



בהקתי [Bechukotai](#)
In My Statutes
[Leviticus 26.3—27.34](#)
[Jeremiah 16.19—17.14](#)
[Luke 21—24](#)



Conclusion This תורה [Torah](#) Law/Instruction portion concludes the Book of Leviticus.

If This portion begins with blessings and curses based on “*if*.” *If* we keep God’s decrees and commands, we get wonderful blessings. *If* we don’t keep God’s decrees and commands, we get terrible curses. Oddly, when we are blessed, as America has been blessed, we may forget the One who gives us these blessings. John Wesley said,

Wherever riches have increased, the essence of religion has decreased in the same proportion. Therefore I do not see how it is possible in the nature of things for any revival of religion to continue long. For religion must necessarily produce both industry and frugality, and these cannot but produce riches. But as riches increase, so will pride, anger, and love of the world in all its branches.

If blessing leads us away from God, God may use pain to bring us back. Here is the progression of consequences, “*If* in spite of this you still do not listen to Me, but continue to be hostile toward Me, then I will...” It’s echoed in [Romans 1.18-32](#).

Have you ever heard, “God never causes stealing, killing, or destruction”? This is a logical fallacy based on [John 10.10](#). “Since the thief (Satan) comes only to steal, kill, and destroy, God cannot do these things.” Walter Martin, the late Bible Answer Man, called this a non sequitur defined as, “It don’t follow, no how, baby.” It’s like saying, “Since unbelievers sleep, Christians cannot sleep.” Just because Satan brings suffering does not mean that God can’t. This portion and others say that God does bring suffering. A similar passage is [Isaiah 10](#). Who really destroys and scatters the northern tribes?



While watching the Twin Towers go down, I felt like many others 60 years earlier hearing President Roosevelt announce the attack on Pearl Harbor. I sensed of a rip in the covering of God’s protection over America. Two days after 9-11, Anne Graham Lotz was interviewed on the Early Show and said, “I say God is also angry when he sees something like this. I would say also for several years now Americans in a sense have shaken their fist at God and said, ‘God, we want you out of our schools, our government, our business, we want you out of our marketplace.’ And God, who is a Gentleman, has just quietly backed out of our national and political life, our public life, removing His hand of blessing and protection.”

Obedience is Better In [Joshua 7](#), **ישראל** *Yisra'el* Israel experiences a miraculous victory over impregnable Jericho, with instructions to destroy everything. But at Ai they suffer defeat. Joshua pleads with God and learns: one in **ישראל** has disobeyed and kept plunder from Jericho. **ישראל** destroys that man, his family, and his plunder. **ישראל** goes on to defeat Ai after paying for one person's disobedience. For the Church, Paul gives a key to success in life, "Put to death the misdeeds of the body," [Romans 8.13](#).

[Leviticus 26.32-35](#) says that God will scatter **ישראל** for disobedience and allow the Land to enjoy its Sabbaths while it's deserted. Assyria takes the northern tribes about 722 BC and Babylon takes Judah about 586 BC. **ישוע** *Yeshua* Jesus/salvation prophesies a scattering in [Matthew 24.15-22](#), partly fulfilled when Rome took **ישראל** in 70 AD and again in 132 AD. The Babylonian exile lasts 70 years. The next exile lasts almost 2,000 years.



The tendency for believers is to think this is only a problem for **ישראל**: we don't have to worry since, "Jesus died for us and we're not under the Law, we're under grace." Those who believe the "prosperity doctrine" often quote [Jeremiah 29.11](#), "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith **יהוה** *YHVH* the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Astonishingly, most ignore the context of this passage—devastating destruction. The survivors will return, so the ultimate result is blessing, just as Joshua triumphed in taking Ai, but there will be suffering for disobedience also. Not the best verse to support a prosperity doctrine!



