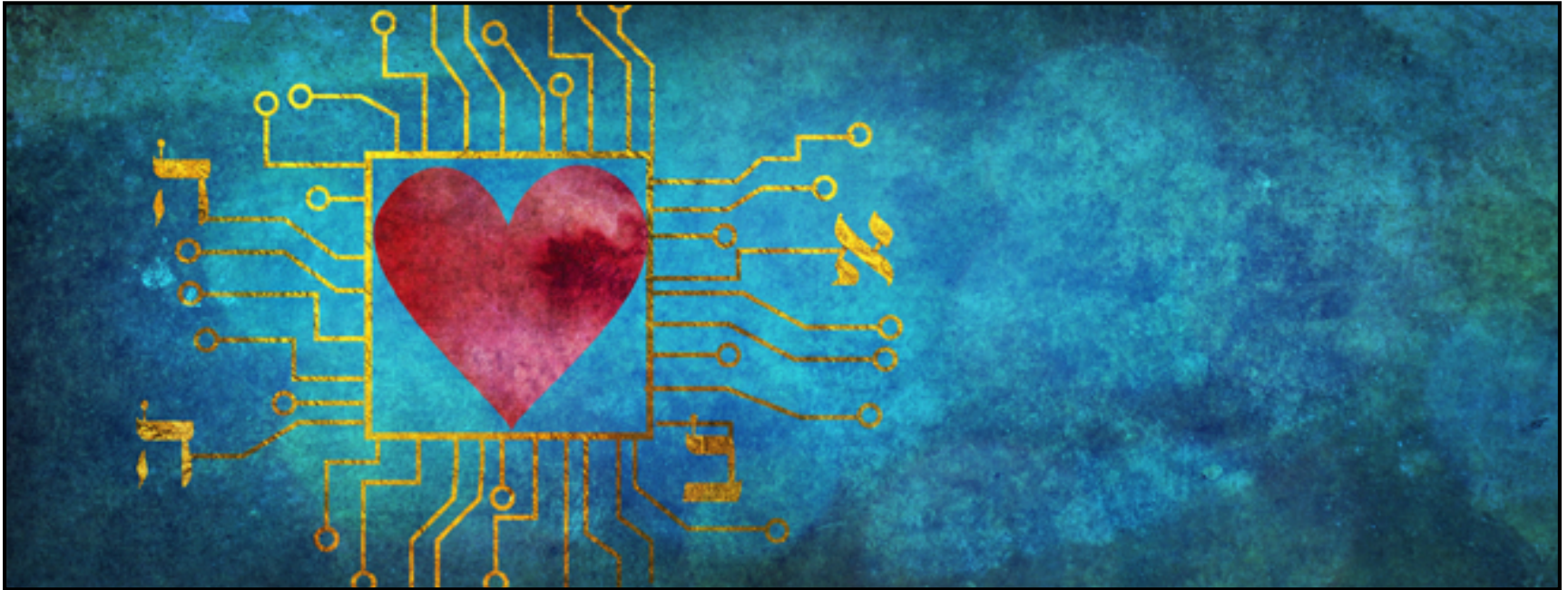


EIKEV - DEUTERONOMY

- *Because* -

Dan Stolebarger - Holy Ground Explorations
Chapters 7:12 - 11:25

INTRODUCTION



PARASHAT EIKEV

REMEMBERING ANNE





¹² “Then it shall come to pass, **because** you listen to these judgments, **and keep and do them**, that the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers. ¹³ And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you. ¹⁴ You shall be blessed above all peoples;

Note the word EIKEV, often translated “because,” literally means “heel,” which recalls Jacob, who wrestled with the pain of his past to learn to bear the name Israel. And like Jacob we must grapple to believe that the covenant of God’s love and acceptance is for us too ... The Sassover rebbe interpreted the opening verse of our Torah portion, “And it shall be when your heel is ready to take a step, you will listen to your heart.” This is the step of faith which expresses action ...

