

August 22, 2019

**Parashat Eikev** (Deuteronomy 7:12–11:25)

<https://mirowitztorahreading.weebly.com/eikev.html>

Ezra Gould (7:12-14)

*Ezra ben Yehoshu'a Asher v'Temima Fayga*

Leah Weisenberg (7:15-17)

*Leah Gavriella bat Aharon v'Yehudit*

**SUMMARY**

Ezra: In *Parashat Ekev*-- the third *parasha* of *Sefer Devarim*--*Moshe* continues speaking to the Israelites, telling them that if they keep their agreement with God, then God will make them successful. *Moshe* reminds the Israelites that the people who are living in the Promised Land, at that time, before the Israelites entered, will lose it because they worship idols. The Israelites will eventually settle safely in the land because of their agreement with God.

Leah: *Moshe* reminds the Israelites that when they do finally settle in the Promised Land they must not think, "My own power and the strength of my own hand have earned me this wealth." Instead, they are told to bless God whenever they eat a satisfying meal:

וְאָכַלְתָּ וְשָׂבַעְתָּ וּבֵרַכְתָּ אֶת־ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ עַל־הָאָרֶץ הַטֹּבָה אֲשֶׁר נָתַן־לְךָ:

When you have eaten and you feel good, bless your God for the good land which God has given you. (8:10)

Ezra: *Moshe* goes on to remind the Israelites of God's kindness and faithfulness in taking them out of slavery, and in giving them another set of the Ten Commandments--even after they made a golden calf to serve as their god, and throughout a variety of other very rebellious behaviors.

## QUESTIONS

**Ezra: We studied the verses we just read more closely and we noticed something. Moshe tells the Israelites that as a consequence for following the *mitzvot* that God gives them, God will love them and bless them. The third verse I read says that part of this blessing will be that the Israelites will have a lot of children. How might having a lot of children be a blessing? <<Leah pics 3>>**

Leah: More children can mean more help at home. I set the table and sometimes wash dishes, which can be a blessing to my parents. Also sometimes parents or grandparents look at their children and it reminds them of when they were that age and it makes them happy. That can be a blessing, too.

Ezra: I agree. Family is important to me. More family means more company and more love. Also hearing children play together can be such a blessing for parents.

**2) Leah: Just a little later in the same verse, we learn that another part of the blessing that the Israelites will receive as a consequence for doing *mitzvot* will be that their animals have lots of babies, and that they will have lots of fruit and grain. We thought this sounded like a food blessing--that the Israelites would be blessed with plenty of food. Why do you think that lots of food might be a blessing?**

**<<Ezra pics 3>>**

Ezra: It makes sense to me that this would come right after the blessing of having lots of children, because when you have lots of children it can only be a blessing if you can feed them all.

Leah: Also--by telling us that we will have a lot of food, God might be blessing us that we have *more than enough* food. If the Israelites end up with more food than they need, then this means that they can share. And if they have a lot of extra food, then they can share a lot. And if they have a lot of left over food *and* a lot of people who can share, that is a great way to spread blessing.

3) Leah: A little later in this Torah portion we receive the *mitzvah* to say *birkat hamazon* after meals. It says:

אֶכְלֶתָּ וְשִׂבַעְתָּ וּבֵרַכְתָּ אֶת־ה' אֱ-לֹהֶיךָ עַל־הָאָרֶץ הַטְּבָה אֲשֶׁר נָתַן־לְךָ:  
 “When you eat, and you are satisfied, bless A-donai your God for the land that God has given you.”

Why do you think God would tell the Israelites that they should say a blessing over the land after every meal once they have entered the Promised Land and are receiving the blessings of lots of children and lots of food?  
 <<Leah pics 2, Ezra picks 1>>

Ezra: When we say a blessing we look for and point out the good about something. When God tells us to bless God for the land, it is like God is giving us a challenge to remember--after every meal--why we care about the land so that we can feel connected to it and take care of it.

NAME: Ezra & Leah

**Torah Service Jobs Chart**

Job	Student Preferences
Open Ark	Ezra
Torah Parade	Leah
Intro to <i>parasha</i>	Everyone!
Readers:	Everyone!
<i>Yad</i> holder:	Blessing: Leah / Ezra Torah Reading:
Discussion:	Read Questions: Everyone! Pick students to speak: Everyone! Answer Questions: Everyone!
<i>Hagbah</i> (lifting)	Ezra
<i>G'lilah</i> (dressing)	Leah
Torah Parade	Ezra
Close Ark	Leah

וְהָיָה | עֵקֶב תִּשְׁמַע יְיָ אֶת הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים הָאֵלֶּה וְשִׁמְרַתְּם וְעָשִׂיתֶם אֹתָם וְשָׁמַר ה' אֶל־לְהֵיךָ לְךָ  
אֶת־הַבְּרִית וְאֶת־הַחֹדֶד אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְתֵּיךָ:

12) As a consequence for following these rules and observing them carefully, Adonai your God will keep for you the agreement and the kindness that God made as a promise with your ancestors:

וְאַהֲבֶיךָ וְיִבְרַכְךָ וְהִרְבֶּיךָ וַיְבַרְכֶךָ פְּרִי־בִטְנְךָ וּפְרִי־אֲדָמָתְךָ דְגָנְךָ וְתִירְשֶׁךָ וַיִּצְהַרְךָ שְׂגַר־אֲלֶפֶיךָ  
וְעָשִׂיתִךָ צֶאֱנָךְ עַל הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְתֵּיךָ לְתֵת לְךָ:

13) God will love you and bless you and make you many; God will bless the children of your belly and the fruit of your land, your grain and wine and oil, the calving of your herd and the lambing of your flock, on the land that God promised to your ancestors to give to you.

### **Seforno**

... וְאַהֲבֶיךָ בְּהִיוֹתְכֶם בָּנִים בְּדַמּוֹתוֹ כְּצַלְמוֹ

“He loved you” in the sense that you are “children,” created in God’s image.

בְּרוּךְ תִּהְיֶה מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים לֹא־יִהְיֶה בְּךָ עֵקֶר וְעֵקֶרָה וּבְבִהֶמְתֶּךָ:

14) You shall be blessed out of all peoples: there shall be no male or female among you or among your livestock who can't have children.

וְהִסִּיר ה' מִמֶּךָ כָּל־חֲלִי וְכָל־מַדּוּי מִצְרָיִם הָרְעִים אֲשֶׁר יָדְעֵתְ לֹא יִשִּׁימֶם בְּךָ וּנְתָנֶם  
בְּכָל־שְׁנָאֶיךָ:

15) Adonai will keep away from you all sickness; God will not bring upon you any of the terrible diseases of Egypt that you know, but will give them upon to all those who hate you.

## QUESTIONS

1)

2)

3)