

Portion Behukotai Leviticus - Vayikra (26.3-27.34)

God has just finished giving Moses many laws for the Israelites regarding a Sabbath for the land in the 7th year and a Jubilee for the land and the people in the 50th year. God then says: If you follow My laws and faithfully observe My commandments, I will grant you rain so that your soil shall bring good crops and the trees will have fruit and your enemies will fall before you. I will grant peace in the land and you shall sleep with no fear. If you follow My ways, I, your God, will look with favor upon you and make you fertile and multiply. I will establish My covenant with you. I will place My Sanctuary among you and My Spirit will not reject you. I will walk among you. I will be God to you and you will be a people to Me.

But if you will not listen to Me, if your soul rejects My laws and you do not carry out my commandments and break My covenant, then I will do the same to you. I will bring upon you illness that fills the spirit with grief. You will then sow your seeds but they will not grow. You will be beaten by your enemies.

If you still will not listen to Me then I shall punish you further. Your land will not give produce and your trees will not bear fruit. And if you walk with Me only by chance or walk against Me and My ways I will destroy your cattle.

If you still walk with Me only by chance or act against Me then I, too, will walk with you only by chance and act against you. Then you will eat your food but will not feel full. I will destroy your buildings. My Spirit will reject you. I will make your sanctuaries empty and will no longer accept your offerings. I will scatter you among the nations. The people scattered shall be heartsick. They will confess their sin and the sin of their ancestors. Perhaps then their hard hearts will be sorry and punishment will be paid for their sins.

Then I shall remember My covenant with Jacob, My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham and I will remember the land. I will remember how the Israelites hated Me and how I have not hated or rejected them or broken My covenant with them, for I, God, am still their God. After all, I brought them out of the land of Egypt before the eyes of the nation to prove Myself to them as God.

These are the commandments which the Lord gave Moses for the children of Israel on Mount Sinai.

Questions: 1) How does God walk among us? 2) What does it mean to walk with God only by chance or to walk against God? 3) How do you walk with God?

Illustration Ideas: God granting rain and bringing good crops and trees...sleeping with no fear...someone rejecting God's laws...empty sanctuaries...the Israelites scattered among the nations

