EIKEV



ALIYA-BY-ALIYA SEDRA <u>SUMMARY</u>



Rabbi Reuven Tradburks Director of RCA Israel Region



1st **aliya (Devarim 7:12-8:10)** On the heels of you keeping the mitzvot, G-d will keep His cove-

nant with you. And love you. You will enjoy success: economic, health, military. Should you fear the nations in the Land, wondering how you will prevail over them, remember what G-d did in Egypt. The signs, the wonders, the outstretched arm. He will do it to these nations too. When you enter the Land, remember the manna in the desert. G-d relieved your hunger through manna, to teach you that bread comes from Him. Now when you enter the Land, it will be different: streams and springs, wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olive oil and



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Honoring the memory of Malka Chana Roth די"ז 1985-2001, killed in the Sbarro bombing. dates. You will eat and be satisfied and bless G-d for all this bounty.

There is a lot of love in this parsha. His love for us translates into giving us the Land. Later, we will see our love for Him is translated into our loyalty to the mitzvot.

Besides the love, we are told to remember. Remember the manna. There was no food in the desert. He fed you. Remember that. He provides your food. In the Land, it will look completely different to you. The food grows on trees, wild wheat and barley. Who needs Him? Remember the manna and Who provides.



2nd **aliya (8:11-9:3)** Be mindful amidst all your success that you have not forgotten its Source.

Even after He has led you all these years, you are apt to say "all this success is my doing". Remember: He is the One Who gives you this success, as an expression of the Brit he made with you. If you forget Him, He will vanquish you. As you vanquish nations in the Land, so too will it be with you, on the heels of your ignoring Him. Great nations await you; fortified cities, strong people. Know that He will champion your cause and they will be overcome by you.

Though the aliya adds on a few lines, the symmetry of the "heels" is pretty. We began the parsha with "ekev". On the heels of your loyalty to the mitzvot, G-d will shower you with love. We end this section with the counter; you will be vanquished on the heels of ignoring Him. Beautiful poetic symmetry.



3rd **aliya (9:4-29)** Do not assume your displacing the nations is due to your righteousness and

their folly. It is rather due to their failing and G-d's covenant to you. Remember: you have a long history of your own folly. At Horev: I ascended the mountain to get the tablets, Divinely inscribed with all He spoke at Sinai, for 40 days. But He ordered me to descend for you had made an idol. With the tablets in hand, I descended, shattering them upon seeing the golden calf. I ascended again to plead for you. And there were other moments of folly. But I pleaded, appealing to the covenant, that you are His people.

Moshe has employed the word remember 3 times in this parsha. When you are afraid of the strong nations, remember the wonders of Egypt that He wrought and will do again for you. When you have fabulous success in the Land and are tempted to push G-d out of your life, remember that He provides as He did with the manna in the desert. And now, when you feel superior to the nations of folly, remember the golden calf, your terrible moment of folly. Moshe is preoccupied with the machinations of the mind, our short memories, our self-delusions. Remember our history, he says. Learn from it. He champions our cause. He is the source of our success. And don't let it go to your head. You suffer foibles like all others. Bad mistakes. But, as we will see

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in the next aliya, He does not give up on you. And that says more about His greatness than it does about yours.



 4^{th} aliya (10:1-11) G-d said to me: chisel 2 stone tablets to replace the first and make an

Aron for them. A second set as the first were made and put in the Aron. I descended with the Aron. The Leviim shall be G-d's servants; they bore this Aron. I implored successfully for you not to be destroyed. G-d said: go up and take the Land I promised to your forefathers.

This is the conclusion of the story of the golden calf. Moshe is telling the people to remember this story to temper their feelings of superiority. Don't feel superior; the golden calf was quite a failure. However, in this conclusion, he emphasizes a different point. Reconciliation. As if to say: you are not a perfect nation. You have failed and you will in the future too. But despair not. G-d's commitment to you is more powerful than your failures. And that is exactly Moshe's point. Do not say that your supplanting the nations in the Land is due to your piety. For you fail. But rather it is due to G-d's powerful

May the Torah learned from this issue of Torah Tidbits be לעיינ and in loving memory of

ליבע בת משה ע"ה Lynne Grossman ע"ה

beloved wife, mother, grandmother on her 14th vahrzeit

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commitment to you that transcends your failings, as egregious as they may be. After all, He transcended the golden calf.



5th aliya (10:12-11:9) Now, what really does G-d want of you? Only this: fear Him, walk in His

ways, love and serve Him and keep all He commands of you. His is the universe, yet he chose to love your forefathers. So circumcise your heart and quit stiffening your neck. Fear, serve, cleave to Him. He is your G-d. As you yourself have seen: you descended to Egypt with 70 souls, all the wonders He wrought, the defeat of Egypt's might at the sea, the desert, the earth swallowing the rebellious ones in the Korah rebellion. You have seen all this; hence, keep the mitzvot to prolong your stay on the Land.

These 20 verses are very difficult to summarize, as they are so stunningly beautiful. This is Moshe with his hair down. It is like he leans a bit closer, elbows on the table, and confides: listen, really, what does G-d want? Now, one would think maybe a one word, one phrase answer. Like: loyalty. Or walk humbly with Him. Or truth. Moshe's answer is not what to do but the deepest aspirations. Moshe answers: you know what G-d wants? He wants emotion, aspiration, feelings, sensitivity. He wants your deepest being to want Him, love Him, cleave to Him. Drop the inhibitions, the distractions, the fluff of life and give your deepest self to Him. What a phrase: circumcise your heart, quit stiffening your neck. Meaning, give Me your true heart, don't be stubborn. This aliya ranks up there with the most

powerful of the Torah. For Moshe baits us with a simple question: after all, what does G-d want? And in his answer, shares with us his deepest feelings, a most profound answer: He wants you to want Him, love Him, be preoccupied with Him. Hold nothing back.



