

Lesson 23 – Perek 12:29 – 13:19: Bad Influences

Objective:

To find the structure of this section and show how it fits into the structure of the משפטים section as an expansion of part of the third commandment elaboration concerning centralized worship.

Background:

The previous lessons showed how the section concerning eating meat outside the Bet haMikdash picked up on and expanded one part of the section before that dealing with centralized worship. The section covered in this lesson picks up on yet another part of the centralized worship section – the introduction to it.

Activity:

A. Introduction

1. Reread 12:1-4.
2. Now read 12:29-13:1.
3. Ask: *Do you notice any similarities?*

The phrase *לא תעשה כן לה' א-לקיך* is repeated (pesukim 4 and 31). Both paragraphs explain that we should not worship Hashem in the same way the Canaanites worshiped their gods.

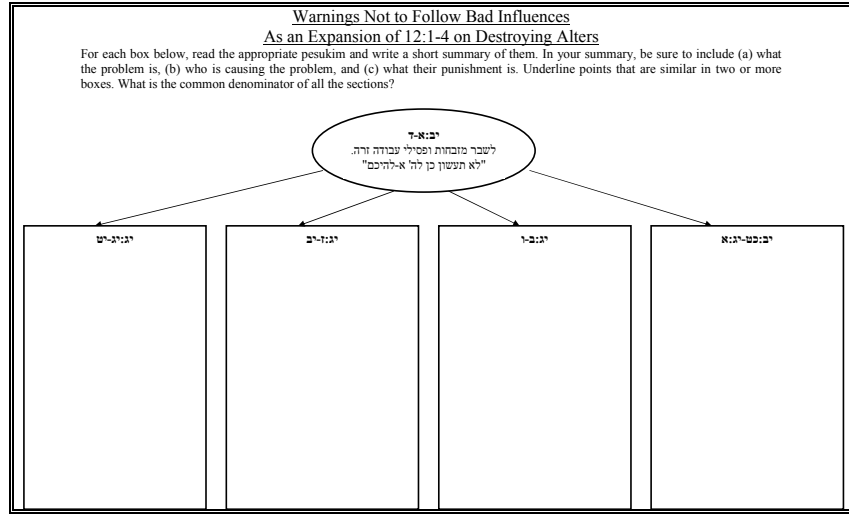
4. Ask: *The opening of perek 12 commanded to destroy their altars and idols so that we will not come to use them ourselves. What does the closing paragraph add to this?*

While the opening paragraph only warned not to use Canaanite altars and idols, the closing paragraph generalizes this warning not to worship their gods at all. We must be careful not to be influenced by them. Then pasuk 31 gives a reason why this is so important. Hashem hates the way they worship their gods because they sacrifice their children. Hashem already made clear to Abraham that he does not want child sacrifice when He stopped Abraham from going through with Akedat Yizhak.

The rest of Perek 13 contains further elaborations on this same idea of not being influenced to worship idolatry.

B. Group-work

1. Using a Tanakh Shalem, have students pair up and find the structure of perek 13 by searching for the *setumot*. They should write down the pesukim belonging to each paragraph.
2. Then give out the worksheet. The pairs should read each paragraph and write a few word summary of each paragraph in the appropriate box on the worksheet. Instruct students to just move on if they have trouble answering all three questions within each box.

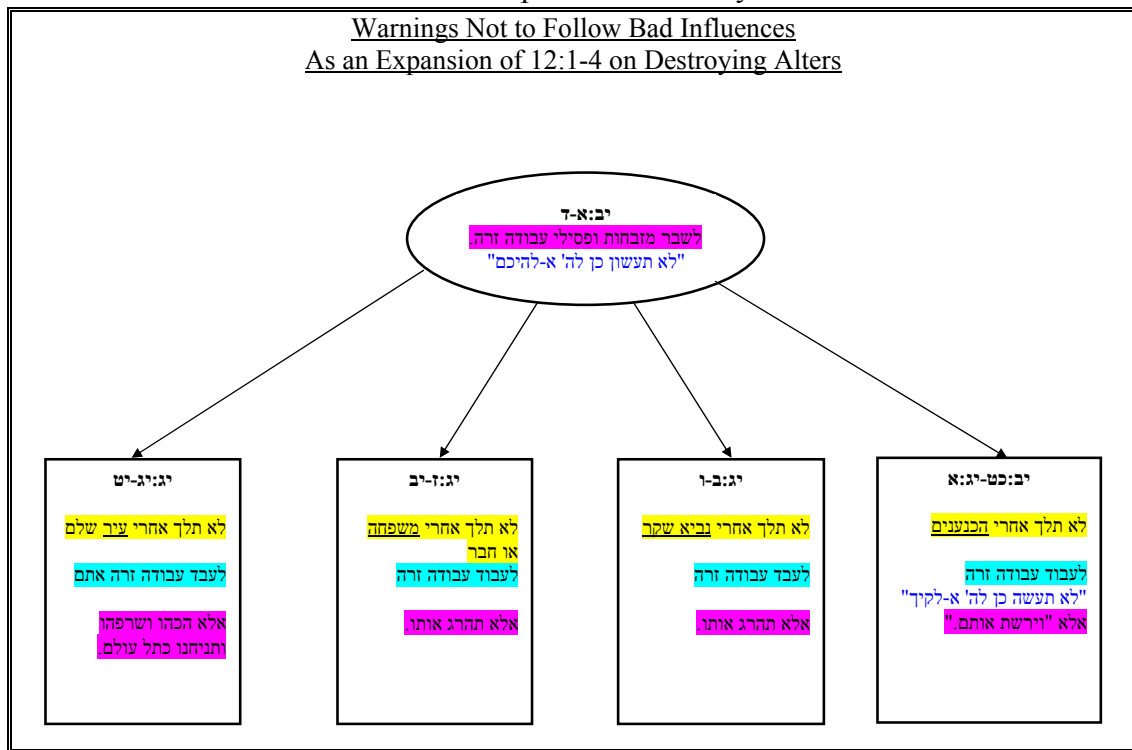


[L23 Perek 13 - Bad Influences - Worksheet.doc](#)

C. Discussion

Ask :What do the four paragraphs from 12:29-13:19 have in common with each other?
 What do they all have in common with the opening of perek 12?

This entire section warns to stay away from bad influences. In the first paragraph the bad influences are the Canaanites themselves. In the next two paragraphs the evil influence comes from a false prophet or a family member. The last paragraph prevents anyone from being influenced by an evil city by commanding to destroy the city and leave it as an everlasting symbol. This whole section is an elaboration of the requirement to destroy altars so that Bnei Yisrael doesn't worship in the same way the Canaanites did.



[L23 Perek 13 - Bad Influences - Summary Sheet.doc](#)