

JA8. Blessing Our Enemies and Expecting Nothing in Return.

We are to bless our enemies and expect nothing in return.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing back! Your reward will be great, and you will be children of Ha'Elyon; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 5:40-48

Luke 6:27-31

Romans 12:14, 17-20

1 Corinthians 4:12-13

1 Peter 3:9

Related New Testament Mitzvot

JA1 Blessing & Not Cursing Those Who Would Harm Us or Treat Us Wrongly: Loving Our Enemies

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Exodus 23:4-5

If you come upon your enemy's ox or donkey straying, you must return it to him. If you see the donkey which belongs to someone who hates you lying down helpless under its load, you are not to pass him by but to go and help him free it.

Proverbs 24:17

Don't rejoice when your enemy falls; don't let your heart be glad when he stumbles.

Psalms 35:11-14

Malicious witnesses come forward, asking me things about which I know nothing. They repay me evil for good; it makes me feel desolate as a parent bereaved. But I, when they were ill, wore sackcloth; I put myself out and fasted; I can pray that what I prayed for them might also happen to me. I behaved as I would for my friend or my brother; I bent down in sorrow as if mourning my mother.

Proverbs 25:21-22

If someone who hates you is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. For you will heap fiery coals [of shame] on his head, and ADONAI will reward you.

Comment

Scripture commands us to love and bless our neighbor, but what if our neighbor is our enemy? Our instinct in the natural is the opposite – to withhold blessing and destroy our enemy. Sometimes destroying our enemy is appropriate, necessary, and even commanded such as when God led the Israelites militarily against certain heathen nations. However, more often than not we are called to pray for our enemy to receive the light of Messiah and repent.

Blessing our enemy does not mean allowing him to destroy us or enabling him in his evil ways, so where are we to draw the line? We cannot know where without the Holy Spirit to guide us; this is but one example of why the Holy Spirit is so important in our New Covenant relationship with God.

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

N01 Loving Our Neighbor, the Stranger, and Even Our Enemy