



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

“Guard it. Live it. Thank Him for it.”

Eiqev (עִקֵּב): “on the heels of”,

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Deut. 7:12-11:25; Hosea 13:

Parashat Eiqev begins with the phrase “on the heels of” — *Eiqev*. Moses is telling the people: *on the heels of* your listening, your keeping, and your doing God’s Word, blessing follows. But these blessings aren’t just about material prosperity; they are covenant blessings that flow from the God who loves you.

Over and over, Moses repeats two key Hebrew words — *Shomer* (“be a watchman, guard, keep”) and *Shema* (“hear, internalize, and do”). He’s urging this new generation: *Watch over God’s ways like they’re treasure. Hear His Word with the intent to live it out.* Why? Because the greatest threat in the Promised Land isn’t the Canaanite army — it’s pride. Once they have houses they didn’t build and vineyards they didn’t plant, they’ll be tempted to forget the God who brought them here. So Moses says: ***Guard it. Live it. Thank Him for it.*** Guard God’s Word like your life depends on it. Live it out in daily obedience. And thank Him for every blessing, because every single one comes from His covenant love, not your merit.

1. BE A WATCHMAN OVER YOUR WALK (SHOMER)

When Moses says *Shomer*, he’s picturing a guard on the city wall — eyes scanning for danger, ready to sound the alarm, making sure nothing precious is lost. For Israel, that meant guarding the mitzvot, ordinances, and statutes like a treasure chest that kept life in the land secure. Moses knew that the covenant life God promised wouldn’t keep itself; someone had to keep watch.

We need that same vigilance. Faithfulness isn’t automatic — we don’t drift into it by accident. Every day there are subtle threats to our devotion: distraction, compromise, self-reliance. Being a watchman over your walk means staying awake, alert, and committed to protecting your relationship with God. You guard your time in the Word. You guard your heart from bitterness. You guard your worship from anything that would pull your affection away from Him. That’s why Moses keeps saying, in effect: *Guard it. Live it. Thank Him for it.* Start with guarding — because if you’re not watching over God’s ways in your life, the enemy will gladly sneak in and plant something else there.

2. HEAR. TAKE IT TO HEART. AND DO IT. (SHEMA)

Shema is more than “hearing” with your ears — it’s hearing with the intent to obey. It’s listening in such a way that the truth moves from your head to your heart to your hands. Moses knows this is where many will falter: it’s one thing to hear God’s commands, it’s another to live them when life is full and comfortable.

For Israel, *Shema* meant letting God’s instructions shape daily life in the land — in their work, relationships, worship, and justice. For us, it means our time in the Word, prayer, and teaching must lead to transformed living. God’s commands are not just to inform us; they’re meant to form us.

And here's the key: *Shema* is not cold rule-keeping. It's the grateful action of someone loved into freedom. When you know the blessing is because of His love, not your merit, obedience becomes a joy, not a burden. That's why Moses can say: *Guard it. Live it. Thank Him for it.* Living it out is your "thank You" in motion.

3. LIVE IN GRATITUDE FOR COVENANT LOVE

The core of Moses' message is humbling: "*It is not because of your righteousness... the LORD set His love on you because He loves you.*" That truth dismantles pride. Israel's victories, provision, and identity as God's people weren't earned; they were given. But here's the key — Moses doesn't necessarily tell them to "be thankful." Over and over, he says, "*Remember... and don't forget.*" This isn't casual nostalgia; it's intentional, disciplined memory.

Why? Because ingratitude is born from forgetfulness. When you forget the manna, you complain about today's bread. When you forget the water from the rock, you panic in the desert. When you forget the God who brought you here, pride rushes in to take His place. Moses is telling them: keep a memory so alive that it naturally produces gratitude. Let your recollection of His works stir humility, awe, and trust.

Gratitude, then, is more than an emotion — it's a choice to remember and refuse to forget. It's an active guarding of your heart's story so that your obedience stays rooted in love, not in legalism. That's why Moses' refrain can be ours: *Guard it. Live it. Thank Him for it.* And one of the best ways to thank Him is to keep on remembering, what He has done.

CONCLUSION

Moses' voice still echoes: *Guard it. Live it. Thank Him for it.* Every blessing in your life traces back to His covenant love, not your worthiness. Every giant that falls does so because He went before you. Every provision you enjoy is His kindness on the heels of your obedience.

If you've grown casual about guarding your walk, or if gratitude has been replaced by self-reliance, this is the time to return to *Shomer* and *Shema*. Stand again as a watchman over your heart, your home, and your devotion. Let gratitude fuel your obedience. And let your life be a constant "thank You" to the God who loved you first.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to you personally to be a "watchman" over your walk with God?
2. How does *Shema* differ from simply "hearing" a sermon or reading Scripture?
3. Why is it dangerous to forget that God's blessings come from His love, not our merit?
4. What's one area of your life where gratitude could replace grumbling right now?
5. How can remembering God's past faithfulness help you face current challenges?

CLOSING PRAYER:

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, thank You for loving us first and bringing us to where we are, not because of our strength or goodness, but because of Your covenant love. Forgive us for the times we've been careless watchmen over our walk or have taken credit for what You've done. Help us to *Shema* — to hear, take to heart, and live out Your Word — and to *Shomer* — to guard and protect our relationship with You. May gratitude be the guardrail of our lives, keeping us close to You.

In Yeshua's name, Amen.