

Deuteronomy 7:12–11:25

Eikev | עקב

“if”

Parshah *Eikev* is filled with warnings and assurances, blessings and curses, all of which is summarized in the second paragraph of the Shema found in 11:13-21. Israel's fate depends on Israel's faith. The main topics discussed here are memory, love, education, humility, and gratitude--all within the context of the Land. Here, as in most places, the Land represents the goal, the conclusion, the Spiritual Life. And what do we need in order to enter into and take possession of the Spiritual Life? We need to remember, love, pass down, be humble, and be grateful.

Additional
Resources:

BT:
2019

Rabbi
Jonathan
Sacks

Aleph-
Beta



Community Questions:

1. What are all the ways the word *eikev* is translated into English? How are they connected?
2. How many times is love mentioned in this portion? In Deuteronomy?

3. What's the main difference between the two sections of the *Shema* found in this parshah (11:13-21) and the previous parshah (6:4-9)?
4. There are two distinct passages about the Land in this portion: 8:7-8 and 11:10-12. If we can say that the Land is good, and that it depends on the One Who is Good, how is this reflected in your spiritual life?
5. Connect the concept of “*Eikev*/consequence/end/heel” to the concept of the Land of Promise, one of the main themes of this parsha. In what ways is the Land of Promise a conclusion, an “end”?

6. What are all the ways you can think of that humility and gratitude are foundational to good things?
7. The real test of our strength is not poverty but affluence, not slavery but freedom, not homelessness but home. How has this been true in your own life?
8. What does it mean that man can live “on everything that comes from the mouth of God”?

9. What holds us back from being humble and grateful?
10. How can you, in your home space or your routines, help yourself remember what must not be forgotten about God? What's stopping you from doing those things?
11. Rabbi Sacks has said, “Education is the conversation between the generations.” How can we contribute more, individually and collectively, to this conversation regardless of whether or not we have children of our own?