

Deuteronomy 11:26–16:17

Re'eh | ראה

“see”

In Chapter 11 leading up to this week's Torah portion, Moses speaks to the Israelites whereby he emphasizes the importance of the people to observe the commands to love and obey Adonai. Our Torah portion begins in verse 26 which focuses on the blessing(s) if they obey and the curse(s) if they disobey. This sets the stage for instructions to destroy pagan shrines, where to worship, idolatry warnings, forbidden worship practices, clean and unclean foods, tithing practices, Sabbatical laws, firstborn livestock, Passover, Feasts of Weeks and Tabernacles. Whew!

Additional
Resources:

BT:
2019

Rabbi
Jonathan
Sacks

Aleph-
Beta



Community Questions:

1. Beginning in 11:26 Moses tells the people that he is setting before them a blessing and a curse. Explain this in your own words..
2. Chapter 13 talks about prophets and dreamers. What were the Israelites instructed to do to the person who told them to follow their (other) gods?
3. Explain the tithing principle(s) from Chapter 14.
4. In 11:30 we learn the mountains are near the great trees of Moreah. Why do you think Moses emphasizes these particular trees? (Hint: See Genesis 12:6-7)
5. In Chapter 12 Moses talks about the place where the Lord will put his Name for his dwelling and there the people must go to bring their tithes, offerings, and sacrifices? Where is THAT place?
6. Chapter 15 dictates that the firstborn males of every flock and herd be set apart, don't allow firstborn oxen to work, and to not shear firstborn sheep. Why?
7. In chapter 13 Moses tells the Israelites they are to put to death their very brother, son or daughter who entices them to worship other gods. That sounds harsh, but is it? Why or why not?
8. Chapter 14 has numerous rules about clean and unclean foods, yet many people in the world today eat these same animals. What's wrong with these unclean foods?
9. Explain the principle behind canceling debt found in Chapter 15.
10. How would you handle it if your neighbor invites you over for lunch only to learn when you arrive that the main course is a (pork) BLT?
11. This a personal reflection and need not be discussed out loud with other members of your group. Are you freely giving your tithes and offerings back to God based on the principles set forth beginning in 14:22?