

Congregation T'shuvat Yisrael – [www.Yeshuati.com](http://www.Yeshuati.com)

Rabbi Bob Benbow

For those who do not know, the Portion name comes from the first word or words of the portion in Torah. This weeks Torah portion is named Bechukotai and is translated as “In My Statutes.”

**Commentary:**

*The heart is deceitful above all, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I YHVH search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings. (Jer. 17:9,10) If you walk in My statutes, and keep My commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. (Lev. 26:3,4) These the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that YHVH God made the earth and the heavens, and every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for YHVH God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and not a man to till the ground. But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And YHVH God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And YHVH God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground made YHVH God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And YHVH God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And YHVH God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die. (Gen. 2:4-9,15-17) But if you will not hearken to Me, and will not do all these commandments; And if you shall despise My statutes, or if your soul abhor My judgments, so that you will not do all My commandments, that you break My covenant: I also will do this to you.... . (Lev.26:14-16a) And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die: For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree good for food, and that it pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also to her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and*

*they knew that they naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.* (Gen. 3:4-7) *And YHVH God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: Therefore YHVH God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.* (Gen. 3:22-24) *And God saw that the wickedness of man great in the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart only evil continually. And it repented YHVH that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart.* (Gen. 6:5,6) *If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against Me, and that also they have walked contrary to Me; and I also have walked contrary to the, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: Then will I remember My covenant with Jacob, and also My covenant with Isaac, and also My covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land. The land also shall be left of them, and shall enjoy her Sabbaths, while she lies desolate without them: and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity: because, even because they despised My judgments, and because their soul abhorred My statutes. And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break My covenant with them: for I YHVH their God. But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I YHVH.* (Lev. 26:40-45) *Now therefore hearken, O Israel, to the statutes and to the judgments, which I teach you for to do, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which YHVH God of your fathers gives you. You shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHVH your God which I commanded you. Your eyes have seen what YHVH did because of Baal-Peor: for all the men that followed Baal-Peor, YHVH your God has destroyed them from among you. But you that did cleave to YHVH your God are alive every one of you this day. Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as YHVH my God commanded me, that you should do so in the land whither you go to possess it. Keep therefore, and do for this your wisdom and you understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes. And say. Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is so great, who God nigh to them, as YHVH our God in all we call upon Him? And what nation so great, that has statutes and righteous as all this Torah, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to yourself, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life: but teach them your sons, and your sons' sons. The day that you stood before YHVH your God in Horeb, when YHVH said to me, Gather Me the people together, and I will make them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and they may teach their children.* (Deut.4:1-10) *Know therefore this day, and*

*consider in your heart, that YHVH He is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: none else. You shall keep therefore His statutes, and His commandments, which I command you this day, that it may go well with you, and with your children after you, and that you may prolong days upon the earth, which YHVH your God gives you, forever. (Deut. 4:39,40)*

*Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in YHVH. I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for You, YHVH, only make me dwell in safety. (Ps. 4:8) The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever. The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of judgment. The Torah of his God in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. (Ps. 37:31) Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and a good conscience, and faith unfeigned. (1 Tim. 1:5) Thanks be to God Who creates in us a clean heart, renews a right spirit, and writes His Torah on our heart. Keep these in heart and mind for life. Guard yourself from a heart attack from the adversary, keep it whole. Shema Yisrael.*