

BECHUKOTAI



ALIYA-BY-ALIYA
SEDRA SUMMARY



Rabbi Reuven Tradburks
Director of
RCA Israel Region

Parshat Bechukotai is the last in the book of Vayikra. The first half of the Parsha is the glorious, though very brief description of the blessings that will result from keeping the mitzvot. But then the Torah turns to the chilling description of exile, desolation, and suffering that will result from lack of loyalty to the Mitzvot. The blessings: 10 verses. The curses: 32 verses.

This parsha is always read before Shavuot. But not the Shabbat before Shavuot. 2 Shabbatot before (this year in Israel we will have 2 parshiot following Bechukotai until Shavuot). While the sobering nature of the curses can motivate us in accepting the Torah anew, it is a harsh parsha. We would be motivated by fear. Do we want to enter Yom Tov with dread? I don't think so. So, a week with a more benign parsha intervenes between the harshness of Bechukotai and the sweetness of the Yom Tov of Shavuot.



1st Aliya (Vayikra 26:3-5) If you are loyal to mitzvot, I will

give you such abundant produce that the harvest will stretch into the planting season. You will be satisfied and secure in your Land.

Parshat Bechukotai is the conclusion of the book of Kedusha, Vayikra. We moderns are in particular need of this parsha. We have been blessed with an explosion of information. And this information can quickly lead to a mechanistic view of life; that everything is cause and effect. Work hard and you will succeed. Study hard and you will achieve. Eat and exercise, you will live long. This parsha introduces one of the core Jewish beliefs; and somewhat of a radical one at that. Crops will grow well when you observe the mitzvot. We do not live in 2 worlds: the physical and the spiritual. We live in one world: the world of interwoven physical and spiritual. Our physical success in the Land of Israel is bound up inextricably with our spiritual fealty to the mitzvot.

This theme will dominate the rest of the Torah. For with the conclusion of the book of Vayikra, we pivot now to the march toward the Land of Israel. The rest of the Torah will describe that march and the mitzvot relevant to building the Jewish society in the Land of Israel. But hovering over it all is this unity theme: that the fate of the entire enterprise in the Land of Israel is bound up in your mitzvah observance.



2nd Aliya (26:6-9) I will give you peace and you will be without fear. 5 of you will pursue 100; 100 will pursue 10,000. I will make you fruitful, make you multiply and keep my covenant with you.

You will be blessed with shocking military



*Mazal Tov to
Estelle Harris and family
on the birth of a grandson*



power - a small number chasing 20 or 100 times their number. And then in an echo of creation, a promise that you will be fruitful and multiply. In Creation G-d commanded man to be fruitful and multiply. And here He is promising us that we will be fruitful and multiply. As if to say: loyalty to the mitzvot will bring a world just the way it is supposed to be.



3rd Aliya (26:10-46) And I will be in your midst; I, your G-d, You, my people. I will remove

the yokes from you and you will walk proudly. But if you do not do My mitzvot, I too will not pay attention to you. You will be subjected to illness, to enemies, to drought. If you persist in ignoring Me, I will persist in ignoring you, leaving you vulnerable to war, pestilence, famine. Your holy places will be vanquished, your cities destroyed; you will be scattered around the world. Then the Land will have the rest of its Shmita. You will be panicked in your exile, afraid of a driven leaf. You will admit your failings; I will remember my promises to you. Even in your dispersion, I will not allow you to be destroyed.

The brevity of this outline requires us to leave out much of the chilling predictions of calamity. To focus on just one aspect:

May the Torah learning this week
be in loving memory of

**Anna (Chana Wasserman)
Silverberg** a"h

On her 20th Yartzheit - 19 Iyar
beloved mother, grandmother
and great-grandmother

Jeff Mor
DIAMONDS & JEWELRY

TRUE WHOLESALE FROM THE DIAMOND
BOURSA WITH OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
MEMBER DIAMOND DEALERS CLUB

ENGAGEMENT RINGS • STUD EARRINGS
PENDANTS • TENNIS BRACELETS

☎ 050-573-9061 ✉ jeffmor36@gmail.com
🌐 www.JeffMorDiamondJewelry.com

**BROTHERS
MOVING CO.**

THE STRONGEST...THE MOST GENTLE

054-216-0087 • brothersmovingisrael@gmail.com

PolarAir

Air Conditioning & Heating
Sales & installation of
Inverter | Multi | VRF | Central

- ✓ Plenty of references
- ✓ Professional & reliable
- ✓ Only Jewish labor

www.polarair.biz | polarairbiz@gmail.com | ☎ 052-240-5063



KEEP YOUR MONEY IN GOOD HEALTH

EARN REGULAR, OFFSHORE INCOME WITH CAPITAL GROWTH.

OrbVest is a global investment firm sourcing, acquiring and managing medical real estate in the United States, so you can earn great returns investing alongside us.

We take the hassle out of owning real estate and make it simple, quick and easy to be a landlord in this category, previously the domain of institutions.



Scan to Learn More or Schedule an Appointment +972 050 914 6138
www.orbvest.co.il



failure to live up to the demands of this holy place brings desolation and exile. The Land and its cities will be desolate and deserted. The desolation of the Land of Israel without the Jewish people is legendary. The Land flowing with milk and honey was barren and dusty for 2,000 years. Chilling. In addition, the Jewish diaspora, the exile of the Jews from the Land, in essence, Jewish history is predicted here. The Torah predicts the suffering of the Jewish people through exile and persecution. Jewish suffering in exile was taken by other religions to be a sign of the rejection of the Jew. The return to the Land of Israel in our time, so unexpected, so unprecedented, and so dynamic is a powerful refutation of that. If the exile was Divine displeasure with our dismissive attitude to Him, the return to the Land can only be Divine pleasure in bringing us close. And a charge to us who are part of this return; to never be dismissive of Him, but to engage, to search, to reach. Our success in the Land depends on it. What privileged times we, the underserving, are fortunate to be a part of. And how vigilant we need be to not again be dismissive of Him in His Land.



4th aliya (27:1-15) When you make a vow of your value to G-d, there are set values for different ages and stations. This value is given to the Mikdash. If you pledge an animal, it is given and should not be switched. A pledge of a home may be given or redeemed.

Following the chilling section of the curses, the book of Vayikra ends with a full chapter of laws of vows. Generosity

30+ styles - all sizes
for women & girls



MarSea Modest Swim & Casualwear Marci Rapp

050-424-8359
www.MarSeaModest.com (\$USD)



28" Pencil Skirts
3/4 Tees/Tops
& more



KEREN MALKI

קרן מלכי לזכרה של מלכי חוס'ה"ד
THE MALKI FOUNDATION

.....

www.kerenmalki.org

02-567-0602

Keren Malki empowers families of children with special needs in Israel to choose home care. Donations are tax-approved in Israel, US and UK.

Honoring the memory of
Malka Chana Roth מ"ד
1985-2001, killed in the
Sbarro bombing.

inspires contributions to the Mikdash. That's a good thing. The religious center of the Jewish people needs contributions. But why does this section follow the blessings and curses? I would think that the blessings and curses are the best way to end the book of Kedusha. Not the rather mundane rules of Temple contributions.

The entire book of Vayikra has focused on Kedusha; that our lives are to be uplifted, sanctified, rarified. You might think that this elevated part of our lives, the part of our lives in which we strive to approach the Divine, you might think it is good, desirable, wonderful - but extra. If I live my life not hurting others, not violating the mitzvot, then I have lived a good life. So the Torah introduces us to the blessings and curses. No, no. Holiness is not dessert. It isn't extra. It is the essence of the life of a Jew. We must live sanctified lives. And our success in the Land depends on it. Lack of allegiance to mitzvot will bring terrible consequences, including exile and destruction.

But so as not to end this book on a harsh note, we end, not with curses, but with generosity.



5th Aliya (27:16-21) If a field is pledged, it's worth until Yovel is calculated. That value is given

In honor of our children
Rafi and Tamar
on their forthcoming marriage Bs'd
May they build a Bayit Ne'eman
b'Yisrael with Shalom v'Re'ut

Dr. Lawton and Robin Cooper,
Rabbi Hillel Gold and Dr. Ruth Gershen

Take advantage now!

Interest rates rise, stock values decline, demand for our exclusive sea-view Ashkelon apartments goes up, and price increases will inevitably follow.



Ashkelon Properties
 LIVE OPPOSITE THE SEA
 call David at 054-433-2621
 davidz@AshkelonProperties.com
www.ashkelonproperties.com

T"01

MAXI BOX

Storage

Your place for extra space

053-7272-815



Machon Dvir

Jerusalem
 Raanana NEW
 Beit Shemesh

02-625-2527
www.machondvir.org

Machon Dvir is an English-speaking Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) practice, treating adults and older adolescents with a focus on gap year and university students.

Machon Dvir's team are among the leading DBT professionals in Israel, offering individual therapy, DBT skills groups and medication management for treatment of borderline personality disorder, complex PTSD, depression, anxiety, eating disorders and OCD.

to the Mikdash to redeem the field. If it is not redeemed, it remains with the Mikdash even after Yovel. Property which becomes owned by the Mikdash may not be redeemed.



