVIM (you are standing) here, all of you now and generations to come. Follow the Torah in your heart. Though you'll be scattered, God will regather you. Choose life! Cleave to God!"

VAYELECH Moshe (and Moses went) at 120 to say goodbye. He finishes writing and delivers the Torah, to be read aloud for all to hear. Then he teaches us a song about God's faithfulness . . .

"HA'AZINU (give ear!), O heavens and earth . . ." We must keep the covenant. If we turn away, God will choose others to make us jealous. After the song, Moshe climbs Mt. Nebo to see the Promised Land before dying.

V'ZOT HAB'RACHAH (and this is the blessing) of the covenant, which you will inherit. Put your confidence in God, and His purposes will prevail!

So What . . .

NU? So what does this mean to me???

Heed God's words and learn from history. God listens when you plead. Hear His commands.

As a result of obedience, you will reap blessings! See, you have a choice. Choose the path of blessing! Judge fairly! God's kingdom rules!

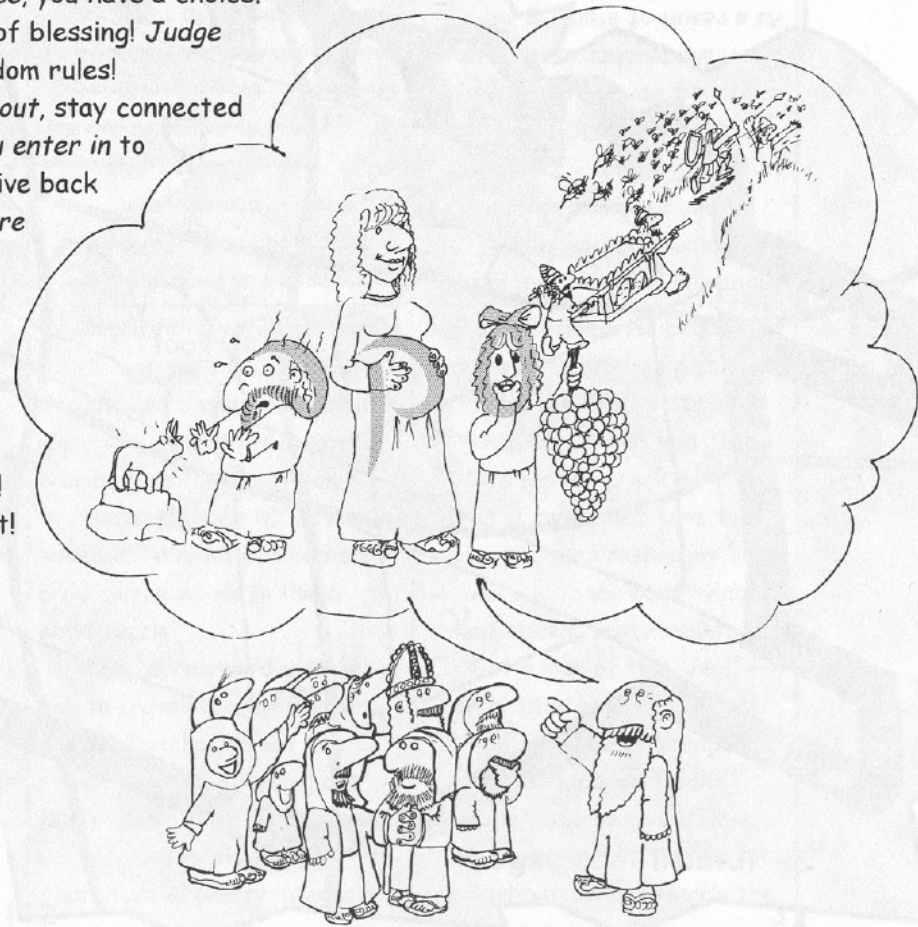
When you go out, stay connected to God. When you enter in to God's promises, give back firstfruits. You are standing before God. Choose life!

Be bold like Moshe, when he went to proclaim God's Torah. Give ear to God's song! Keep His covenant! And this is the blessing!

NU?

**As a result of obedience,
you will reap blessings!**

CHAZAK, CHAZAK!! BE STRONG!!



DIG IT!



Torah Times page 8

והיה עקב תש'מעון
את המשפטים האלה
ושמרתם ועשיתם אתם
ושמר יהוה אלהיך לך
את הברית ואת החסד
אשר נשבע לאבותיך

Need some extra hints?

- check the dictionary
- decode the Hebrish
- try the Torah! (Dt. 7:12)

Explore Deuteronomy!
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What do you think
EKEV
means?
Form your hypothesis
now!!!



Expedition #46



עקב
EKEV

"Clue for #3-down: 'Bugs that attacked Canaanites to give the Israelites a victory,'" read Joshua.

"Let's see," Jones pondered. "Gnats? Does that fit?"

