

PARSHA SUMMARY FOR PARSHAS EIKEV

by Rabbi Aron Tendler

Note: The Shabbos Torah Reading is divided into 7 sections. Each section is called an Aliya [literally: Go up] since for each Aliya, one person "goes up" to make a bracha [blessing] on the Torah Reading.

1st Aliyah: Moshe details the general rewards for following the Torah, and encourages the nation to have complete confidence in Hashem's protection. Moshe forewarns them of the dangers in being overly confident and commands them in the Mitzvah of Birkas Hamazon (8:10).

2nd Aliyah: Moshe warns them regarding the pitfalls of prosperity and idolatry, and exhorts them to remain humble in the face of their guaranteed victories. G-d is the one who deserves the credit!

3rd Aliyah: In order to illustrate his point, Moshe reviews the incident of the Golden Calf. He explains why G-d, being a G-d of Justice, will grant the Bnai Yisroel a victory over the inhabitants of Canaan. Not because the Jews are deserving, but because the Seven Nations deserve to be punished for their own evil actions. The actions of the Bnai Yisroel during the 40 years, such as the Golden Calf, should have resulted in the Jews' destruction. It was three factors which kept them alive and well so that they could inherit the land.

1. Hashem's promise to Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov.
2. The Chillul Hashem-- desecration of G-d's name--that would have occurred among the other nations who would question G-d's ability to protect His nation.
3. Moshe's begging for Hashem's forgiveness.

4th Aliyah: Moshe finishes the story of the Golden Calf by retelling the giving of the Second Luchos.

5th Aliyah: Moshe poses the famous rhetorical question of, *"What does G-d want... follow His ways..."* and describes other instances of Hashem's demanding justice.

6th Aliyah: Moshe describes the nature of Eretz Yisroel as demanding and responsive to our following the Torah. The second Parsha of Shema is recorded.

7th Aliya: Moshe promises the nation total victory if they listen to the Mitzvos and follow the ways of the Hashem.