

***Parshat Ekev* Torah Study with Rabbi Josh**

8/8/20, 18 Av 5780

And you will eat, be satisfied, and bless YHVH your God. (Deut. 8:10)

Tzemach ha-Shem l'Tzvi (Tzvi Hirsh of Nadvorna, c. 1740-1802)

The analogy is that of a flowing spring (*ha'ma'aayan ha'noeva*). When you continually draw (*sho'avim*) from it, the more it flows and offers blessing. Our sages referred to a "river that grows from its own shores" (BT *Nedarim* 40a). If you don't draw from it, it recedes into its own source.

[Thus] when Israel merit receiving the blessed Divine flow (*hashpa'to*) and draw it forth from God, the Divine name itself is blessed. "You shall draw water in joy from the wellsprings of salvation/help/transformational power (*yeshua*)." (Isaiah 12:3) That is to say, those wellsprings need help (*yeshua*)! Their help comes about as you draw their water.

Thus, our eating and being satisfied is a mitzvah of action (*mitzvah ma'asit*): "you will eat and be satisfied." And "bless," a mitzvah of speech.

(Translation mostly from *Speaking Torah: Spiritual Teachings from Around the Maggid's Table*, Vol. 2; Arthur Green et. al, p. 100, with some alteration from Rabbi Josh)

"...we give blessing and strength to God, and not only by our words of blessing. In eating and being satisfied we bless the One, the endless Spring of life, who thrives on giving without end." (Ibid.)

"More than the calf wants to suck the cow wants to suckle" (BT *Pesachim* 112a).