"No, the word has 7 boxes, starting with H," said Josh.

The Torah Times crossword puzzle was quite a challenge for Jericho and Joshua, especially since the ancient newsprint crumbled as they wrote on it. "Hornets! I got it!" Josh boasted. "We did it! We discovered all the words in the crossword puzzle!"

"Now, if only we'd discover a way to cross over the Jordan," wished Jericho. He sat in his stalled aqua-jeep, gazing out the windshield.

"Meanwhile, this ancient artifact is pretty interest-

ing," Josh added. He began flipping through the newspaper. "Well, it's no help for the weather," remarked Jerry. "We better check my radio. If it rains, we'll have to unplug the jeep recharger."

Crackle... Jones was having trouble tuning in the radio.

"Get a load of this, Jer!" Josh pointed at the old paper. "It's an ad for flannelgraph!"

Jericho stopped fiddling with the radio to give a look. "Hey, we used those pieces in my Shabbat School! Here's the

ark of the covenant, but what's that Hebrew writing on it?" "Looks like ayin, koof, vet," Josh deciphered. "That says EKEV," explained Jericho. "Easy! My teacher used to say, 'As a result of studying hard, you'll cruise along. So cruise and use it or you'll lose it!'" "So, Mr. Hebrew Wiz, what does EKEV mean?" asked Josh. "Um... for that, I'll have to excavate more clues. Maybe The Hebrew Maven on 6.4 'Hadavar' will help us out,"

Jerry hoped as he tried again to tune in his radio. "We could call in our question." "Crackle... And now, the conclusion of 'Words from Moshe,' the show that takes you back in history to learn the story, celebrating God's faithfulness to our people." "Josh, listen to this!" Jerry shouted, turning up the volume. "God told Israel that as a result of their obedience, He'd shower blessings on them. Yet they still chose to make the golden calf. Then Moshe smashed the tablets."

"This guy's never gonna tell a clue," whined Josh. Jones cranked up the volume a notch.

"With loving-kindness, God instructed my great-great-grandfather Moshe to make new stone tablets and place them in the ark. Our people had to decide whether to obey. Now it's your turn! Will you hang your mezuza high? As a result of honoring God, you proclaim His faithfulness. That's it for this week's 'Words from Moshe, Shalom.' "Tell it like it is, Gramps!" shouted Jericho, poking his head up through the sun roof. "Hey, I'm standin' tall for God!" "Jer, c'mon down! We gotta figure out what EKEV means!" Josh yanked Jones down by his



Jericho replied instantly!

Jerry!
As a result of Aunt Goldie's recent visit, I've got leftover kreplach and cream puffs for you :)
Hurry home!
Luv, Mamma'le



Way 2 go, Mamma'le! As a result of your message, we solved the ancient puzzle! Save em! of those goodies for my friend, too. We're starvin'! See U soon!! JJ



TALK IT!



Hebrew + English
= HEBRISH!!
Can you dig it???

עֵקֶב

בְּמִנָּה

“אֵלֶּה הָאֲשֵׁרוֹת לֵבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל”



The Rap Up

עקב your listening . . . as a result of your walk . . .
because you obeyed and never did balk . . .
if you follow God closely . . . you won't have to gawk.
When God sends the hornets, your enemies they'll stalk!

But if you forget God, then God forgets you
and the Promised Land won't go to the Jew.
Exacting obedience brings rain to the Land,
more herds, kids, and fruitfulness, while boundaries
expand.

WALK IT!

Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

מי?

Who

*Moshe (Moses),
speaking to all Yisra'el (Israel)*

מה?

What

*more talk from Moshe about the
blessings that come as a result of*

Beginning: *obedience*

Middle:

*remembering the
golden calf, new
stone tablets, ark*

End:

*tefillin and
mezuzah to
remind us to obey and then prosper
in the Land God gives us*

איפה?

Where

*in the wilderness east
of the Promised Land,
ready to cross over the
Jordan River*

מתי?

When

*year 40 after
leaving Mt. Sinai*

? Manna, water from a rock, and long-lasting clothes were some of God's desert serendipities (Dt. 8:2-4, 14-18). Take note this week of God's surprises for you and create a booklet to share your findings of new mercies (Lam. 3:22-24). Reap blessings as a result of your obedience!

? Like Israel, we were created to offer praises to God (Dt. 8:10-11). For five minutes, focus only on praise and thanksgiving. Start with a chorus or Ps. 136. End with Mt. 6:20-21.

? Looking at past rebellion (Dt. 9:16-17) motivates us to run toward God. Talk about how our faith journey is like a marathon (Heb. 12:1-2).

? How does God grant Israel another chance to honor Him? (See Dt. 10:1-5.) New stone tablets remind us that God forgives. Describe second chances you've received and/or offered.

