

# Remember - Ekev July 31, 2021

Source Sheet by Rabbi Marina Yergin

## דברים ח': י"ב-י"ח

(יב) פֶּן־תֵּאָכַל וְשִׂבַעְתָּ וּבָתִּים טֹבִים תִּבְנֶה וַיִּשְׁכַּתָּ: (יג) וּבָקִרְךָ וְצֹאֲנֶךָ יִרְבּוּ וְכֶסֶף וְזָהָב יִרְבֶּה־לְךָ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־לְךָ יִרְבֶּה: (יד) גָּרַם לְכַבֵּדְךָ וְשִׁכַּחְתָּ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ הַמוֹצִיאֲךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבֵּית עֲבָדִים: (טו) הַמּוֹלִיכֶךָ בַּמִּדְבָּר | הַגָּדֹל וְהַנּוֹרָא גָּחַשׁ | שָׂרָף וְעַקְרָב וְצִמְאֹן אֲשֶׁר אִין־מַיִם הַמוֹצִיא לְךָ מַיִם מִצּוֹר הַחֲלָמִישׁ: (טז) הַמֵּאֲכִילֶךָ מִן־בַּמִּדְבָּר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדְעוּן אֲבֹתֶיךָ לְמַעַן עֲנֹתְךָ וְלִמְעַן נִסְתָּה לְהִיטִיבְךָ בְּאַחֲרֵיתֶךָ: (יז) וְאָמַרְתָּ בְּלִבְּךָ כֹּחִי וְעֹצְמִי יָדִי עָשָׂה לִי אֶת־הַחַיִּל הַזֶּה: (יח) וְזָכַרְתָּ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ כִּי הוּא הֵנִיחָ לְךָ פֶּתַח לַעֲשׂוֹת חַיִּל לְמַעַן הָקִים אֶת־בְּרִיתוֹ אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם בְּיוֹם הַזֶּה:

### Deuteronomy 8:12-18

(12) When you have eaten your fill, and have built fine houses to live in, (13) and your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold have increased, and everything you own has prospered, (14) beware lest your heart grow haughty and you forget the LORD your God—who freed you from the land of Egypt, the house of bondage; (15) who led you through the great and terrible wilderness with its seraph serpents and scorpions, a parched land with no water in it, who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock; (16) who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers had never known, in order to test you by hardships only to benefit you in the end— (17) and you say to yourselves, “My own power and the might of my own hand have won this wealth for me.” (18) **Remember that it is the LORD your God who gives you the power to get wealth, in fulfillment of the covenant that He made on oath with your fathers, as is still the case.**

### Why does Moses bring up "remember"?

#### Ramban on Deuteronomy 8:18:1

"The Israelites, about to conquer the Land of Israel and enjoy its fruits, will assume that they alone have brought about all of their victories and are responsible for the bountiful harvest of their fields. Such a conclusion will be logical."... This is why Moses focuses on the word "remember." "For Moses, 'remembering' is an antidote to arrogance....such recollections, precisely at the moment of celebration, place pride into perspective."

**Nechama Leibowitz**

"In blindness, human beings tend to detect the guiding hand of God only when it is visible in miracles, as had been the case with Israel during the whole of their progress through the wilderness. They fail to see the hidden miracles performed for them continually, even when the world around them...seems to be going on as usual....Recollection of visible miracles is designed to open our eyes to the hidden ones that are the foundation of the whole Torah...to awake our faith in the direct intervention of God."

**Rabbi Morris Adler**

"[Moses] senses the dangers of their 'moral callousness,' their selfish concerns, their 'loss of obligation' to use their talents and abilities to benefit others....Through his warning, Moses is urging upon the Israelites the wisdom of gratitude and humility that ultimately leads to responsibility. 'True gratitude always flowers in obligation.'"