6th Aliya (27:22-28) A field that is not your inheritance in the Land may be dedicated to the Mikdash; its value is given. A first born animal is already holy, hence do not pledge it to the Mikdash.



7th Aliya (27:29-34) Maaser of property is holy; it may be redeemed and a fifth added to its value. Maaser of animals is holy; it may not be redeemed. The book of Vayikra, the book of man's approach to G-d, ends with a sober balance. While we approach G-d, dedicate our lives to Him, reach for Him, and He for us, the Torah protects us from going too far, from divesting of our assets, ridding ourselves of our homes and becoming a Temple slave, giving our all to the Mikdash. Our challenge is to be holy in our homes and our fields while reaching for the Divine. This final section of vows is also part of the pivot toward the

book of Bamidbar. We are marching to the Land. The section of vows is an intro to that. We are no longer focused on holiness, but on nation building. The communal life we will enjoy in the Land of Israel will be built on generosity. The sense that I am not just for me; but that I am a part of the Jewish people. Their needs are mine. Contributions to the Mikdash are an expression of my part in our nation building. And that nation building will be the preoccupation of the rest of the Torah.

HAFTARAH BECHUKOTAI YIRMIYAHU 16:19-17:14

The theme found in the Torah reading of blessings and curses is echoed in the haftarah which discusses the punishment to those who disregard God's will and the reward to those who follow His will.

The courageous prophet Yirmiyahu scolds the people and warns them of the disaster if they maintain their idolatrous practices. Nothing less than exile from the Holy Land will come as the result of not

A SHORT VORT | BY RABBI CHANUCH YERES

Rav, Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

וישבתם לבטח בארצכם....ונתתי שלום בארץ (כו:ה-ו)

"And dwell in safety in your Land....And I will give you peace in the Land" (26:5-6)

How can the pasuk, in which the Divine promises that they will live safely in the Land, need the next pasuk to add that He will provide peace in the Land? Isn't this a repetition?

The Rabbis answer that the promise of "I will give you peace in the Land" is not referring to peace from our external enemies. Rather, it refers to achieving internal peace amongst ourselves as a nation.

(Jerusalem Talmud, Peah 1) The generation of King Saul were great Torah scholars, yet his army was constantly being defeated by the enemy, due to the constant brotherly strife that existed within the Jewish people, at that time. However, the generation of Achav were all idolators, yet always victorious in battle because of the internal peace that remained amongst our nation.

In our Parsha G-d promises the people that He will ensure peaceful co-existence and harmony within the Jewish nation. That in itself will provide the umbrella against attacks from foreign enemies, "And the sword shall not go through your Land". Shabbat Shalom

having faith in God and commitment to the mitzvot.

Moreover, there is the positive outgrowth of obedience and loyalty to the Torah: "Blessed is the man who trusts in God; to whom God will be his trust. For he shall be like a tree planted by the water, and which spreads its roots out into a stream, so it will not be affected when heat comes, and its leaves shall be green, and in the year of drought will not be anxious, neither shall it cease from bearing fruit."

The haftorah concludes with a declaration of hope and salvation: "Heal me, O God, then shall I be healed; help me, then I shall be helped, for You are my praise!" ■



STATS

	Bechukotai
of 54 sedras in Torah	33rd
of 10 in Vayikra	10th
Lines	131
Rank (Among The 54)	47th
Parshiyot	5
P'tuchot	3
S'tumot	2
P'sukim	78
Rank (Torah/Vayikra)	46/7
Words	1013
Rank (Torah/Vayikra)	47/7
Letters	3992
Rank (Torah/Vayikra)	47/7



MITZVOT

	Bechukotai
Mitzvot (pos/prohib)	7+5

We♥Mr Ashkelon
054-731-2118

It's not only how you LOOK
It's how you SEE



Excellence in eye care
EYE WORLD
עולם העין
העיניים שלכם זו המומחיות שלנו

RAMAT ESHKOL Shopping Center (Above Waffle Bar)
ARNONA/TALPIOT - Beit Hanatziv, Derech Hevron 101A
(02) 674-3888

Lenny Davidman

**Professional
Planning & Production**

**English Speaking
Pesach Program
at the Dead Sea**

**Events, Congresses &
Tours in Israel**

pesach.LDevents.com
www.LDevents.com
054-557-3101
Lenny@LDevents.com

Over 1600 audio and video shiurim
for listening and downloading
plus written articles
www.rabbisholomgold.com