

PARSHAT BECHUKOTAI

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Parshat Bechukotai begins with “If you follow my laws and keep my commandments ... I will give your rain, so that the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.” If we follow Hashem’s commandments all of these blessings and riches will be bestowed upon us.

Now is this a plea (Avodah Zarah 5a) or a simple notification? Does it matter? “If only you would do this (for me)” or “If you choose to do this...” How do we feel when Hashem does not seem to be holding up the end of the bargain? How do we feel (and what should we do) when we think it is us who have faltered? Are we responsible when our neighbors stumble, our companies, our country? We have all felt a strong weight on our shoulders.



Sometimes I feel we need to take a larger role in making things better—trying to earn these blessings, and sometimes small contributions seem like enough. During the past two plus years we have all needed help at some point be it supplies, financial help, food, advice and support, or medical care. Most of us have also given help in the same way. We may feel we deserve every blessing immediately. At Sinai we signed up for the long haul.

In the end it doesn't matter to me if it is a plea, a notification or a promise. I want those blessings for all of us however hard we may have to work to receive them. May we have the patience to know them in good time.

Shabbat Shalom, Rebecca Klausner