



## Bechukotai

VaYikra (Leviticus) 26:3 - 27:34

Parsha Bechukotai begins with a promise and a curse. If the Israelites follow G-d's laws and commandments, G-d will bless them, their land will be fertile and peaceful, and their enemies will flee before them. If, however, if the people do not obey, then G-d will spurn and punish them, their enemies will dominate them, and they will live in fear. When those who survive the punishment repent, G-d will restore them, remembering the covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The final section of the Book of VaYikra details the three types of gifts that could be promised to the sanctuary. The first type of gift consists of a promise to contribute a certain sum of money (specified in the text) equal to the valuation assigned to persons based on gender and age. The second type of gift involved the giving of animals or property. Both were sold and the proceeds went toward the maintenance of the sanctuary. The third type of contribution (be it man, beast. or land) that was dedicated to G-d could not be redeemed; everything given is totally consecrated to G-d, rendering it invalid for any other use.

The Book of Leviticus concludes with several verses on tithes, the contribution of ten percent of income or produce for the poor, maintenance of communal institutions, and the statement: "These are the commandments that the Lord gave to Moses for the Israelite people on Mount Sinai."



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