Restoration is a Struggle Despite punishment for sin, [Leviticus 26.45](#) promises that God will restore **ישראל** to the Land. We are seeing this happen now! Not smoothly—nations demand that **ישראל** create a Muslim state within its borders. That’s asking **ישראל** to give Allah, the crescent-moon god chosen by Mohamed, Land claimed by **יהודה**. Curiously, Allah sounds like the ancient Hebrew word **אלה** [alah](#) curse. **ישראל** is one of a very few countries which have voluntarily given up land won in a defensive war. For example, America took Japan in WW II and later gave it back. **ישראל** has given part of its conquered Land back after winning the 1967 war. But because **ישראל** hasn’t given it all back, nations cry, “Evil!” When **ישראל** moves to establish settlements in these biblical lands of Judah and Samaria, the so-called “Occupied West Bank,” the nations rage.

The struggle **ישראל** faces in its Land parallels the Church’s struggle, misdeeds of the body. The hope **ישראל** expects, rest in its Promised Land, parallels the Church’s hope, rest in its heavenly Promised Land. Paul admonishes us in [Titus 2.11-15](#) to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives while waiting for **ישוע** to return, and to teach this, encourage others, and rebuke with all authority!

Heart [Leviticus 26:41-42](#) speaks of the heart being humbled, and then God will remember His covenant with **ישראל**. The heart can also:

Grieve	Genesis 6.6
Be refreshed	Genesis 18.5
Be hardened	Exodus 9.12
Hate	Leviticus 19.17
Lust	Numbers 15.39
Love	Deuteronomy 6.5
Hold words	Deuteronomy 6.6
Become prideful	Deuteronomy 8.14
Be troubled	Deuteronomy 15.5
Be hot	Deuteronomy 19.6
Faint	Deuteronomy 20.3
Fear	Deuteronomy 28.67
Cavil	Deuteronomy 29.18



Melt	Joshua 7.5
Make merry	Judges 16.25
Speak	1 Samuel 1.13
Tremble	1 Samuel 4.13
Fail	1 Samuel 17:32
Die	1 Samuel 25.37
Understand	1 Kings 3:9
Devise	1 Kings 12.33
Return	2 Kings 23.25
Boast	2 Chronicles 15.19
Be glad	Psalm 16.9
Meditate	Psalm 19.15
Desire	Psalm 21.3
Overflow	Psalm 45.2
Meditate	Psalm 49.4
Break	Psalm 51.19
Give thanks	Psalm 111.1
Be searched by God	Psalm 139.23
Store words	Proverbs 3.3
Plan evil	Proverbs 6.18
Lust	Proverbs 6.25
Go astray	Proverbs 7.25
Receive commandments	Proverbs 10.8
Deceive	Proverbs 12.20
Prepare	Proverbs 16.1
Devise	Proverbs 19.21
Envy	Proverbs 23.17
Be hardened	Proverbs 28.14
Be wise	Ecclesiastes 1.16
Waken	Song of Songs 5.2
Falter	Isaiah 21.4
Be comforted	Isaiah 40.2
Rebel	Jeremiah 5.23
Deceive	Jeremiah 17.9
Be searched by God	Jeremiah 17.10
Burn	Jeremiah 20.9
Covet, shed blood, oppress	Jeremiah 22.17
Fear	Jeremiah 32.40
Cry	Lamentations 2.18
Endure	Ezekiel 22:14
Be like stone	Ezekiel 36.26
Be rent	Joel 2.13
Be prideful	Obadiah 1.3



May our hearts be open to God's written Word, תורה, and living Word, ישוע.

Glossary, in order of appearance:

בְּחֻקָּי	<i>Bechukotai</i>	In My Statutes
תּוֹרָה	<i>Torah</i>	Law/Instruction
יִשְׂרָאֵל	<i>Yisra'el</i>	Israel
יֵשׁוּעַ	<i>Yeshua</i>	Jesus/salvation
יְהוָה	<i>YHVH</i>	the LORD/holy Name of God
אֵלֶּה	<i>alah</i>	curse