

Parashat Eikev: Deuteronomy 8

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I. Problem/Diagnosis

1. Break the narrative of Deuteronomy 8 into sections.
2. What does this chapter teach us about human nature?
3. What are 3-4 repeating pivotal words in the chapter?
4. Summarize the challenge of the narrative in one sentence.

II. Response/Treatment

1. How do these key words provide tools for responding to the problem or breaking the cycle of Deut. 8?

III. Parallels

What are classical and modern **parallels** to the problem of Deuteronomy 8?

A. Hosea 13: 5-6

אֲנִי יָדַעְתִּיךָ בַּמִּדְבָּר בְּאֶרֶץ תְּלָאָבוֹת:

I did know you in the wilderness, in the land of great drought.

כַּמְרֵעִיתָם וַיִּשְׂבְּעוּ שִׁבְעוּ וַיֵּרָם לִבָּם עַל-כֵּן שָׁכַחוּנִי:

When they were fed, they became full; they were filled and their heart was exalted; therefore they have forgotten me."

B. Rashbam on Deuteronomy 8

And this is the reason for Sukkot—that when you are gathering your threshing floor and tanks (of the press) in gathering the produce of the earth and your houses are full of good new grain and wine and oil, you remember that I placed Bnei Yisrael in Sukkot in the desert for 40 years without settlement and without inheritance. Because of this, you will give thanks to the One who gave you the inheritance and the goodly houses full of all good things and don't say in your hearts, my strength and the might of my hands got me all this wealth.

And we find this same order in Deut. 8—and recall the 40 years that God led you in the wilderness and fed you Manna. And why do I command you to do this? Because God brings you to the good land and you eat and are satisfied and you raise your heart and forget and say this is the work of my hands and for this reason do we celebrate Sukkot during this agricultural season.