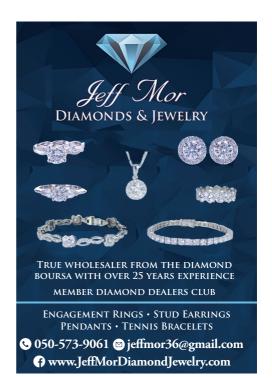
6th **aliya (11:10-21)** The Land of Israel is not like Egypt: Egypt is fertile, with an abundance of

water. Israel relies on the rain from the heavens; hence G-d gazes upon the land the entire year. (2nd paragraph of Shema) And if you will keep the Mitzvot and love G-d with all your heart, then there will be rain. If you sway from this and serve other gods, then there will be no rain, nor will the crops grow. Be cognizant of this all the time, speaking of it with your children and in all you do. As this love of G-d will prolong your success in the Land.

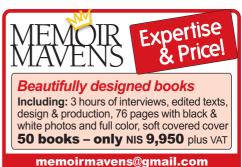
This is a new twist on the theme of loving G-d. Not only will your military success depend on your love of G-d. But the rain too. And you'll need rain; not like Egypt. It's almost like G-d is saying: I am bringing you to the promised Land because of my love for you. But, it is a Land that will require you to defeat nations to occupy it. And a Land that requires My showering it with rain. And the success of both of these, the military and the rain, require you to love Me. So, in a nutshell: I love you and I am bringing you to a Land where you will need to love Me.



7th **aliya (11:22-25)** If you do the Mitzvot, love G-d and cleave to him, then you will prevail over







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Eta Morris Realty, Ltd. etamorrisrealestate@gmail.com Eta 054-723-3863 · etamorrisrealty.co.il · Rachel: 052-546-6425 the powerful nations of the Land. G-d will make them fear you and none will be able to stand up to you.

Moshe turns the tables on the natural feelings of the people. They are fearful in the face of the people of the Land. Moshe tells them: instead of focusing on fear of them, focus on love of G-d. And the fear? G-d will take your fear of them, and turn the tables: they will fear you.

HAFTORAH YESHAYAHU 49:14 - 51:3

This week's *haftorah* is the second of a series of seven "*Haftorot* of Consolation." These seven *haftarot* begin on the Shabbat following Tisha b'Av and continue until Rosh Hashanah.

The exiled Jewish people are concerned that G-d has abandoned them. G-d responds by reassuring them that it is not so. God compares His love and mercy for His people to that of a mother for her children.

The navi then describes the ingathering of the exiles which will occur when the Mashiach arrives and then concludes with encouraging words, reminding us of what had happened to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah. Just as they were blessed with a child when it seemed impossible, so too, G-d will send us the Redemption at the end of days.

Shabbat afternoon Parsha shiur with Rabbi Chanoch Yeres at 5:00pm in the back garden of the OU Israel Center



46th of the 54 sedras: 3rd of 11 in D'varim 231.83 lines in a Torah; rank: 14th

10 Parshivot; 6 open, 4 closed

111 p'sukim - rank: 26th (4th in D'varim) Same number as Vayikra, but larger

1747 words - rank: 16th (3rd in D'varim) Same number as Ki Tavo; Ki Taavo has more p'sukim; Eikev has more letters

6865 letters - rank: 14th (3rd in D'varim)

Eikev's p'sukim are long - 3rd longest in the Torah in words and letters per pasuk. This accounts for rise in ranking in those categories.



MITZVOT

8 of 613: 6 positives, 2 prohibitions

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BY RABBI CHANOCH YERES A SHORT VORT Ray, Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

In this week's Parsha, we find the second paragraph of the Shema, "V'Haya Im Shamoah".

(Chapter 11:13). The Pasuk continues "To love Hashem, your G-d, and to serve him with all of your heart and with all your soul."- Bechol levavcha u'vchol nafshecha".

Why does the first paragraph of the Shema demand of one to love Hashem, not only, with "all your heart and with all your soul", but also "bechol meodecha"- which Rashi explains to mean with all your money?

Why is this phrase of "with all your money" lacking in the second paragraph of "Vehaya?"

The Maharsha (Berachot 35a)- Rabbi Shmuel Eliezer Eidels (17th Century) explains the omission. In the Gemara it is explained that the case of the second paragraph of the Shema is referring to those who do not fulfill the will of Hashem while the first paragraph of Shema is referring to those who perform the mitzvot out of love towards Hashem and therefore the aspect of serving with all their material needs is part of their duty- the ideal service. However, the second parsha outlines the not so ideal service of Hashem, thereby lacking devoting one's monetary possessions to G-d.

Rabbi Moshe Shternbuch (Ta'am Voda'at) further explains that there are two different forms of love. The first paragraph speaks about true devotion to G-d and not to worship other gods, which requires even sacrificing one's very life for, and for sure any monetary possessions. However, the second paragraph refers to serving G-d through the performance of Mitzvot. In this case, we are to love G-d with all our heart and all our soul but not more than a third of our wealth in performing a Mitzvah or a fifth to tzedakah as taught by our Rabbis.

We see from this that all forms of serving G-d are encouraged in our prayers everyday whether ideal or less than ideal. Shabbat Shalom