

Ekev
“Because”

Torah: Deuteronomy 7:12 – 11:25

Haftarah: Isaiah 49:14 – 51:3

Brit Chadasha: Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13, James 5:7-11

All verses are from the Tree of Life Bible

TORAH:

Deuteronomy 7:12

Adonai Desires to Bless

12 “Then it will happen, as a result of your listening to these ordinances, when you keep and do them, that *Adonai* your God will keep with you the covenant kindness that He swore to your fathers.

13 He will love you, bless you and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the produce of your soil, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that He swore to your fathers to give you.

14 From all peoples, you will be blessed—there will not be male or female barren among you or your livestock.

15 *Adonai* will remove all sickness from you, and He will not inflict on you any of the terrible diseases of Egypt that you knew, but will inflict them on all who hate you.

16 “You will devour all the peoples *Adonai* your God gives over to you. Your eye is not to pity them. You are not to serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you.

17 Suppose you say in your heart, 'These nations are more numerous than I—how can I drive them out?'

18 You are not to be afraid of them. You are to be sure to remember what *Adonai* your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt:

19 the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs and wonders, and the mighty hand and outstretched arm by which *Adonai* your God brought you out. So will *Adonai* your God do to all the peoples you fear.

20 "Moreover, *Adonai* your God will send the hornet against them, until the survivors and those in hiding perish before you.

21 You should not be terrified of them, since *Adonai* your God is in your midst—a great and awesome God.

22 *Adonai* your God will drive away those nations before you little by little—you will not be able to put an end to them all at once, or else the beasts of the field will multiply on you.

23 But *Adonai* your God will give them over to you, and He will throw them into great confusion until they are destroyed.

24 He will hand over their kings to you, and you will blot out their name from under the heavens. No man will stand up to you, until you have destroyed them all.

25 "The carved images of their gods you are to burn with fire. You are not to covet the silver or gold on them or take it for yourself—or you could be snared by it, for it is an abomination to *Adonai* your God.

26 You are not to bring an abomination into your house—for you, like it, will be a banned thing. You must utterly detest and utterly abhor it, for it is set apart for destruction.

Deuteronomy 8

Not By Bread Alone

1 “You are to take care to do the whole *mitzvah* that I am commanding you today, so that you may live and multiply and go in and possess the land that *Adonai* swore to your fathers.

2 You are to remember all the way that *Adonai* your God has led you these 40 years in the wilderness—in order to humble you, to test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His *mitzvot* or not.

3 He afflicted you and let you hunger, then He fed you *manna* —which neither you nor your fathers had known—in order to make you understand that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of *Adonai*.

4 Neither did your clothing wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these 40 years.

5 Now you know in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so *Adonai* your God disciplines you.

6 So you are to keep the *mitzvot* of *Adonai* your God—to walk in His ways and to fear Him.

7 For *Adonai* your God is bringing you into a good land—a land of wadis with water, of springs and fountains flowing out in the valleys and hills,

8 a land of wheat and barley, vines, figs and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey,

9 a land where you will eat bread with no poverty, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

10 So you will eat and be full, and you will bless *Adonai* your God for the good land He has given you.

11 “Take care that you do not forget *Adonai* your God by not keeping His *mitzvot*, ordinances and statutes that I am commanding you today.

12 Otherwise, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and lived in them,

13 and when your herds and flocks multiply, and silver and gold multiplies for you and all that is yours multiplies,

14 then your heart will be haughty and you will forget *Adonai* your God. He brought you out from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

15 He led you through the great and terrible wilderness—fiery serpents and scorpions, and thirsty ground where there was no water. He brought forth water for you from the flinty rock.

16 He fed you in the wilderness with *manna* that your fathers did not know, in order to afflict you and test you, to do you good in the end.

17 You may say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand has made me this wealth.’

18 Rather you are to remember *Adonai* your God, for it is He who gives you power to make wealth, in order to establish His covenant that He swore to your fathers—as it is this day.

19 “Now if you do forget *Adonai* your God, and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you will certainly perish.

20 Like the nations *Adonai* makes perish before you, so you will perish, since you would not listen to the voice of *Adonai* your God.

Deuteronomy 9

Who Brings Down Giants?

1 “Hear, O Israel! You are about to cross over the Jordan today, to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself—cities great and fortified up to the heavens.

2 The people are great and tall, sons of the Anakim. You know them, and you yourselves have heard, “Who can stand before the sons of Anak?”

3 But you will know today that *Adonai* your God is the One who is crossing over before you as a devouring fire. He will destroy them, and He will bring them down

before you, so that you may drive them out and make them perish quickly, as *Adonai* has promised you.

4 “After *Adonai* your God has driven them out from before you, do not say in your heart, ‘It is because of my righteousness that *Adonai* has brought me in to possess this land.’ It is because of the wickedness of these nations that *Adonai* is driving them out from before you.

