



Ki Tavo

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 26:1 – 29:8

Parshat Ki Tavo begins with a description of one of the first obligations of the Jewish people after they enter into the Land of Israel; they were to bring the first fruits to the Kohanim (priests). The description is followed by a special declaration that tells the story of the Jewish people as they had experienced history since the time of Abraham (26:5-10). The declaration includes a promise that all the tithes (Ma'asrot) had been donated, as well as a prayer for G-d's blessing. Moses concludes this section with a charge to observe all the Commandments. Then the Torah gives instructions to set up large stones at Mount Ebal, on which all the words of the Torah were to be written.

The covenant ritual at Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal is then described, along with the blessings for keeping the covenant terms.

Parshat Ki Tavo also includes the section of the Torah known as the "Tochechah" or rebuke. It is a long and terrifying list of the various curses and afflictions that would befall the Jewish people if they did not follow the laws that G-d had given them, i.e. if they were to break the covenant. It is customary that when the Chazzan reads this section of the Torah in the synagogue, he chants it in a low voice. This difficult section is followed by a review of all the good things G-d did for Israel since the Exodus.



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