

# בְּחֻקֹּתַי

## B'chuqqotai

(in My statutes)

### Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 26:3-27:34

#### Blessings of Obedience

##### *Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 26:3-13*

*3 If you walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;*

*4 then I will give your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.*

*5 And your threshing shall reach to the vintage, and the vintage shall reach to the sowing time; and you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.*

*6 And I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid; and I will cause evil beasts to cease out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.*

*7 And you shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.*

*8 And five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten thousand; and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.*

*9 And I will have respect to you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and will establish my covenant with you.*

*10 And you shall eat old store long kept, and you shall bring forth the old because of the new.*

*11 And I will set my tabernacle among you; and my soul shall not abhor you.*

*12 And I will walk among you, and will be your Elohim, and you shall be my people.*

*13 I am YHWH your Elohim, who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; and I have broken the bars of your yoke, and made you go upright.*

YHWH tells us that when we obey His commandments, then He will bestow many blessings upon us as a people and as a nation. Let us list those blessings to get the full impact of this.

1. Rain at the right times
2. Land will be fruitful
3. Abundance of fruit from trees
4. Harvest of the grain fields will take so much time it will last until it is time to harvest grapes
5. Harvest of the grapes will take so much time it will last until it is time to sow the fields again
6. We will have plenty of food
7. We will dwell in safety
8. The land will be at peace
9. We will sleep without fear
10. No evil beasts in the land
11. There will be no violence in the land
12. The enemies of Israel will flee from us in great fear
13. YHWH will give our enemies into our hands
14. YHWH will respect us
15. We will have lots of children
16. YHWH will establish His covenant with us
17. Our food will not spoil
18. We will eat the old supply of food to make room for the new
19. YHWH will dwell among us
20. YHWH will not abhor us
21. YHWH will walk among us
22. YHWH will be our Elohim
23. We will be His people
24. We will be enslaved to no one

When one reads this carefully and prayerfully ponders it, one sees that it is a pretty complete list. When a person would live in such a state of existence, surely he would be blessed beyond compare. All the blessings that one can imagine are covered in this list in some fashion. One would have health, safety, food, and acceptance from Elohim. What more could one ask for?

But each and every one of these blessings is conditional. They are contingent upon what we do or do not do. If we choose to obey His commandments, then all these blessings will be ours. However, if we make the foolish choice not to obey His commandments, then YHWH tells us in this next paragraph what we should expect instead of blessings.

## Curse of Disobedience

**Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 26:14-22**

**14 But if you will not hear and obey Me, and will not do all these commandments;**

**15 and if you shall reject My statutes, and if your soul abhors My ordinances, so that you will not do all My commandments, but break My covenant;**

**16 I also will do this to you; I will appoint terror over you, even consumption and fever, that shall consume the eyes, and make the soul to pine away; and you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.**

**17 And I will set my face against you, and you shall be smitten before your enemies; they that hate you shall rule over you; and you shall flee when none pursues you.**

**18 And if you will not yet for these things hear and obey me, then I will chastise you seven times more for your sins.**

**19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass;**

**20 and your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.**

**21 And if you walk contrary to Me, and will not hear and obey Me, I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.**

**22 And I will send the beast of the field among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your ways shall become desolate.**

I don't know about you, but I would suspect that you would feel very much like I do about this paragraph: that we really don't want to be partakers of anything in this list! YHWH is quite serious about having His people hear and obey Him. If they refuse for any reason, then He will bring these things upon them in order to discipline them so that they would turn back to Him and obey Him.

Let us also list the things in this paragraph so that we can get the full impact of this list as well.

1. YHWH will put terror over us
2. Consumption will consume us
3. Fever will consume us
4. Our eyes will fail
5. Our life will languish away
6. Our sowing of seed will be vanity
7. Our enemies will eat our food
8. YHWH will be against us

9. Our enemies will be victorious over us
10. We will be enslaved by those who hate us
11. We will run as if pursued, but there will be no pursuer
12. If repentance is not forthcoming at this point, YHWH will increase the calamities above, seven times
13. YHWH will break the selfish pride we have in our own power
14. YHWH will shut up the sky and it will give no rain as iron gives no water
15. YHWH will shut off the land and it will not yield its produce as brass gives no food
16. All our efforts will be in vain
17. The land will not give us an increase
18. Our vineyards will not produce fruit
19. If repentance is still not forthcoming, YHWH will increase the plagues another seven times for our sins
20. YHWH will send the wild beasts among us
21. The wild beasts will kill our children
22. The wild beasts will kill our livestock
23. YHWH will make us few in number
24. YHWH will make all our ways desolate

What I am about to say I do not mean in a disrespectful way, and I certainly include myself in this as well. But it does not take a genius to figure out which list is better, and to do those things to get the benefits of that list. Having said that, why is it that people in general live their lives in rebellion to YHWH, and refuse to hear and obey His commandments? It just really does not make sense to me, at all.