5 It is not by your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you are going in to possess their land. Rather, because of the wickedness of these nations, *Adonai* your God is driving them out from before you, and in order to keep the word *Adonai* swore to your fathers—to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

6 So you should understand that it is not because of your righteousness that *Adonai* your God is giving you this good land to possess—for you are a stiff-necked people.

What Happened to the Tablets?

7 “Remember, never forget, how you provoked *Adonai* your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you left the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against *Adonai*.

8 At Horeb you provoked *Adonai* to wrath, and *Adonai* was angry with you—enough to destroy you.

9 When I went up the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant that *Adonai* cut with you, I stayed on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights; I did not eat bread or drink water.

10 *Adonai* gave me the two tablets of stone written by the finger of God. Moreover, on them were all the words that *Adonai* had spoken with you on the mountain from the midst of the fire, on the day of the assembly.

11 “Now at the end of 40 days and 40 nights, *Adonai* gave me the two tablets of stone—the tablets of the covenant.

12 *Adonai* said to me, ‘Get up! Go quickly down from here, for your people whom you brought out from Egypt have acted corruptly. They have quickly turned from the way I commanded them; they have made a molten image for themselves.’

13 Furthermore *Adonai* spoke to me saying, ‘I have seen this people, and it is indeed a stiff-necked people.

14 Leave Me alone, so that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under the heavens. Then I will make you into a nation mightier and greater than they.’

15 “So I turned and came down from the mountain while the mountain was burning with fire. Now the two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands.

16 When I looked, you had indeed sinned against *Adonai* your God—you had made yourselves a metal calf. So quickly you had turned aside from the way *Adonai* had commanded you!

17 So I took hold of the two tablets, threw them out of my two hands, and smashed them before your eyes.

18 “Then I fell down before *Adonai* like the first time, for 40 days and 40 nights. I did not eat bread or drink water—because of all your sin that you committed, doing evil in *Adonai*’s sight, provoking Him to anger.

19 For I was afraid of the fierce wrath and fury which *Adonai* bore toward you—to destroy you. But *Adonai* listened to me that time also.

20 *Adonai* was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him, so I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.

21 I took your sin—the calf you had made—and burned it in the fire. I crushed it, grinding it up so well that it was as fine as dust, and I threw its dust into the wadi flowing down from the mountain.

22 “Again at Taberah and Massah and Kibroth-hattaavah, you provoked *Adonai* to wrath.

23 When *Adonai* sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, ‘Go up and possess the land I have given you,’ then you rebelled against the commandment of *Adonai* your God and didn’t believe Him or listen to His voice.

24 You have been rebellious against *Adonai* from the day that I knew you.

25 “So I threw myself down before *Adonai* those 40 days and 40 nights, because *Adonai* had said He would destroy you.

26 I prayed to *Adonai* and said, ‘O Lord, *Adonai*, do not destroy Your people—Your inheritance that You have redeemed through Your greatness and brought out from Egypt with a mighty hand.

27 Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Pay no attention to the stubbornness of this people or to their wickedness or their sin.

28 Otherwise the land from which You brought us out may say, “Because *Adonai* was not able to bring them into the land that He spoke of to them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness.”

29 Yet they are Your people—Your inheritance that You brought out by Your great power and Your outstretched arm.’

Deuteronomy 10

Two New Tablets

1 “At that time *Adonai* said to me, ‘Carve for yourself two tablets of stone like the first ones and come up to Me on the mountain. Make yourself an ark of wood.

2 I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets that you smashed, and you are to put them in the ark.’

3 “So I made an ark of acacia wood, cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hand.

4 Like the first inscription, *Adonai* wrote on the tablets the Ten Words He had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly, then gave them to me.

5 Then I turned and came down from the mountain and put the tablets in the ark I had made—and there they are, just as *Adonai* commanded me.

6 “(*Bnei-Yisrael* traveled from the wells of the sons of Jaakan to Moserah—there Aaron died and was buried, and his son Eleazar served as *kohen* in his place.

7 From there they journeyed to Gudgod, and from Gudgod to Jotbah—a land of wadis flowing with water.

8 At that time *Adonai* set the tribe of Levi apart to carry the Ark of the Covenant of *Adonai*, to stand before *Adonai* to serve Him and to pronounce blessings in His Name—as is the case to this day.

9 Therefore Levi has no portion or inheritance with his brothers—*Adonai* is his inheritance, just as *Adonai* your God had promised about him.)

10 “I stayed on the mountain like the first time—40 days and 40 nights. *Adonai* listened to me that time also and was not willing to destroy you.

11 *Adonai* said to me, ‘Rise up, go, journey ahead of the people so that they may go in and possess the land that I swore to their fathers to give to them.’

