

Torah: D'varim (Deuteronomy) 7:12 – 11:25
Haftarah: Yesha'yahu (Isaiah) 49:14-51:3
B'rit Hadashah: Mattityahu (Matthew) 16:13-30

	yr. 1 7:12-9:3	yr. 2 9:4-10:11	yr. 3 10:12-11:25
1	7:12 – 16	9:4 – 10	10:12 – 15
2	7:17 – 21	9:11 – 14	10:16 – 22
3	7:22 – 26	9:15 – 21	11:1 – 9
4	8:1 – 3	9:22 – 29	11:10 – 12
5	8:4 – 10	10:1 – 5	11:13 – 15
6	8:11 – 18	10:6 – 8	11:16 – 21
7	8:19 – 9:3	10:9 – 11	11:22 – 25

and it will be because you listen to these judgments / and you keep them and you do them / ADONAI your God will keep for you the covenant and the lovingkindess which he swore to your fathers	<p><i>v'haya ékev tishme'un et ha'mishpatim ha'éle ush'martem va'asitem otam v'shamar ADONÁI Elohékha lekhá et-ha'b'rit v'et-ha'khésed ashér nishba la'avotéykha</i></p>	<p>וְהָיָה עֵקֶב תִּשְׁמְעוּן אֶת הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים הָאֵלֶּה וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֹתָם וְשָׁמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ לְךָ אֶת-הַבְּרִית וְאֶת-הַחֶסֶד אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְתָּיִךְ:</p>
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This portion speaks about the positive consequences of following Torah, recalling the benefits that the Children of Israel received in their wilderness journey from Egypt. It also reminds us of the negative consequences of rebellion, like the Golden Calf incident. It recalls more of the journey, closing with the second paragraph of the Shema, the most central prayer in Judaism. To summarize in two words, it is *inspiration* and it is about *caution*.

The haftarah is the second Consolation of Isaiah. This passage promises that HaShem will not forget Israel, that the people will return to the Promised Land, and that the land that had become barren and empty will once again be overflowing and prosperous.

Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

- De. 7:12-16** The blessings that obedience to all of Torah will bring, based on Ex. 23:25-26 and the promises HaShem gave to the patriarchs. Sterility was a great personal tragedy (Ge. 15:12, 30:1, etc).
- De. 7:17-21** Victory in the land is not predicated on the relatively small number of Israelites, or the large number of inhabitants, but on the presence of HaShem.
- De. 7:22-26** Procuring the land will occur little by little, kingdom (city-state) by kingdom until all 31 are vanquished (Jos. 12:7-24). Keeping any objects of idolatry would result in the same fate as the idolator.
- De. 8:1-3** Remembering (*zakor* – זָכַר) Israel's dependence is based on HaShem's provision of manna in the wilderness. Remembrance and obedience are directly connected through discipline and testing.
- De. 8:4-10** The aim of discipline is education (Pr. 3:11-12). The goodness of the land is stated at least 10 times in D'varim, as in the seven species. Tradition of Grace after Meals is based on vs. 10.
- De. 8:11-18** The warning, the caution, the potential weakness: forgetfulness. Prosperity over time can lead to complacency and forgetting dependence on HaShem. Self-reliance leads to idolatry.
- De. 8:19-9:3** Both the nations in the land and Israel are subject to the same fate as the result of idolatry. HaShem himself will cross ahead of the people and drive out the inhabitants.

Thought Focus

Difficult Gratitude: Everyone thinks gratitude is good, that it is central to our well-being and our relationships with one another. Yet it seems that many have difficulty authentically feeling and expressing gratitude. De. 8:10 contains the command to bless HaShem *after* eating. Tradition expresses this in Birkhat HaMazon – Grace after Meals. This traditional prayer is divided into four parts. The first part is attributed to Moses, composed when the manna began to fall. Joshua composed the second part when Israel enters the land. When Jerusalem becomes the capital, David adds the third blessing. King Solomon composes the fourth part when the Temple is complete. Each part expresses increased gratitude. Eating manna occurs without a land, capital city, or temple. Then, to be in the land without a capital city or temple is the next phase, and so forth. Though each phase is lacking completeness, gratitude can still be expressed at any stage, teaching the principle of finding value in our circumstance.

What challenges do you/we face in developing a grateful heart?

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (7:12) Do you listen to God? Do you obey? What is the result of what you hear? (Joh 5:39, Jam 1:22, Joh 15:10, Rom 2:11-13, 2Ti 2:14-15)
2. (8:11) Do you remember God in your prosperity? In your poverty? What has He done for you? (Col 1:16-17, Ecc 11:9, Pro 5:11, Isa 1:28, Act 17:26-31)
3. (9:4) Do you take what God gives, or do you take credit for what God gives? (Gen 15:16, Eze 36:22, 32, Tit 3:3-5, Eph 2:8-9, Psa 115:1-3, 1Pe 1:3-5)
4. (10:1) Is God's word only in the pages of a book, or is it written on your heart? (Exo 32:16, Exo 21:18, Deu 10:2, Eze 11:19-20, Eze 36:26-27, Jer 31:32, 2Co 3:3, 6, Rom 7:12, Pro 7:1-3)
5. (10:12) Is Adonai your God? What is He asking of you? (Mic 6:8, Isa 56:1, Hos 6:6, Isa 57:15 and Mat 11:28-30, Mat 13:45-46, Luk 1:51-53, 1Co 1:27, Luk 18:16-17, Isa 66:1-2, Mat 5:3-6)
6. (11:10) The Kingdom of Heaven is not like the kingdom of this world. Do you have one foot in both, or are both your feet firmly planted in One? (Rev 3:15-19, Act 17:26-27, Isa 58:11-12, Joh 17:14-16)
7. (11:22) How do you "cleave" to God? (Pro 3:6, Deu 6:7, Jos 23:7-8, 1Sa 25:29, 1Jo 5:11, Rom 8:11, 2Co 11:2)