THINK SHEMA



17 "If you should say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?'— 18 you shall not be afraid of them, but you shall remember well what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: **19** the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm, by which the Lord your God brought you out. So shall the Lord your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. **20** Moreover the Lord your God will send the hornet among them until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed. **21** You shall not be terrified of them; for the Lord your God, the great and awesome God, is among you. **22 And the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you little by little;** you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you.

What does this remind you of? Kadesh Barnea! Remember the lesson of REMEMBERING! Satan is a master thief and wants to steal all your godly memories!

Here we see that God promises to deliver the Israelites 'little by little' - in other words not all at once! WHY? I think because He wanted to be sure that the Israelites would not rest and flex their muscles and think that they so how made this all happen. Because He did it little by little there was always another battle just around the corner!

8

² And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you **and test you**, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. ³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, **that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.** ⁴ Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. ⁵ **You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you.**

The trials that Israel faced in the desert are called “the chastisements of love.” Moses likewise said that God disciplined the people “for their own good.” Kierkegaard regarded life in this world as education for eternity, a “school of suffering? What is the role of divine discipline and correction? Do you think suffering is a prerequisite for becoming a disciple of Jesus?

Remember this is one of the verses JESUS used in combatting satan in the Judean wilderness after His baptism

6 "Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. 7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; 8 **a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey;** 9 a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones *are* iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. 10 When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.

SEVEN SPECIES



BARLEY, WHEAT, OLIVES, POMEGRANATES, FIGS, DATES, GRAPES

¹¹ **"Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God** by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, ¹² lest—*when* you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell *in them*; ¹³ and *when* your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; ¹⁴ when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

¹⁷ then you say in your heart, '**My power and the might of my hand** have gained me this wealth.

Israel may be the nation that was chosen, but they have been chosen for a reason. The reason is not merited by themselves, but God's reason is to bless all the nations on the earth. God wanted a 'flagship' nation that was an example to the world – not of how they behave, but of how he behaves.

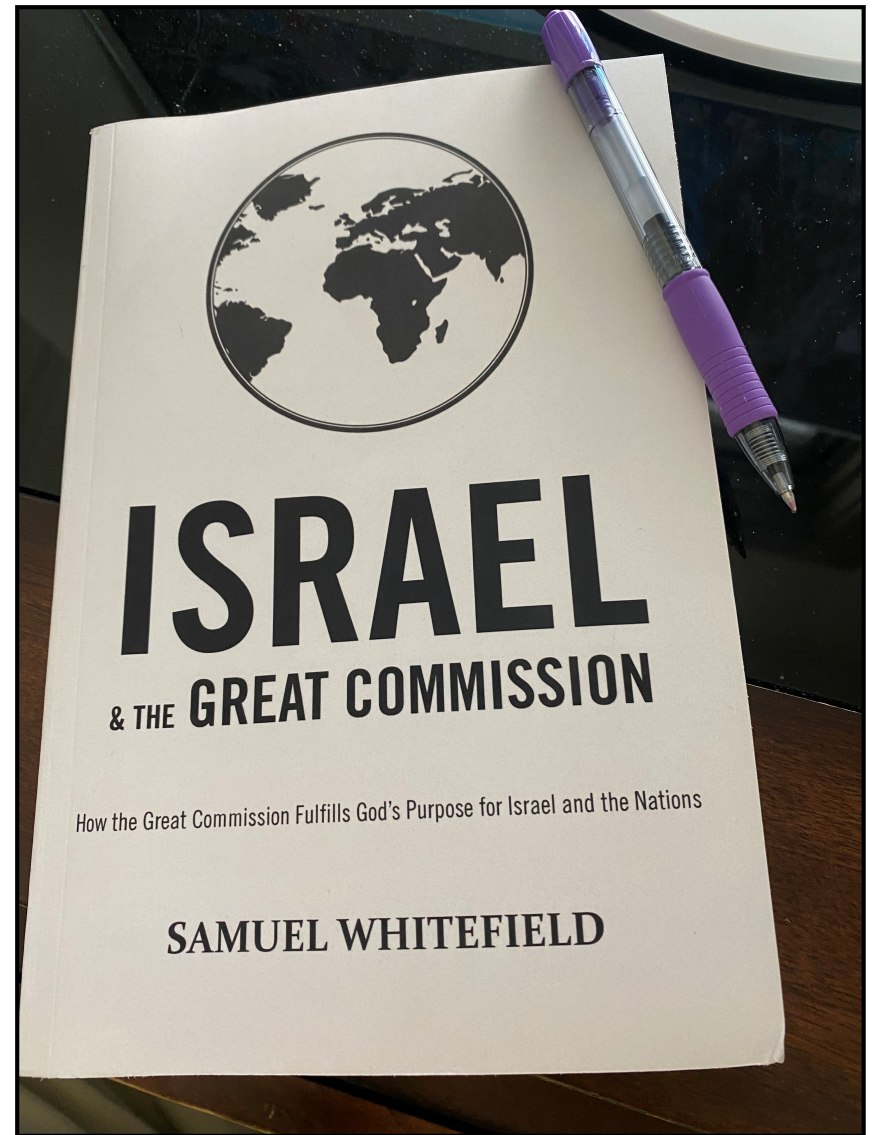
4 “Do not think in your heart, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you, saying, ‘Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to possess this land’; but *it is* because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the Lord is driving them out from before you. **5 It is** not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart *that* you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations *that* the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and **that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.** **6** Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you *are* a **stiff-necked people.**

