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**Triennial Cycle (Triennial Torah Cycle) / Septennial Cycle (Septennial Torah Cycle)**

Passover banner.bmp

gold cup.bmp **Happy & Kosher**

**Pesach 5783**

**(Part II)**

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| **Three and 1/2 year Lectionary Readings** | **First Year of the Triennial Reading Cycle** |
| **Nisan 14 -22, 5783 / April 5 – 13, 2023** | **First Year of the Shmita Cycle** |

**Candle Lighting and Habdalah Times:** [**https://www.chabad.org/calendar/candlelighting.htm**](https://www.chabad.org/calendar/candlelighting.htm)

**Roll of Honor:**

This Commentary comes out weekly and on the festivals thanks to the great generosity of:

His Eminence Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David and beloved wife HH Giberet Batsheva bat Sarah

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His Excellency Adon Shlomoh ben Abraham

His Excellency Adon Ya’aqob ben David

**For their regular and sacrificial giving, providing the best oil for the lamps, we pray that GOD’s richest blessings be upon their lives and those of their loved ones, together with all Yisrael and her Torah Scholars, amen ve amen!**

**Also, a great thank you and great blessings be upon all who send comments to the list about the contents and commentary of the weekly Torah Seder and allied topics**.

**If you want to subscribe to our list and ensure that you never lose any of our commentaries, or would like your friends also to receive this commentary, please do send me an E-Mail to** [gkilli@aol.com](mailto:gkilli@aol.com%20) **with your E-Mail or the E-Mail addresses of your friends. Toda Rabba!**

**Please pray for this work that it may be successful touching many lives, well financed; and that it may be for much blessing to all concerned. Amen ve Amen!**

We pray for our beloved Hakham His Eminence Rabbi Dr. Yosef ben Haggai. Mi Sheberach…He who blessed our forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Moses and Aaron, David, and Solomon, may He bless and heal HE Rabbi Dr. Yosef ben Haggai, May the Holy One, Blessed is He, be filled with compassion for him to restore his health, to heal him, to strengthen him, and to revivify him. And may He send him speedily a complete recovery from heaven, among the other sick people of Yisrael, a recovery of the body and a recovery of the spirit, swiftly and soon, and we will say amen ve amen!

**A Prayer for Israel**

Our Father in Heaven, Rock, and Redeemer of Israel, bless the State of Israel, the first manifestation of the approach of our redemption. Shield it with Your lovingkindness, envelop it in Your peace, and bestow Your light and truth upon its leaders, ministers, and advisors, and grace them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our holy land, grant them deliverance, and adorn them in a mantle of victory. Ordain peace in the land and grant its inhabitants eternal happiness.

Lead them, swiftly and upright, to Your city Zion and to Jerusalem, the abode of Your Name, as is written in the Torah of Your servant Moses: “Even if your outcasts are at the ends of the world, from there the Lord your God will gather you, from there He will fetch you. And the Lord your God will bring you to the land that your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it, and He will make you more prosperous and more numerous than your fathers.” Draw our hearts together to revere and venerate Your name and to observe all the precepts of Your Torah, and send us quickly the Messiah son of David, agent of Your vindication, to redeem those who await Your deliverance.



# Pesach Seventh Day – Yom Tob

**(Tuesday Evening April 11, 2023)**

**This is a Yom Tov we treat this as a Sabbath except that we can cook.**

**Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 6**

**Barukh Atah ADONAI**

**Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam**

**Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu**

**Al S’firat HaO’omer.**

**Today is six days of the Omer.**

**The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!**

**Then read the following:**

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| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| 6 | Masoret/Parnas 3 | Nisan 21 | 1:15-17 | Chesed coupled with Emet/Truth |

**Ephesians 1:15-17 Therefore, when I heard of your faithful obedience in union with the Master Yeshua (HaMashiach) and your love** (care/charity)**[[1]](#footnote-1) for the Tsadiqim** (saints)I **have not stopped[[2]](#footnote-2) giving thanks and mentioning you in my prayers,** (asking) **that the God of our master Yeshua HaMashiach, the Father of dignity[[3]](#footnote-3) grant you** the **power to comprehend through the Oral Torah,[[4]](#footnote-4) and His** agents **Chochmah, Binah and Da’at.**

