
KI TAVO

Likkutei Sichos

By Rabbi Shalom M. Paltiel

BIKURIM – FIRST FRUITS

Deut. 26:1 And it will be, when you come into the land which the Lord, your God, gives you for an inheritance, and you possess it & settle in it;

26:2 You shall take of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you will bring from your land, which the Lord, your God, is giving you. And you shall put [them] into a basket...



THE MIDRASH

“And it will be” (*vehayah*) denotes IMMEDIACY.

Sicha discussion: What is IMMEDIATE?

- a. **MITZVAH OF BIKKURIM** – but verse states: “possess it & settle in it’ first!?”
- b. **PROMISE OF ENTRY INTO THE LAND** – So what? It’s been 40 years!?”
- c. **MITZVAH OF POSSESSION & SETTLEMENT OF LAND** – Midrash’s continuation indicates verse 1 is a narrative, not a mitzvah: “In merit of Mitzvah discussed here, you will enter the Land.’”

Rebbe's Explanation:

Mitzvah of Bikkurim is immediate, although fulfilled only after taking possession

TWO APPROACHES TO MITZVAH OF BIKKURIM:

TALMUD'S OPINION

Doesn't take effect until
entire land is possessed & settled

Rebbe: MIDRASH OPINION

Takes effect once individual
settles his own land

HOW IS THAT 'IMMEDIATE'?

- Obligation takes effect immediately; delay is due only to practical obstacle. ("A lion is crouching upon it").
- Yitro's family settled Jericho immediately; obligation would be immediate.

DUAL THANKSGIVING

UPON ENTRY and UPON POSSESSION

“These and these are the words of the Living God.” (Talmud)

All Torah opinions have application in life lessons:

IMMEDIATE UPON ENTRY

MODEH ANI — upon awakening

Simple faith

UPON TAKING POSSESSION

Hodu, Modim, Yodu etc. during prayer

After engaging mind & heart in prayer

CHAI ELUL CONNECTION

Birthdays of 'The Two Great Luminaries':

Baal Shem Tov

(1698-1760)

Founder of
General Chassidic
Movement

FAITH: Foundation
of Jewishness
(*'enter the land'*)

**Alter Rebbe –
Rabbi Shneur Zalman**

(1745-1812)

Founder of
Chabad Chassidic
Movement

CHABAD: Integrate
faith into mind & heart
(*'settle the land'*)