Is sin so attractive that we are willing to live under such terrible curses as these? The benefits of sin are absolutely zero. So why do we do those things that are not pleasing to our heavenly Father? Is pleasing the flesh that gratifying? If it has any gratification at all, it is extremely temporary and passes so fast that it should be counted as no benefit at all.

I wonder if YHWH has our attention yet.

## **More Curses for Non-repentance**

***Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 26:23-26***

***23 And if by these things you will not be reformed to me, but will walk contrary to me;***

***24 then will I also walk contrary to you; and I will smite you, even I, seven times for your sins.***

***25 And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute the vengeance of the covenant; and you shall be gathered together within your cities; and I will send the pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.***

***26 When I break your staff of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver your bread again by weight; and you shall eat, and not be satisfied.***

This is now the third time that YHWH states that He will increase the plagues upon us for not repenting of our sins. Let us list these as well.

25. YHWH will increase the plagues seven more times for not repenting
26. YHWH will smite us
27. YHWH will bring the sword upon us
28. YHWH will execute vengeance against us
29. YHWH will gather us in our cities
30. YHWH will send pestilence upon us
31. YHWH will deliver us into the hands of our enemies
32. YHWH will cause the very basics of food to fail
33. YHWH will cause a famine
34. We will eat, but not be satisfied

Now if this is not bad enough, there is yet more to come for disobeying His commandments and rejecting His covenant.

## **Even More Curses for Non-repentance**

***Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 26:27-33***

***27 And if you will not for all this hear and obey Me, but walk contrary to Me;***

***28 then I will walk contrary to you in wrath; and I also will chastise you seven times for your sins.***

***29 And you shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall you eat.***

***30 And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your sun-images, and cast your dead bodies upon the bodies of your idols; and My soul shall abhor you.***

***31 And I will make your cities a waste, and will bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the savor of your sweet odors.***

***32 And I will bring the land into desolation; and your enemies that dwell therein shall be astonished at it.***

**33 And you will I scatter among the nations, and I will draw out the sword after you; and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.**

This is now the fourth time that YHWH states that He will increase the plagues upon those who disobey His commandments and reject His covenant. Let us do the math, shall we?

YHWH lists eleven plagues that He will pour upon those who disobey His commandments before He first states He will increase the plagues seven times.

$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline 77 \end{array}$$

YHWH then lists six more plagues besides those first listed. So we have 77 + 6 and then He states that He will increase these plagues by another seven times for non-repentance.

$$\begin{array}{r} 83 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline 581 \end{array}$$

That is an awful lot of plagues, 581. Whew!

But that is not all, for the same price of non-repentance, He will add another five plagues and then increase that times seven as well.

$$\begin{array}{r} 586 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline 4102 \end{array}$$

But friends, that is not all! For the same low price of non-repentance, YHWH will add another ten plagues and also increase it by another seven times.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4112 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline 28,784 \end{array}$$

But wait friends, there is more. If you fail to act now, in full repentance, YHWH will add these additional plagues to you for the same low price of non-repentance.

35. YHWH will walk contrary to us in His wrath
36. You shall eat the flesh of your own sons
37. You will eat the flesh of your own daughters
38. YHWH will destroy the places of false worship we have erected
39. YHWH will cut down the images of sun worship
40. YHWH will cast our dead bodies upon the fallen idols
41. YHWH will abhor us
42. YHWH will destroy our cities
43. YHWH will bring to waste our places of worship
44. YHWH will not accept our sacrifices
45. YHWH will bring the land to desolation
46. YHWH will cause our enemies to dwell in our place
47. YHWH will scatter us among the nations of the world
48. YHWH will send the sword after us
49. Our land will be a desolation
50. Our cities will be laid waste

Friends, if you don't act now in full repentance, then all these plagues will be rushed right to your door. Do not delay in repenting! Otherwise, all these plagues will be yours for the price of non-repentance!

I wrote the above in a somewhat tongue-in-cheek way to make a point. The point? YHWH is very serious about this business of our keeping His covenant and hearing and obeying His Voice and obeying His commandments. If we do not do that, then He will be forced to discipline us to the point of extinction. The plagues stop the moment we repent. It does not take much to break the cycle of plagues, just a wholehearted turning to YHWH and loving Him and serving Him with all our heart, soul, and mind!