12 “So now, O Israel, what does *Adonai* your God require of you, but to fear *Adonai* your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve *Adonai* your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

13 to keep the *mitzvot* of *Adonai* and His statutes that I am commanding you today, for your own good?

14 Behold, to *Adonai* your God belong the heavens and the highest of heavens, the earth and all that is in it.

15 Only on your fathers did *Adonai* set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them—you—from all the peoples, as is the case this day.

Circumcise Your Hearts

16 “Circumcise the foreskin of your heart therefore, and do not be stiff-necked anymore.

17 For *Adonai* your God is God of gods and Lord of lords —the great, mighty and awesome God, who does not show partiality or take a bribe.

18 He enacts justice for the orphan and widow, and loves the outsider, giving him food and clothing.

19 Therefore love the outsider, for you were outsiders in the land of Egypt.

20 *Adonai* your God you will fear—Him will you serve. To Him will you cling, and by His Name will you swear.

21 He is your praise and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your eyes have seen.

22 Your fathers went down to Egypt with 70 persons, and now *Adonai* your God has made you like the stars of the heavens in number.

Deuteronomy 11

Love and Obey with All Your Heart

1 “Therefore you are to love *Adonai* your God and keep His charge, His statutes, His ordinances and His *mitzvot* at all times.

2 And you should know this day that it was not your children who knew or saw the discipline of *Adonai* your God—His greatness, His mighty hand and His outstretched arm;

3 His signs and the deeds He did in the midst of Egypt to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to all his land;

4 and what He did to the army of Egypt, to its horses and chariots when He made the waters of the Sea of Reeds flow over them as they chased after you, and how *Adonai* has destroyed them to this day;

5 what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place;

6 and what He did to Dathan and Abiram sons of Eliab son of Reuben—how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, along with their households and tents and every living thing that followed them, in the midst of all Israel—

7 Rather, it is your own eyes that have seen every mighty deed that *Adonai* has done.

8 “Therefore you are to keep the whole *mitzvah* that I am commanding you today, so that you may be strong and go in and possess the land that you are crossing over to possess,

9 and so that you may prolong your days on the land that *Adonai* swore to give to your fathers and to their descendants—a land flowing with milk and honey.

10 “For the land you are going in to possess is not like the land of Egypt from which you came. There you planted your seed and watered it by foot, like a vegetable garden.

11 But the land you are crossing over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, drinking from the rain of the heavens it drinks in water.

12 It is a land that *Adonai* your God cares for—the eyes of *Adonai* your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year up to the end of the year.

13 “Now if you listen obediently to My *mitzvot* that I am commanding you today—to love *Adonai* your God and to serve Him with all your heart and soul—

14 then I will give rain for your land in its season—the early rain and the late rain—so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil.

15 I will give grass in your field for your livestock, and you will eat and be satisfied.

16 Watch yourselves, so your heart is not deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them.

17 Then the anger of *Adonai* will be kindled against you, so He will shut up the sky so that there will be no rain and the soil will not yield its produce. Then you will perish quickly from the good land *Adonai* is giving you.

18 “Therefore you are to set these words of Mine in your heart and in your soul. You are to bind them as a sign on your hand, and as frontlets between your eyes.

19 You are to teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up.

20 You are to write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,

21 so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied on the land *Adonai* swore to give to your fathers, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

22 “For if you will diligently keep all this *mitzvah* that I am commanding you to do—to love *Adonai* your God, to walk in all His ways and to cling to Him—

23 then *Adonai* will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourselves.

24 Every place where the sole of your foot treads will be yours—from the wilderness to the Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, as far as the western sea will be your border.

25 No one will be able to stand against you—*Adonai* your God will put the fear and dread of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has promised you.

HAFTARAH

Isaiah 49:14-26

14 But Zion said: “*Adonai* has forsaken me, *Adonai* has forgotten me.”

15 “Can a woman forget her nursing baby or lack compassion for a child of her womb? Even if these forget, I will not forget you.

16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands. Your walls are continually before Me.

17 Your children will come quickly. Your destroyers and devastators will go away from you.

18 Lift up your eyes around and see: all of them will gather and come to you.” “As I live” —it is *Adonai*’s declaration— “you will wear them all as jewelry and bind them on like a bride.”

19 For your waste and desolate places and your destroyed land will now be surely too small for the inhabitants, and those who swallowed you up will be far away.

20 The children of your bereavement will yet say in your ears, “The place is too cramped for me! Make room for me to settle in.”

21 Then you will say in your heart, “Who has borne these for me? Wasn’t I bereaved of my children— barren, an exile and wandering? So who has raised these? Behold, I was left alone— these, where were they?”

22 Thus says *Adonai Elohim*: “Look, I will lift My hand to the nations, and raise My banner to the peoples! They will bring your sons on their chest, and carry your daughters on their shoulders.