**“Seventh Day of Pesach”**

**(Wednesday Morning April 12, 2023)**

**Morning Service**

**Torah Reading**: Shemot (Exodus) 13:17 – 15:26

Reader 1: Shemot 13:17-22

Reader 2: Shemot 14:1-8

Reader 3: Shemot 14:9-14

Reader 4: Shemot 14:15-26

Reader 5: Shemot 14:26 – 15:26

**Maftir**: B’Midbar (Numbers) 28:18-25

Tehillim (Psalms) 18

**Ahlamatah**: II Samuel 22:1-51

**Nazarean Codicil**: Revelation 2:1-7

**Blessing Before Torah Study**

**Blessed are You, Ha-Shem our G-d, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us through Your commandments, and commanded us to actively study Torah. Amen!**

**Please Ha-Shem, our G-d, sweeten the words of Your Torah in our mouths and in the mouths of all Your people Israel. May we and our offspring, and our offspring's offspring, and all the offspring of Your people, the House of Israel, may we all, together, know Your Name and study Your Torah for the sake of fulfilling Your delight. Blessed are You, Ha-Shem, Who teaches Torah to His people Israel. Amen!**

**Blessed are You, Ha-Shem our G-d, King of the universe, Who chose us from all the nations, and gave us the Torah. Blessed are You, Ha-Shem, Giver of the Torah. Amen!**

**Ha-Shem spoke to Moses, explaining a Commandment. "Speak to Aaron and his sons and teach them the following Commandment: This is how you should bless the Children of Israel. Say to the Children of Israel:**

**May Ha-Shem bless you and keep watch over you; - Amen!**

**May Ha-Shem make His Presence enlighten you, and may He be kind to you; - Amen!**

**May Ha-Shem bestow favor on you and grant you peace. – Amen!**

**This way, the priests will link My Name with the Israelites, and I will bless them."**

**These are the Laws for which the Torah did not mandate specific amounts: How much growing produce must be left in the corner of the field for the poor; how much of the first fruits must be offered at the Holy Temple; how much one must bring as an offering when one visits the Holy Temple three times a year; how much one must do when doing acts of kindness; and there is no maximum amount of Torah that a person must study.**

**These are the Laws whose benefits a person can often enjoy even in this world, even though the primary reward is in the Next World: They are: Honoring one's father and mother; doing acts of kindness; early attendance at the place of Torah study -- morning and night; showing hospitality to guests; visiting the sick; providing for the financial needs of a bride; escorting the dead; being very engrossed in prayer; bringing peace between two people, and between husband and wife; but the study of Torah is as great as all of them together. Amen!**

**Contents of the Torah Seder**

* **The Passage of the Red Sea – Exodus 13:17 – 14:31**
* **The Song at the Red Sea – Exodus 15:1-21**
* **The Journey to Sinai – Exodus 15:22-26**

