

PARSHAT KI TAVO,  
DEUTERONOMY, CH. 26 - CH. 29, V 14  
Torah Study, 3 Sept., 2020, Anshel Weiss

1. The Power of Our Language.

Our tradition is to read parshat Ki Tavo during the month of Elul, focusing particularly on Ch. 26 and Ch. 28, vs 15 - 68.

- A. In your opinion, what is found in Ch. 26, vs 1 - 16, to which the rabbis felt we should pay particular attention, as we approach Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur?
- B. The phraseology we find in the Haggadah on Pesach, language also used when the first offerings were brought to the Temple, refers to a “wandering Aramean”. Who was this Aramean? What is so special about this language that we have made this formulation part of the Passover “telling?” Furthermore, why is it the concluding statement, made by the Kohanim after they have duchened and blessed the people?

2. The place and role of the b'kurim (“first fruits”) in Jewish tradition: biblically and rabbinically.

- A. What do we mean when we talk about “b'kurim?”
- B. What is unique about this mitzvah as compared with observance of other mitzvot?
- C. What does that concept of “ray-sheet” mean in observance of the mitzvah of “b'kurim” and where else does the Torah focus on the concept of “ray-sheet?”
- D. Take a position: should we be observing the “b'kurim” tradition today even though the Temple no longer exists. Why?
- E. Might one's response vary based on who one believes the “wandering Aramean” to be?

### 3. Understanding Ch. 26, v 16.

Would you agree that this statement adequately summarizes one's efforts in the observance of the High Holy Days?

### 4. Bless You. Curse You. Bless You ...

What is the purpose of, once again, stating the blessings and the exhaustive list of curses, in Parshat Ki Tavo? We have already addressed them in Leviticus as well as other places in the Torah. How are these pronouncements different? How do the statements change in tone as we compare vs 15 - 44 with vs 45 - 57 and then vs 58 - 66? Why should we continue to read and study these verses?

### 5. Yisrael Chai!

There is a dispute "today," among the rabbis, as to what the Torah reading should be for Yom haAtzmaut (Israel Independence Day.) Traditionally, the opening chapters of Parshat Eikev (Deuteronomy, Ch. 7, v 12 - Ch. 8, v 18.) Now that we have the State of Israel, some rabbis suggest that we should read the first 16 verses of Parshat Ki Tavo (this week's Torah portion.) Which reading do you believe would be most appropriate as we focus on Israel Independence Day?