## **Shabbat for His Land**

***Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 26:34-39***

***34 Then shall the land enjoy its Shabbatot, as long as it lies desolate, and you are in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy its Shabbatot.***

***35 As long as it lies desolate it shall have rest, even the rest which it had not in your Shabbatot, when you dwelt upon it.***

***36 And as for them that are left of you, I will send a faintness into their heart in the lands of their enemies: and the sound of a driven leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as one flees from the sword; and they shall fall when none pursues.***

***37 And they shall stumble one upon another, as it were before the sword, when none pursues; and you shall have no power to stand before your enemies.***

***38 And you shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.***

***39 And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them.***

We now come to the reason for the expulsion. Israel failed to keep and observe the land Shabbat or the shemittah. We have to get this commandment fixed squarely in our minds and hearts to do this as He has commanded us to do it. If we do not, then He will begin working and disciplining us in such a fashion that we will obey His commandments.

Just because He causes us to go into captivity into foreign lands, does not mean it will be easy there, either. No, YHWH will continue to discipline us even there, and cause us to be smitten all those days, until there is a full repentance from His people.

## **Covenant Relationship**

***Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 26:40-45***

***40 And they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, in their trespass which they trespassed against me, and also that, because they walked contrary to me,***

***41 I also walked contrary to them, and brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised heart be humbled, and they then accept the punishment of their iniquity;***

***42 then will I remember My covenant with Jacob; and also My covenant with Isaac, and also My covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land.***

***43 The land also shall be left by them, and shall enjoy its Shabbatot, while it lies desolate without them; and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity; because, even because they rejected My ordinances, and their soul abhorred My statutes.***

***44 And yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not reject them, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break My covenant with them; for I am YHWH their Elohim;***

***45 but I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their Elohim; I am YHWH.***



YHWH made a covenant with Israel. He will keep that covenant at all costs, even to the point of driving His people from the land of promise. He will deal with them in whatever fashion is necessary to get them to come back to Him in full repentance.

Here is something quite interesting. YHWH states that we not only have to confess our own sins, but we need to confess the sins of our fathers as well. This goes to the depth of not only confessing their sins, but also accepting the punishment and discipline that YHWH meted out as a result of their sins. This is part of the path back to YHWH, accepting these things and doing as He has commanded. Please consider this passage.

***Nechemyah [Nehemiah] 1:6***

***let Your ear now be attentive, and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant, which I pray before You at this time, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants while I confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against You. Yes, I and my father's house have sinned.***

It seems apparent that Nechemyah understood what it would take for Israel to be restored back to her land. It is no wonder that YHWH chose to use this man in the fashion that He did. May YHWH raise up a multitude of likeminded people to pray and work in the same fashion as Nechemyah did for the nation in his day.

## **YHWH's Commandments**

***Vayyiqra [Leviticus] 26:46***

***46 These are the commandments which YHWH made between him and the children of Israel in Mount Sinai by Moses.***

These commandments were given by YHWH through Moshe on Mount Sinai. These commandments are binding upon all who would be or become a part of Israel. YHWH is very serious about us hearing and obeying His Voice and living a life that is in accordance with His commandments.

Keeping His commandments is not about salvation; i.e., one cannot earn salvation through the doing of His commandments. Rather, obeying His commandments is about obedience to His Voice. To have a proper relationship with YHWH, we need to hear and obey His Voice. If we cannot do that or refuse to do that, the results will be tragic for us and for our children. It is a price that we truly cannot afford to pay.

It is incumbent upon us to know His word, to know His commandments, so that we may walk uprightly before Him and teach our children to do the same. To do this in a manner that is pleasing to our heavenly Father, we must do so from a heart of love and devotion to Him. If love is not the motivating factor, then we will utterly and miserably fail to pass on the true faith to our children. They, in turn, will follow the path of not obeying His commandments, because they do not have a personal relationship with Him.

To keep, observe, do, and obey His commandments, we are to have a personal relationship with Him. Otherwise, the motives of why we are doing what we are doing can never be pure and righteous.

ABBA YHWH, we love you! We desire to hear and obey Your Voice. Please fill us with Your Spirit and empower us to walk before You in the way that is pleasing to You; in Yeshua our Mashiach's name we pray. Amein.

**חֲזַק! חֲזַק! וְנִתְחַזַּק!**

**Chazak! Chazak! V'nitchazeik!**

Be strong, be strong, and may you be strengthened.

Amein, Amein! אָמֵן אָמֵן

Shabbat Shalom

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