**Rashi & Targum Pseudo Jonathan**

**for: Shemot (Exod.) 13:17 – 15:26**

| **Rashi** | **Targum** |
| --- | --- |
| 17. It came to pass when Pharaoh let the people go, that God did not lead them [by] way of the land of the Philistines for it was near, because God said, **Lest the people reconsider when they see war and return to Egypt** | 17. AND it was when Pharoh had released the people, that the LORD did not conduct them by the way of the land of the P’lishtim though, that was the near one; for the LORD said, **Lest the people be affrighted in seeing their brethren who were killed in war, two hundred thousand men of strength of the tribe of Ephraim, who took shields, and lances, and weapons of war, and went down to Gath to carry off the flocks of the P’lishtim; and because they transgressed against the statute of the Word of the LORD, and went forth from Mizraim three years before the (appointed) end of their servitude, they were delivered into the hand of the P’lishtim, who slew them. These are the dry bones which the Word of the LORD restored to life by the ministry (hand) of Yechezekel the prophet, in the valley of Dura; but which, if they (now) saw them, they would be afraid, and return into Mizraim.** |
| 18. So God led the people around [by] way of the desert [to] the Red Sea, and the children of Israel were armed when they went up out of Egypt. | 18. But the LORD led the people round by the way of the desert of the sea of Suph; and every one of the sons of Israel, with five children, went up from the land of Mizraim. |
| 19. Moses took Joseph’s bones with him, for he [Joseph] had adjured the sons of Israel, saying, God will surely remember you, and you shall bring up my bones from here with you | 19. And Mosheh carried up the ark in which were the bones of Joseph, from out of the Nilos, and took them with him; because, adjuring, he adjured the sons of Israel, saving, The LORD will surely remember you, and you will carry up my bones with you. |
| 20. They travelled from Succoth, and they encamped in Etham, at the edge of the desert. | 20. And they journeyed from Succoth, the place where they had been covered with the clouds of glory, and sojourned in Ethan, which is on the side of the desert. |
| 21. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to cause it to lead them on the way and at night in a pillar of fire to give them light, [they thus could] travel day and night. | 21. And the glory of the Shekinah of the LORD went before them by day in the column of the Cloud to lead them in the way, and at night the column of the Cloud removed behind them to darken on their pursuers behind them; but to be a column of fire to enlighten them before, that they might go forward by day and by night. |
| 22. He did not move away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire at night [from] before the people. | 22. The column of the Cloud departed not by day, nor the column of fire by night, in leading on before the people. |
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| 1. The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, | 1. And the Lord spoke to Mosheh, saying, |
| 2. Speak to the children of Israel and let them turn back and encamp in front of Pi hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; in front of Baal Zephon, you shall encamp opposite it, by the sea. | 2. Speak to the sons of Israel, that they return back, and encamp before the Mouths of Hiratha, as they lie, created after the manner (likeness) of the children of men, male and female, and their eyes open to them: it is the place of Tanes, which is between Migdol and the sea, before the idol Zephon (Typhon), that is left of all the idols of Mizraim. For the Mizraee will say, More excellent is Baal Zephon than all idols, because it is left, and not smitten; and therefore, will they come to worship it, and will find that you are encamped nigh unto it, on the border of the sea. |
| 3. And Pharaoh will say about the children of Israel, They are trapped in the land. The desert has closed in upon them. | 3. And Pharoh said to Dathan and Abiram, sons of Israel, who had remained in Mizraim, The people of the house of Israel are bewildered in the land: the idol Zephon has shut them in close upon the desert. |
| 4, And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them, and I will be glorified through Pharaoh and through his entire force, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord And they did so. | 4, And I will strengthen the design of Pharoh's heart to pursue after them, and I will be glorified upon Pharoh and upon his hosts, and the Mizraee will know that I am the LORD. And they did so. |
| 5. It was reported to Pharaoh that the people had fled; and Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people, and they said, What is this that we have done, that we have released Israel from serving us? | 5. And the officers who went with Israel announced that the people had fled. And the heart of Pharoh and his servants was turned unto evil against the people; and they said, What is this that we have done? for we have released Israel from serving us. |
| 6. So he [Pharaoh] harnessed his chariot and took his people with him. | 6. And he himself prepared his chariot, and his people led he with him by soft words. |
| 7. He took six hundred select chariots and all the chariots of Egypt, with officers over them all. | 7. And he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of the Mizraee his servants, who were afraid of the Word of the LORD, lest they should be killed with pestilence, if not with hail: and a third mule, for drawing and following swiftly, he added to each chariot. |
| 8. And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and he chased after the children of Israel, and the children of Israel were marching out triumphantly. | 8. And the LORD hardened the design of the heart of Pharoh king of Mizraim, and he pursued after the sons of Israel. But the sons of Israel, going out with a high hand, were stronger than the Mizraee. |
