

[29. *Dangers of Overconfidence*]

8 <sup>1</sup> You must safeguard and keep the entire mandate that I am prescribing to you today. You will then survive, flourish, and come to occupy the land that God swore to your fathers.

<sup>2</sup> Remember the entire path along which God your Lord led you these forty years in the desert. He sent hardships to test you, to determine<sup>3</sup> what is in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. <sup>3</sup> He made life difficult for you, letting you go hungry, and then He fed you the Manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had ever experienced. This was to teach you that it is not by bread alone that man lives, but by all that comes out of God's mouth.

<sup>4</sup> The clothing you wore did not become tattered, and your feet did not become bruised<sup>4</sup> these forty years. <sup>5</sup> You must thus meditate on the fact that just as a man might chastise his child, so God your Lord is chastising you. <sup>6</sup> Safeguard the commandments of God your Lord, so that you will walk in His ways and remain in awe of Him.

<sup>7</sup> God your Lord is bringing you to a good land—a land with flowing streams, and underground springs<sup>5</sup> gushing out in valley and mountain. <sup>8</sup> It is a land of wheat, barley, grapes, figs and pomegranates—a land of olives and honey-[dates].<sup>6</sup> <sup>9</sup> It is a land where you will not eat rationed<sup>6</sup> bread, and you will not lack anything—a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you will quarry copper.

<sup>10</sup> When you eat and are satisfied, you must therefore bless God your Lord<sup>7</sup> for<sup>8</sup> the good land that He has given you.

<sup>11</sup> Be careful that you not forget God your Lord, not keeping His commandments, decrees and laws, which I am prescribing to you today.

<sup>12</sup> You may then eat and be satisfied, building fine houses and living in them. <sup>13</sup> Your herds and flocks may increase, and you may amass much silver and gold—everything you own may increase. <sup>14</sup> But your heart may then grow haughty, and you may forget God your Lord, the One who brought you out of the slave house that was Egypt.

8:2 determine. Or, "show others" (Bachya).

8:4 become bruised (*LeKach Tov*). *Bataak* in Hebrew. Or, "swell" (Targum; Rashi; Ibn Ezra); "lacked shoes" (Saadia; Radak, *Shterahim*; cf. *Sevuagim*); or, "become painfully hardened" (*Sevuagim*).

8:7 underground springs. Or, literally, "springs and subterranean waters."

8:8 dates. (Rashi, *Berakhoth* 41b, s.v. *Devaith*). See note on *Leviticus* 2:11.8:9 rationed (*Targum Yonathan*; Saadia). Or, "in poverty" (Rashbam; Ibn Ezra).8:10 bless... This is a commandment to recite the grace after meals (*Berakhoth* 21a).— for. Or, "on," or "for the fruit of" (*Targum Yonathan*).

1 בְּלִדְהַמְצִיאוֹתָי אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְךָ הַיּוֹם תִּשְׁמְרוּן לַעֲשׂוֹת  
 לַמַּעַן תִּחְיוּ וְרַבִּיתֶם וְכִבִּיתֶם וְיִרְשַׁתֶּם אֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר  
 נִשְׁבַּע יְהוָה לְאַבְרָהָם: וְזָכַרְתָּ אֶת־כָּל־דְּבָרֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר  
 הוֹלִיכֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ זֶה אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה בְּמִדְבָּר לַמַּעַן  
 יִנְתָּן לְנִפְתָּךְ לָדַעַת אֶת־אֲשֶׁר בְּלִבְךָ בְּתִשְׁמַר מִצְוֹתַי  
 אִם־לֹא: וַיַּעֲנֶךָ וַיִּרְעַבְךָ וַיַּאֲבֶלְךָ אֶת־הַלֶּחֶם אֲשֶׁר לֹא  
 יָדַעְתָּ וְלֹא יָדַעְוּ אַבְתֶּיךָ לַמַּעַן הוֹדִיעֶיךָ כִּי לֹא עֲלִידְלֶהֶם  
 לְבַדּוֹ יְחִידָה הָאָרֶם כִּי עֲלִי־מִצְוֹתַי פִּירִיהֶנָּה יְהוָה הָאָדָם:  
 4 שְׂמֵלְחֶיךָ לֹא בְלִחְתָּ מֵעֵלְיֶיךָ וְרַגְלֶיךָ לֹא בִצְרָה זֶה אַרְבָּעִים  
 5 שָׁנָה: וַהֲדַעְתָּ עִם־לִבְבְּךָ כִּי כֹאֲשֶׁר יִיָּסַר אִישׁ אֶת־בְּנוֹ  
 6 יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִיִּסְרוֹךְ: וְשָׁמַרְתָּ אֶת־מִצְוֹת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ  
 7 לְלֵבְתָּ בְּרַחֲמֵי וְלִירְאַה אֹתוֹ: כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מְבִיאֶיךָ  
 אֶל־אֶרֶץ מִוָּבָה אֶרֶץ נְחָלִי מַיִם עֵינַת וְתִהְיֶה לְעֵצִים  
 8 בְּבִקְעָה וְבָהָר: אֶרֶץ חֶפְזָה וְשִׁעֲרָה וְגַפְן וְתַאֲמָה וְרַמְוִן  
 9 אֶרֶץ־זֵית וְשֶׁמֶן וְרִבְשׁ: אֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר לֹא כִּמְסַכְנַת הָאֵלֶּל  
 10 בָּהּ לֶחֶם לֹא־תִחְסַר כֹּל בָּהּ אֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֲבִנֶיהָ כְּזֶלַח  
 וּמְהֵרָה תִּחְזַב נְחֹשֶׁת: וְאַבְלַת וְשִׁבְעָה וּבְרַבְתָּ אֶת־  
 11 יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ עַל־הָאָרֶץ הַפְּקָה אֲשֶׁר נָתַתְךָ: הַשְׁמַר  
 לְךָ פְּדֻתֶשֶׁבֶה אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְבִלְתִּי שָׁמַר מִצְוֹתַי  
 12 וּמִשְׁפָּטַי וְחֻקֹּתַי אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְךָ הַיּוֹם: פְּדֻתֶשֶׁבֶה וְשִׁבְעָה  
 13 וּבָתִּים מְבִנִים חֲבִנֶיהָ וְיִשְׁבְּנֶיהָ: וּבְגָרְךָ וְנִאֲמַךְ וְרַבִּין וְכֹסֵף  
 14 וְהֶבֶל וְרַב־הַלֶּךְ וְכֹל אֲשֶׁר־לְךָ וְרַבְתָּ: וְרַם לְבַבְךָ וְשִׁבְחֶיךָ  
 אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ הַמּוֹצִיאֶיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עַבְדִּים: