
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Deut. 7:12-26	Yahweh's blessings for those who hear and guard His right-rulings in the land of Kena'an
Tuesday:	Deut. 8	Admonitions to remember Yahweh in your increase (prosperity); The 7 Species (sheva minim)
Wednesday:	Deut. 9	Admonitions to remember Yahweh's mercy in bringing you to the land, and to recall the golden calf incident
Thursday:	Deut. 10	Recollections of how Yahweh replaced the broken tablets of stone and showed mercy on Yisra'el; Exhortations to obey Him from the heart
Friday:	Deut. 11:1-25	Reminders of the blessings for obedience and of the curses for disobedience; Reiteration of The V'ahavta

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will look at another one of Mosheh's speeches. In this address, Mosheh fluctuates between present day instruction, revisitation of past events and the foretelling of future events. We will also learn about the 7 Species (sheva minim) that the people will discover in Erets Yisra'el (land of Yisra'el). Now, let's read Deut. 8.

PARSHA POINTS

- Yahweh commands Yisra'el to guard to do every command which He commands them, so that they might live, and increase, and go in and possess the land (**erets**) which Yahweh covenanted with their fathers - 8:1-2

The Past

- Yahweh appeals to them to remember that He led them 40 (**arba'im**) years in the wilderness, in order to (8:2):
 - humble them
 - prove (test) them
 - to know what is in their heart
 - to know whether they guard His commands or not
- Yahweh humbled them and let them suffer hunger, then fed them with manna which they were not familiar with, to cause them to know that man does not live by bread alone, but by every *Word* that comes from the mouth of Yahweh - 8:3



- Yahweh kept their garments from wearing out and prevented their feet from swelling throughout their 40 year journey - 8:4

The Present

- Yahweh reminds them that as a man disciplines his son, so Yahweh their Elohim disciplines them - 8:5
- You shall guard the *commands* of Yahweh your Elohim, to walk in His ways and to fear Him - 8:6

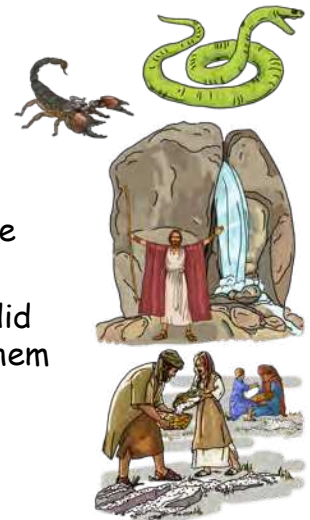
The Future

- Yahweh your Elohim is bringing you into a good land, a land (8:7-9):
 - of streams of water
 - of fountains and springs that flow out of valleys and hills
 - of wheat (**chittah**) and barley (**seorah**), of vines (**gefen**) and fig (**te'edah**) trees and pomegranates (**rimmon**), and olive oil (**zayit shemen**) and honey (**devash**)
 - in which you eat bread without scarcity
 - in which you do not lack at all
 - whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you dig copper
- You shall eat and be satisfied - 8:10
- You shall bless Yahweh your Elohim for the good land which He has given you - 8:10
- Yahweh commands them to be on guard lest (8:11-14):
 - they forget Yahweh their Elohim by not guarding His commands and His right-rulings, and His laws which He commanded them
 - they eat and are satisfied and build lovely houses and dwell in them and their herds and their flocks increase, and their silver and gold increase and all that they have is increased
 - their hearts become lifted up, and they forget Yahweh their Elohim who brought them out of the land of Mitsrayim, from the house of bondage



The Past

- Yahweh recalls the things that He did for Yisra'el in the wilderness (8:15-16):
 - He led them through that great and awesome wilderness of fiery serpents and scorpions and thirst
 - He brought water for them out of the flinty rock, in a land where there was no water
 - He fed them in the wilderness with manna, which their fathers did not know, to humble them and to try them so that He could do them good in the end



The Future

- Yahweh wants this next generation to be on guard (v 11) lest they say in their heart that their own power and the strength of their own hand have made them this wealth - 8:17
- Yahweh wants this next generation to remember that it is Yahweh who gives them power to get wealth, in order to establish His covenant which He promised to their fathers, as it is today - 8:18
- Yahweh warns them: if by any means you forget Yahweh your Elohim and follow other mighty ones, and serve them and bow yourselves to them, you shall certainly perish - 8:19
- Just as Yahweh is about to do to the nations which they are to destroy, so shall He do to them if they do NOT obey the voice of Yahweh their Elohim - 8:20

DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Consider this: if Mosheh's speech was given today, how do you think most people would react?
- Yahweh repeatedly says, "IF you do this, THEN I shall do that". Discuss how their success in the land was totally conditional upon their choice to be obedient. What were they to obey?
- Does Scripture ever indicate that works are NOT necessary or bad? Does Scripture ever indicate that man should follow his own heart? Consider Jeremiah 17:9.
- Yahweh repeatedly reminds Yisra'el to remember that everything they are about to receive is NOT from their own power or might. It seems that Yahweh does NOT want them to become haughty or prideful. Find stories in the Scriptures of those who became prideful and were humbled. Who should we give all the credit to?

