Refreshed IN THE WORD
For thy word hath quickened me
PSALM 119:50

Torah Studies

Connecting the Torah and Jesus

STUDY 27

Return to the Faithful God

Day 27 · Leviticus 26

Read the promises and warnings of Leviticus 26. Discover why obedience matters and why turning back to God is a response of hope.

For personal reading and study with friends

King James Version · Complete Scripture passages

Read and share online

Read one section at a time. Take turns reading the verses aloud, discuss the questions, and choose one practical response. Every passage referenced in the teaching is included in full.

Let’s begin together

Father, help us hear Your warnings and trust Your faithfulness. Give us honest hearts that turn toward You instead of hiding our wrongs. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Leviticus 26 describes blessings and consequences within God’s covenant with Israel in the land. It includes painful pictures of war, hunger, and exile. We read these national covenant warnings in their setting, without assuming that every hardship in someone’s life proves a personal sin.

Main truth: Disobedience matters, and God’s faithfulness gives us reason to turn back to Him.

1. God wanted to dwell among His people

Leviticus 26:1-13

1 Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

2 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

3 If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;

4 Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

5 And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

6 And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.

7 And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.

8 And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

9 For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.

10 And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new.

11 And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you.

12 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

13 I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

The chapter begins with loyal worship and obedience. God promises rain, food, peace, and His presence to Israel under these covenant terms. At the center is relationship: He would be their God, and they would be His people. The One giving these commands had already rescued them from Egypt.

These promises must not become a claim that a faithful Christian will always be wealthy or never suffer. They were addressed to Israel’s covenant life in a particular land. They do teach us that God’s desire for His people includes faithful relationship, not only outward religious activity.

2. Refusing to listen has consequences

Leviticus 26:14-22

14 But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;

15 And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:

16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

17 And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

20 And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

21 And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.

22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate.

The warnings describe the result of despising God's instruction and breaking the covenant. The repeated refusal to listen is important. This is not a picture of God rejecting someone for one nervous mistake. It is a serious warning about stubborn, continuing rebellion.

Leviticus 26:23-26

23 And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me;

24 Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

25 And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

26 And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.

The consequences grow more severe as the people continue to resist. War, disease, and scarce food are described as covenant judgments. We are not authorized to label a particular person's illness or a modern disaster as punishment based on these verses. Our first response to suffering should include care and humility.

3. The warning reaches the loss of the land

Leviticus 26:27-35

27 And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me;

28 Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

29 And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat.

30 And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcases upon the carcases of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.

31 And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours.

32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

34 Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.

35 As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.

These are frightening descriptions of siege, extreme hunger, ruined worship places, and exile. The verse about eating children describes the horror of desperate famine; it does not command that act. The land would finally rest while the people were away. Israel could not keep the covenant's gifts while endlessly rejecting the covenant's Lord.

Leviticus 26:36-39

36 And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth.

37 And they shall fall one upon another, as it were before a sword, when none pursueth: and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies.

38 And ye shall perish among the heathen, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

39 And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them.

Exile is pictured as life under fear and weakness among other nations. The passage shows how deeply a community can be damaged by persistent wrongdoing. It should move us toward honest repentance, not toward feeling pleased about another person’s pain.

4. God remembers His covenant

Leviticus 26:40-46

40 If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me;

41 And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity:

42 Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land.

43 The land also shall be left of them, and shall enjoy her sabbaths, while she lieth desolate without them: and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity: because, even because they despised my judgments, and because their soul abhorred my statutes.

44 And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God.

45 But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.

46 These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the LORD made between him and the children of Israel in mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

The chapter makes room for confession and humble hearts. God says He will remember His covenant with the ancestors and will not utterly destroy His people or break His covenant with them. Judgment is real, and His faithfulness is real too. Returning begins with telling the truth about sin and acknowledging His right to lead us.

5. Jesus shows the joy of returning

Luke 15:17-24

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

In Jesus' story, the younger son comes to his senses, returns home, and confesses his sin. The father runs to welcome him and celebrates his return. This is not a promise that every consequence disappears. It is a picture of the Father's generous welcome that gives us courage to stop hiding and come home.

Hebrews 12:10-11

10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Hebrews describes God’s discipline as aiming at our good and holiness. Discipline can be painful, but its purpose is growth in a right way of life. We can receive needed correction without deciding that God has stopped loving us.

Talk it over with friends

1. Why do we need to read these promises and warnings in their covenant setting?

2. What does confession require us to stop doing?

3. How does the father’s welcome in Jesus’ story encourage you?

Put it into practice

Tell God the truth about one area where you have resisted His guidance. Take one step toward repair, such as apologizing or returning something. Receive correction without giving up hope.

A verse to carry with you

Luke 15:20

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Turning back to God is a response of hope.

Let’s pray together

Father, thank You for Your faithfulness. Soften our hearts when we resist You. Help us confess honestly, accept correction, and repair the harm we can. Thank You for the welcome Jesus shows us. Lead us into a faithful life with You. In His name, amen.

I love you, my friends.

Scripture and sources

Scripture text was checked against the King James Version published by eBible.org. The complete verses are reproduced with their historical wording. Verse numbers and layout are adapted for reading; editorial footnotes are omitted. Tap any Scripture reference to view its source.

Bible edition and text