23 Kings will be your guardians, their princesses your nurses. They will bow down to you with their face to the ground, and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am *Adonai*— those hoping in Me will not be ashamed.”

24 Can plunder be taken from the mighty, or captives of the righteous freed?

25 For thus says *Adonai*: “Yes, captives of the mighty will be taken and the prey of the tyrant will be freed. For I will oppose your adversary. I will save your children.

26 I will feed your oppressors their flesh. They will be drunk with their blood as with sweet wine. Then all flesh will know that I, *Adonai*, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

Isaiah 50:1-11

1 Thus says *Adonai*: “Where is the divorce certificate, by which I sent your mother away? Or to whom of My creditors did I sell you? See, you were sold for your iniquities, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away.

2 Why was no one there when I came? Why was there no one to answer when I called? Is My hand too short to redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, I dry up the sea at My rebuke, I make rivers a wilderness— their fish stink for lack of water and die of thirst.

3 I clothe the heavens with blackness and make sackcloth their covering.”

Third Servant Song: Face Like Flint

4 *Adonai Elohim* has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning. He awakens My ear to give heed as a disciple.

5 *Adonai Elohim* has opened My ear, and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn back.

6 I gave My back to those who strike, and My cheeks to those pulling out My beard; I did not hide My face from humiliation and spitting.

7 For *Adonai Elohim* will help Me. Therefore I have not been disgraced. Therefore I set My face like flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed.

8 The One who vindicates Me is near. Who will accuse Me? Let us stand up to each other. Who is My adversary? Let him confront Me.

9 See, *Adonai Elohim* will help Me. Who is he who would condemn Me? See, they all wear out like a garment. A moth will eat them up.

10 Who among you fears *Adonai*? Who hears the voice of His servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the Name of *Adonai* and lean on his God.

11 “Behold, all you who kindle a fire, encircling yourselves with firebrands. Walk in the light of your fire and among the brands you have lit. This you will have from My hand: you will lie down in torment.”

Isaiah 51:1-3

Comfort Zion With Justice

1 “Listen to Me, you who pursue justice, you who seek *Adonai*. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

2 Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you. For when I called him, he was but one, then I blessed him and multiplied him.”

3 For *Adonai* will comfort Zion. He will comfort all her waste places. He will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of *Adonai*. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and a sound of melody.

BRIT CHADASHA

Matthew 4:1-11

Overcoming Temptation with God's Word

1 Then *Yeshua* was led by the *Ruach* into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 After He had fasted for forty days and forty nights, He was hungry.

3 And when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are *Ben-Elohim*, tell these stones to become bread."

4 But He replied, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and placed Him on the highest point of the Temple.

6 "If You are *Ben-Elohim*," he said, "throw Yourself down. For it is written, 'He shall command His angels concerning you,' and 'upon their hands they shall lift you up, so that you may not strike your foot against a stone.'"

7 *Yeshua* said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put *Adonai* your God to the test.'"

8 Again, the devil takes Him to a very high mountain and shows Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."

10 Then *Yeshua* says to him, "Go away, satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship *Adonai* your God, and Him only shall you serve.'"

11 Then the devil leaves Him. And behold, angels came and began to take care of Him.

Luke 4:1-13

Temptation in the Wilderness

1 *Yeshua*, now filled with the *Ruach ha-Kodesh*, returned from the Jordan. He was led by the *Ruach* in the wilderness

2 for forty days, being tested by the devil. Now He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He was hungry.

3 The devil said to Him, "If You are *Ben-Elohim*, tell this stone to become bread."

4 *Yeshua* answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

5 And leading Him up, the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in an instant.

6 And the devil said to Him, "I'll give to You all this authority along with its glory, because it has been handed over to me and I can give it to anyone I wish.

7 Therefore, if you will worship before me, all this shall be Yours."

8 But answering, *Yeshua* told him, "It is written, 'You shall worship *Adonai* your God, and Him only shall you serve.'"

9 Then he brought *Yeshua* to Jerusalem and placed Him on the highest point of the Temple. He said to Him, "If You are *Ben-Elohim*, throw Yourself down from here.

10 For it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning you, to guard you,'

11 and 'upon their hands they will lift you up, so that you may not strike your foot against a stone.'"

12 But answering, *Yeshua* said to him, "It is said, 'You shall not put *Adonai* your God to the test.'"

13 And when the devil had completed every test, he departed from Him until another occasion.

James 5:7-11

Be Patient for His Coming

7 So be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient for it until it receives the early and late rain.

8 You also be patient. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged. Behold, the judge is standing at the doors.

10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

11 Behold, we consider blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the outcome of *Adonai*—that *Adonai* is full of compassion and mercy.