? Moshe admonished the Israelites to love God (Dt. 10:12-16). Draw two stick figures, one with a stiff neck and the other with a circumcised heart. In separate columns, list the character traits that go with each type of person.

? The LORD wants us to remember His words (Dt. 11:18, 20). Make a "matchbox mezuzah" for your bedroom or locker. Write some favorite Bible verses to roll up and stick inside. As a result of your obedience to stand for Him, take note of His blessings for you.

So What

Suggested applications include:

- As a result of obedience, you will reap blessings!
- Look for God's serendipities.
- Seize every opportunity to praise God.
- When Satan reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.
- Circumcise your heart—don't let anything come between you and Yeshua.
- Hang a "mezuzah" over the doorway to your mind. Let in only what honors God.

THE B'RIT CHADASHAH CONNECTION

? מה חדש
What's New

"All these great men died in faith. They did not get the things that God promised his people. But they saw them coming far in the future and were glad..." —Hebrews 11:13

Moshe was glad to see the Promised Land ahead, even though he would die without entering. Israelites, though tainted by golden calf worship and rebellious unbelief, were allowed to enter the Land. We, too, fall short of flawless obedience; yet God offers His kindness. As a result of such grace, will you obediently repent and receive God's blessings?

? **Special Haftarah: Isaiah 49:14-51:3**
As a result of our disobedience, the LORD could abandon us. Yet, in Is. 49:15-16, the LORD gives the assurance of His faithfulness. How does this promise offer security?

So what does the portion mean to you???

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HIDE IT!

Prayer Prompters

- ☎ Declare God as Covenant Keeper, using Lam. 3:22-24 to proclaim the blessings of our eternal hope.
- ☎ Confess when you have disobeyed the LORD and built your "golden calf."
- ☎ Commit to closely follow Yeshua's steps, whether blessed or stressed.
- ☎ Pray for those who are persecuted for obeying Yeshua.
- ☎ Give thanks to Yeshua for the blessings of grace and redemption.

📖 **Genesis 22:18** "Through your descendants all the nations on the earth will be blessed. This is because you obeyed me."

📖 **Deuteronomy 7:12** "Pay attention to these laws. Obey them carefully. Then the Lord your God will keep his agreement and show his love to you. He promised your ancestors he would."

📖 **Joshua 24:24** "Then the people said to Joshua, 'We will serve the Lord our God. We will obey him.'"

📖 **1 Samuel 15:22** "... It is better to obey God than to offer a sacrifice ..."

✓ **it out**

Bible Verses
to look up
and highlight



KEY IDEA for EKEV:



As a result of obedience,
you will reap blessings!

📖 **1 Chronicles 17:27** "You have chosen to bless my family. Let it continue before you forever. Lord, you have blessed my family. So it will be blessed forever."

📖 **Psalms 65:10** "You cause rain to fall on the plowed fields ... You soften the ground with rain. And then you bless it."

📖 **Psalms 136** "Give thanks to the Lord because he is good. His love continues forever ..."

📖 **Proverbs 10:6** "People who do what is right will have rich blessings. But the wicked will be overwhelmed by violence."

📖 **Proverbs 28:20** "A truthful man will have many blessings. But those eager to get rich will be punished."

📖 **Isaiah 1:19** "If you will obey me, you will eat good crops from the land."

📖 **Jeremiah 7:23** "... Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Do all that I command, and good things will happen to you."

📖 **Lamentations 3:22-23** "The Lord's love never ends. His mercies never stop. They are new every morning. Lord, your loyalty is great."

📖 **Acts 5:29** "Peter ... answered, 'We must obey God, not men!'"

📖 **Romans 5:19** "One man disobeyed God, and many became sinners. But in the same way, one man obeyed God, and many will be made right."

📖 **2 Corinthians 9:6** "... The person who plants a little will have a small harvest. But the person who plants a lot will have a big harvest."

📖 **Galatians 6:7** "... You cannot cheat God. A person harvests only what he plants ..."

📖 **Philippians 2:8-9** "... He obeyed even when that caused his death—death on a cross. So God raised Messiah to the highest place ..."

📖 **Hebrews 5:8-9** "Even though Yeshua was the Son of God, he learned to obey by what he suffered. And he became our perfect high priest. He gives eternal salvation to all who obey him."

📖 **Hebrews 11:13** "All these great men died in faith. They did not get the things that God promised his people. But they saw them coming far in the future and were glad ..."

Doodle on to Deuteronomy . . .

● EKEV your listening . . . as a result of your walk . . . ● because you obeyed and never did balk . . . ● if you follow God closely

● you won't have to gawk. ● When God sends the hornets, your enemies they'll stalk!

● But if you forget God, then God forgets you ● and the Promised Land won't go to the Jew. ● Exacting obedience

● brings rain to the Land, ● more herds, kids, and fruitfulness, while boundaries expand.

