

## IF IN MY STATUTES YOU WILL WALK\*

אם־בְּחֻקֹּתַי תֵּלְכוּ וְאֶת־מִצְוֹתַי תִּשְׁמְרוּ

וַעֲשִׂיתֶם אֹתָם:

וְנָתַתִּי גֶשְׁמֵיכֶם בְּעִתָּם וְנָתַנָּה הָאָרֶץ יְבוּלָהּ

וְעֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה יִתֵּן פְּרִיֹו:

וְהִשִּׁיג לָכֶם דִּישׁ אֶת־בְּצִיר וּבְצִיר יִשִּׁיג אֶת־זֶרַע

וְאָכַלְתֶּם לַחֲמֻכָּם לְשִׁבְעַת שָׁנֹת וּשְׁבַתְתֶּם לְבִטָּח בְּאֶרְצְכֶם:

If in my statutes you will walk and my commandments you observe,  
and you do them;  
then I will give you your rains in their seasons, and the land shall yield her produce,  
and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit;  
and your threshing shall reach to the vintage and the vintage shall reach to sowing time,  
and you shall eat your bread with satiety and dwell in safety in your land.

*If in my statutes you will walk and my commandments you observe, and you do them—According to our Sages there are three levels of “walking” or going: speech, which is a part of study; thought, when we “reflect upon the commandments so as to know the manner in which they are done and their purpose” (Sforno); and action, the performance of the mitzvah. The “going,” the “movement toward a goal” (S.R. Hirsch), from a lower to a higher level of observance, begins with “toil in Torah,” because the purpose of Torah study is to do the commandments (Rashi). Then I will give you—God’s gifts are to the people, the whole community: the individual receives no certain material reward in this world for doing a mitzvah. Your rains in their seasons, and the land shall yield her produce, etc.—By going in God’s statutes and keeping and doing the commandments as a community, we will have done everything we can to ensure our “physical, social, and political well-being” (S.R. Hirsch). And you shall eat your bread with satiety—We shall be satisfied with what we reap when we are living fully in God’s commandments. And dwell in safety in your land—And, living as such a community, we shall care for one another in advantage and adversity.*

\* Leviticus 26:3-5 (in Behukotai)