| 9. The Egyptians chased after them and overtook them encamped by the sea every horse of Pharaoh’s chariots, his horsemen, and his force beside Pi hahiroth, in front of Ba’al Zephon. | 9. And the Mizraee followed after them and came upon them as they were encamped by the sea, gathering of pearls and goodly stones, which the river Pishon had carried from the garden of Eden into the Gihon, and the Gihon had carried into the sea of Suph, and the sea of Suph had cast upon its bank. But all the chariot horses of Pharoh, and his horsemen, and his hosts (were coming) towards the Mouths of Hiratha, which are before the idol Zephon. |
| 10. Pharaoh drew near, and the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold! the Egyptians were advancing after them. They were very frightened, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. | 10. And Pharoh saw the idol Zephon (still) preserved, and offered oblations before it. And the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, beheld, the Mizraee were pursuing them; and they were sorely afraid, and the children of Israel prayed before the LORD. |
| 11. They said to Moses, Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us to die in the desert? What is this that you have done to us to take us out of Egypt? | 11. But the wicked generation said to Mosheh, Because there were no places of burial for us in Mizraim, have you led us forth to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, in bringing us out of Mizraim? |
| 12. Isn’t this the thing [about] which we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, Leave us alone, and we will serve the Egyptians, because we would rather serve the Egyptians than die in the desert | 12. Was as not this the word that we spoke to you in Mizraim, Let the LORD manifest Himself over us and judge, saying, Desist from us, and we will serve the Mizraee? for it is better for us to serve the Mizraee than to perish in the desert. |
| 13. Moses said to the people, Don t be afraid! Stand firm and see the Lord s salvation that He will wreak for you today, for the way you have seen the Egyptians is [only] today, [but] you shall no longer continue to see them for eternity. | 13. Four parties were made (among) the sons of Israel on the shore of the Weedy Sea: one said, Let us go down into the sea; another said, Let us return unto Mizraim; another said Let us set against them the line of battle; and another said Let us raise a cry against them, and confound them. Unto the company which said, Let us go down to the sea, spoke Mosheh, Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which will be wrought for you today. To the company which said, Let us return into Mizraim Mosheh said, You will not return; for, though you see the Mizraee today, you will see them no more forever. |
| 14. The Lord will fight for you, but you shall remain silent | 14. To the company who said, Let us set against them the line of battle, said Mosheh, Contend not; for the victory will be wrought among you from the presence of the LORD. And to the company who said. Let us raise a cry against them, Mosheh said, Be silent; and give the glory, and praise, and exaltation to your God. |
| 15. The Lord said to Moses, Why do you cry out to Me? Speak to the children of Israel and let them travel. | 15. And the LORD said to Mosheh, Why do you stand praying before Me? Behold, the prayers of My people have come before your own: speak to the sons of Israel, that they go forward; |
| 16. And you raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and split it, and the children of Israel shall come in the midst of the sea on dry land. | 16. and you, lift up your rod, and stretch forth your hand with it over the sea, and divide it: and the sons of Israel will go through the midst of ,the sea upon the ground. |
| 17. And I, behold! I shall harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they will come after you, and I will be glorified through Pharaoh, and through all his force, through his chariots, and through his horsemen. | 17. For, behold, I will harden the design of the heart of the Mizraee, and they will go in after them; and I will be glorified upon Pharoh and upon all his hosts, upon his chariots and his horsemen; |
| 18. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I will be glorified through Pharaoh, through his chariots, and through his horsemen | 18. that the Mizraee may know that I am the LORD, when I am glorified upon Pharoh, upon his chariots and horsemen. |
| 19. Then the angel of God, who had been going in front of the Israelite camp, moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved away from in front of them and stood behind them. | 19. And the Angel of the LORD who led the way before the hosts of Israel went and came behind them; and the column of the Cloud went from before and stood behind them: because the Mizraee threw darts and stones at the Israelites, but the Cloud intercepted them |
| 20. And he came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel, and there were the cloud and the darkness, and it illuminated the night, and one did not draw near the other all night long. | 20. and it came between the host of Israel and the host of the Mizraee; a cloud, one half of which was light and one half darkness. On the one side it darkened upon the Mizraee, and on the other side it shined upon Israel all night; and one host did not attack the other all the night. |
| 21. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord led the sea with the strong east wind all night, and He made the sea into dry land and the waters split. | 21. And Mosheh stretched out his hand over the sea, with the great and glorious rod which was created at the beginning, and on which were engraved and set forth the Great and Glorious Name, and the ten signs which had smitten the Mizraee, and the three fathers of the world, and the six mothers, and the twelve tribes of Ya’aqob: and straightway the LORD brought a vehement east wind upon the sea all night, and made the sea dry; and divided the waters into twelve divisions according to the twelve tribes of Jacob. |