A “stiff necked person” is someone who mulishly refuses to “move his head” and listen to those attempting to guide and help him. The neck, after all, is the “corridor” between the head and the heart, and having a “stiff neck” suggests an inflexible way of thinking and feeling. God called the people *am k’ sheh oref* at Sinai (Deut. 9:13, Exod. 32:9).

SAMUEL WHITEFIELD

“God choose Israel on the basis of His desire and not her performance. Because Israel was not called by God not the basis of her failure of her performance, neither is she rejected by God on the basis of her failure. All of this shows us Israel’s story is more than Israel’s story – it is the telling of the gospel in an allegorical form.” **Samuel Whitefield**

“God chooses people and nations according to His own sovereign will. His choosing is not based on our ability, potential, or personal achievement because there is nothing “better” in any one of us that causes us to deserve to be chosen by God. Because He does not choose the way we do. He frequently chooses people we would not choose.” **Samuel Whitefield**



10

¹² “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, **but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,** ¹³ **and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good?** ¹⁴ Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, *also* the earth with all that *is* in it. ¹⁵ The Lord delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as *it is* this day. ¹⁶ Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer. ¹⁷ For the Lord your God *is* God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. ¹⁸ He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

How do you really know if you love God?

‘Words Bernardo Words; that was a day that I used to believe in words!’ **Francis**

You walk in His Ways?

How do you know what His Ways are? The Word of God

11

¹⁰ For the land which you go to possess *is* not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and **watered it by foot**, as a vegetable garden; ¹¹ but the land which you cross over to possess *is* a land of hills and valleys, **which drinks water from the rain of heaven**, ¹² **a land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord your God are always on it**, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year.

¹³ 'And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹⁴ **then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.**

The first rain of the season is called the Yoreh, or early rain. This rain softens the soil and signals the time for farmers to plough their land. Rain continues to fall throughout the winter months. This rain is essential for the farmers to grow their precious crops. The last rains are in spring, and are called the Malkosh. These latter rains of the rainy season ripen the crops. The summer months are dry.

¹⁸ “Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and **bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.** ¹⁹ You shall 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 And you shall **write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates,** ²¹ that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

²² “For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him— ²³ then the Lord will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. ²⁴ **Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory.**

²⁵ No man shall be able to stand against you; the Lord your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you.



The boundaries of the land promised to Abram's descendants is clearly indicated in the Bible, yet we know that Israel has never had control of the full extent of this land. The Lord never said **when** it will happen, but He does say that **it will** happen. I believe that after the final battles described in the Bible, when all the nations will rise against Israel, with the return of Jesus, Israel will prevail. The promise will be fulfilled with the establishment of His Messianic kingdom.

If Israelis were currently occupying all the land that God gave to them, they would control all the holdings of present-day Israel, Lebanon, and the West Bank of Jordan, plus substantial portions of Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.