

PARASHAT RE'EH

Deuteronomy 11:26–16:17

Parashat Re'eh continues Moses' speeches to the Israelites. Warning that they face the choice between a life of blessings or a life of curses, he urges them to observe God's commandments in the land west of the Jordan, where they will settle. He tells them to destroy all idolatrous altars and to worship at the place designated by God. Rules about sacrifices, tithes, and care for the Levites are discussed along with regulations for slaughtering and eating meat. Moses warns the people not to be lured into idolatry by false prophets, family members, or friends. He commands them not to disfigure themselves or eat anything harmful to their health. He clarifies which animals are permitted and which are forbidden for eating and details regulations for setting aside a tenth part of one's produce (tithe) for the stranger, fatherless, and widow. Moses also defines the sabbatical year as a time for canceling all debts and for extending care to the needy, promising that those who help the poor will be blessed with no regrets. In addition, he instructs the Israelites in the treatment of slaves and reviews the three Pilgrimage Festivals of Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukot.