| 22. Then the children of Israel came into the midst of the sea on dry land, and the waters were to them as a wall from their right and from their left. | 22. And the children of Israel went through the midst of the sea upon the ground, and the waters were congealed like a wall, three hundred miles on their right hand and on their left. |
| 23. The Egyptians pursued and came after them all Pharaoh s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen, into the midst of the sea. | 23. And the Mizraee followed and went in after them, all the horses of Pharoh, and his chariots and horsemen, into the midst of the sea. |
| 24. It came about in the morning watch that the Lord looked down over the Egyptian camp through a pillar of fire and cloud, and He threw the Egyptian camp into confusion. | 24. And it was that in the morning watch, at the time that the powers on high come to offer praise, the LORD looked forth with anger upon the hosts of the Mizraee from the column of fire, to hurl upon them flakes of fire and hail, and from the column of cloud, and confounded the host of the Mizraee |
| 25. And He removed the wheels of their chariots, and He led them with heaviness, and the Egyptians said, Let me run away from the Israelites because the Lord is fighting for them against the Egyptians | 25. and He broke (or, made rough) the wheels of Pharoh's carriages, so that they drove them with hardship, and that they went on and left them behind. And the Mizraee said one to another, Let us flee from the people of the house of Israel; for this is the Word of the LORD who fought for them in Mizraim. |
| 26. Thereupon, the Lord said to Moses, Stretch out your hand over the sea, and let the water return upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen | 26. And the Lord said to Mosheh, Stretch forth your hand over the sea, that the waters may return upon the Mizraee, upon their chariots and upon their horsemen. |
| 27. So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and toward morning the sea returned to its strength, as the Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord stirred the Egyptians into the sea. | 27. And Mosheh stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned at the time of the morning unto its strength; and the Mizraee fled from before its waves. And the LORD strengthened the Mizraee in the midst of the sea, that they should not (soon) die in the midst of it, that they might receive the punishment which had been sent to them. |
| 28. And the waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen, the entire force of Pharaoh coming after them into the sea; not even one of them survived. | 28. And the waves of the sea returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen and all the host of Pharoh who had gone in after them, into the sea, not one among them was left. |
| 29. But the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the water was to them like a wall from their right and from their left. | 29. But the sons of Israel walked on the ground in the midst of the sea, and the waters to them were as walls on their right hand and on their left. |
| 30. On that day the Lord saved Israel from the hand[s] of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dying on the seashore. | 30. That day the LORD redeemed and saved Israel from the hand of the Mizraee; and Israel saw the Mizraee, dead and not dead, cast upon the shore of the sea. |
| 31. And Israel saw the great hand, which the Lord had used upon the Egyptians, and the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in Moses, His servant. | 31. And Israel saw the power of the mighty hand by which the LORD had wrought the miracles in Mizraim; and the people feared before the LORD and believed in the Name of the Word of the LORD, and in the prophecies of Mosheh His servant. |
|  |  |
| 1. Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and they spoke, saying, I will sing to the Lord, for very exalted is He; a horse and its rider He cast into the sea. | 1. Behold: then sang, Mosheh and the sons of Israel this song of praise before the LORD and saying they said: Thanksgiving and praise we bring before the LORD Most High, who is glorified above the glorious, and exalted above the exalted, who punishes by His Word whomsoever glorifies himself before Him. Therefore, when Pharoh the wicked bare himself proudly before the LORD, and, being uplifted in his heart, followed after the people of the sons of Israel, their horses and their chariots He threw and buried in the sea of Suph. |
| 2. The Eternal’s strength and His vengeance were my salvation; this is my God, and I will make Him a habitation, the God of my father, and I will ascribe to Him exaltation. | 2. The LORD is Mighty, and greatly to be feared over all the world. He spoke in His Word, and became to me a God of salvation. From their mothers' breasts even the children have given signs with their fingers to their fathers, and said This is our God, who nourished us with honey from the rock, and with oil from the stone of clay, at the time when our mothers went forth upon the face of the field to give us birth, and leave us there; and He sent an angel who washed us and enwrapped us; and now will we praise Him: He is the God of our fathers, and we will exalt Him. |
| 3. The Lord is a Master of war; the Lord is His Name. | 3. The sons of Israel said, The LORD is a man making war for us: from generation to generation, He makes known His power unto the people of the house of Israel. The LORD is His Name; according to His Name, so is His power; His Name will be blessed for ever and ever. |
| 4. Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He cast into the sea, and the elite of his officers sank in the Red Sea. | 4. The chariots of Pharoh and his hosts He has cast into the sea; the goodliest of his young men has He thrown and drowned in the sea of Suph. |
| 5. The depths covered them; they descended into the depths like a stone. | 5. The deep covered them over, they went down and are buried in the depths of the sea and are as silent as a stone. |
