

Congregation T'shuvat Yisrael – www.Yeshuati.com

Rabbi Bob Benbow

For those who do not know, the Portion name comes from the first word or words of the portion in Torah. This week the Torah Portion name Ekev is translated as “Because”.

The Torah Commentary:

When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless YHVH your God for the good land which He has given you. Beware that you forget not YHVH your God, in not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command you this day: Lest you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses, and dwelt in; and your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; then your heart be lifted up, and your forget YHVH your God, Who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; Who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where no water was; Who brought you forth water out of the rock of flint; Who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers knew not, that He might humble you, and that He might prove you, to do you good at your latter end; and you say in your heart, “My power and the might of my hand has gotten me this wealth”. But you shall remember YHVH your God: for He is that gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be, if you do at all forget YHVH your God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. As the nations which YHVH destroys before your face, so shall you perish; because you would not be obedient to the voice of YHVH your God. (Deut. 8:10-20) Speak not you in your heart, after that YHVH your God has cast them out from before you, saying ‘For my righteousness YHVH has brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations YHVH does drive them out from before you. Nor for your righteousness, or for the uprightness of your heart, do you go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations YHVH your God does drive them out from before you, and that He may perform the word which YHVH swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Understand therefore, that YHVH your God gives

you not this good land to possess it for your righteousness; for you are a stiffnecked people. Furthermore YHVH spoke to me, saying, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiffnecked people." I prayed therefore to YHVH, and said, O Lord God, destroy not Your people and Your inheritance, which You have redeemed through Your greatness, which You have brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand. Remember Your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; look not to the stubbornness of this people, nor to their wickedness, nor to their sin: Lest the land whence You brought us out say, "Because YHVH was not able to bring them into the land which He promised them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to slay them in the wilderness." Yet they are Your people and Your inheritance, which You brought out by Your mighty power and by Your stretched out arm. (Deut. 9:1-6,13,26-29) Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is YHVH's your God, the earth, with all that therein. Only YHVH had a delight in your fathers to love them, and He chose their seed after them, you above all people, as this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. For YHVH your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regards not persons, nor takes reward: You shall fear YHVH your God; Him shall you serve, and to Him shall you cleave, and swear by His Name. He is your praise, and He your God, Who has done for you these great and terrible things, which your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now YHVH your God has made you as the stars of heaven for multitude. (Deut. 10:14-17,20-22) And, behold, the word of YHVH to him, saying, "This shall not be your heir; but he that shall come forth out of your own bowels shall be your heir. And He brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if you be able to number them; and He said to him, So shall your seed be. And he believed in YHVH and He counted it to him for righteousness. And He said to him, I YHVH that brought you out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give you this land to inherit it. (Gen. 15:4-7) And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly. And as for Me, behold, My covenant with you, and you shall be a father of multitude of nations. Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham: for a father of many nations have I made you. And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God to you, and to your seed after you. And I will give to you, and to your seed after you, the land wherein you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession: and I will be their God. And God said to Abraham, You shall keep My covenant therefore, you, and your seed after you in their generations. This My covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your seed after you: Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin: and it shall be a token of the covenant between Me and you. (Gen. 17:2,4-11) Circumcise yourselves to YHVH, and take away the foreskins of your heart, you men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest My fury come forth like fire and burn that none can quench, because of the evil of your doings. (Jer. 4:4) For circumcision verily profits, if you keep the Torah: but if you be a breaker of Torah,

your circumcision is made uncircumcision. Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the Torah, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfill the Torah, judge you, who by the letter and circumcision does transgress the Torah? For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: but he a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision of the heart, in the spirit, not in the letter; whose praise not of men but of God. (Rom. 2:25-29) Hearken to me, you that follow after righteousness, you that seek YHVH: look to the rock you are hewn, and to the hole you are digged. Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him. For YHVH shall comfort Zion: He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of YHVH, joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. Hearken unto Me you that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is My Torah/law; fear you not the reproach of men, neither be you afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but My righteousness shall be forever, and My salvation from generation to generation. Therefore the redeemed of YHVH shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy upon their head; they shall obtain gladness and joy; sorrow and mourning shall flee away. (Isa. 51:1-3,7,8,11) Awake, awake: put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean. Therefore My people shall know My Name: therefore in that day that I He that does speak: behold, I. Breakforth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem: for YHVH has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. YHVH has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. (Isa. 52:1,6,8-10) O sing to YHVH a new song: for He has done marvelous things: His right hand, and His holy arm, has gotten Him the victory. YHVH has made known His salvation (Yeshua); His righteousness has He established in the sight of the heathen. He has remembered His mercy and His truth toward the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to YHVH, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing to YHVH with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. Make a joyful noise before YHVH, the King. (Ps. 98:1-5,6b)