



## KI TAVO

This week, we read one of the more frightening, unpleasant Parshiot of the Torah, Parshat Ki Tavo.

Why is it frightening? Because in this Parasha, we are presented with a Tochacha, a very severe warning, or admonition, of what may happen to us, as a Jewish people, if we fail to obey the commandments of G-d properly. This admonition, or series of curses, is the second one in the Torah; the first was delivered as the word of G-d, this one is being told to the Jews by Moshe Rabeinu as part of his ongoing farewell speech to the nation.

This Parsha is always read shortly before Rosh Hashana. Some may say that the idea is to scare us, "If we don't do Teshuva (repent) before the new year, look what could happen...!" But we can view it in a positive light as well, as in, "Let this old year, and all of its problems, troubles, and disappointments, go out, and let the new year with all of its blessings, promises, and hopes, come in!" What a pleasant thought for the start of a brand new school year, in which so many great things are happening, as well!

Either way, it's an important reminder for us to start getting into the "Rosh Hashana" frame of mind; it's just over two weeks away!

Shabbat Shalom,  
Rabbi Cohen