| 6. Your right hand, O Lord, is most powerful; Your right hand, O Lord, crushes the foe. | 6. Your right hand, O LORD, how glorious is it in power? Your right hand, O LORD, has cut off the adversaries of Your people who rose against them to do them hurt. |
| 7. And with Your great pride You tear down those who rise up against You; You send forth Your burning wrath; it devours them like straw. | 7. And in the plenitude and greatness of Your majesty You have destroyed the walls of the enemies of Your people. You will pour upon them Your fierce anger; You will consume them as the burning fire prevails over the stubble. |
| 8. And with the breath of Your nostrils the waters were heaped up; the running water stood erect like a wall; the depths congealed in the heart of the sea. | 8. For by the Word from before You the waters became heaps; they stood, as if bound like skins that confine flowing water, and the depths were congealed in the flood of the great sea. |
| 9. [Because] the enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will share the booty; my desire will be filled from them; I will draw my sword, my hand will impoverish them. | 9. Pharoh the wicked, the hater and adversary, did say, I will follow after the people of the sons of Israel, and will lay waste their camp on the bank of the sea: I will set war in array against them, and kill them, small and great, despoil them of much spoil, bring them back into great captivity, and divide their substance among my people who make war: and when my soul is satisfied with the blood of their slain, I will sheathe my sword, having, destroyed them with my right hand. |
| 10. You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the powerful waters. | 10. You did blow with the wind from before You, O LORD, and the waves of the sea covered them; they went down and sank as lead in the proud waters. |
| 11. Who is like You among the powerful, O Lord? Who is like You, powerful in the holy place? Too awesome for praises, performing wonders! | 11. Who is like You among the exalted gods, O LORD, who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders and manifestations for Your people, the house of Israel? |
| 12. You inclined Your right hand; the earth swallowed them up. | 12. The sea spoke to the earth, Receive your children: but the earth spoke to the sea, Receive your murderers. And the sea was not willing to overwhelm them, and the earth was not willing to swallow them up. The earth was afraid to receive them, lest they should be required from her in the day of the great judgment in the world to come, even as the blood of Habel will be required of her: whereupon You, O LORD, did stretch forth Your right hand in swearing to the earth that in the world to come they should not be required of her. And the earth opened her mouth and consumed them. |
| 13. With Your loving kindness You led the people You redeemed; You led [them] with Your might to Your holy abode. | 13. You have led in Your mercy the people whom You have redeemed and given them the heritage of the mountain of Your sanctuary, the place of the dwelling of Your holy Shekinah. |
| 14. People heard, they trembled; a shudder seized the inhabitants of Philistia. | 14. The Gentiles will hear and be afraid; terror will lay hold upon them, even upon all the pillars of the inhabitants of the Palestinian land. |
| 15. Then the chieftains of Edom were startled; [as for] the powerful men of Moab, trembling seized them; all the inhabitants of Canaan melted. | 15. Behold, then will the princes of the Edomites be confounded, the strong ones of Moab will be seized with fear, their heart within them will melt away, even all the pillars of the inhabitants of the land of Kanaan. |
| 16. May dread and fright fall upon them; with the arm of Your greatness may they become as still as a stone, until Your people cross over, O Lord, until this nation that You have acquired crosses over. | 16. Through the power of Your mighty arm, let the terrors of death fall upon them, let them be silent as a stone, till the time when Your people, O LORD, will have passed the streams of Arnona, till the time when Your people whom You did ransom will have crossed the dividing current of Jabeka. |
| 17. You shall bring them and plant them on the mount of Your heritage, directed toward Your habitation, which You made, O Lord; the sanctuary, O Lord, [which] Your hands founded. | 17. You will bring them in, and plant them on the mountain of Your sanctuary, the place which You have provided before the throne of Your glory, the house of Your holy Shekinah, which You, O LORD, has prepared, Your sanctuary that with both hands You have established. |
| 18. The Lord will reign to all eternity | 18. When the people of the house of Israel beheld the signs and manifestations which the Holy One, whose Name be praised, had done at the sea of Suph, and the power of His hand, the children of the captives answering said one to the other, Come, and let us set the crown of majesty on the head of our Redeemer, who makes to pass over, and passes not; who changes, and is not changed; whose is the crown of the kingdom; the King of kings in this world; whose, too, is the kingdom in the world to come, forever and ever. |
| 19. When Pharaoh’s horses came with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought the waters of the sea back upon them, and the children of Israel walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, | 19. For Pharoh's horses with his chariots and horsemen went into the sea, and the Lord made the waters of the sea to return upon them; but the sons of Israel walked upon the land in the midst of the sea, and there did spring up sweet fountains and trees yielding food and verdure and ripe fruits, (even) on the ground of the sea. |
| 20. Miriam, the prophetess, Aaron’s sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women came out after her with timbrels and with dances. | 20. And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aharon, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women came out after her, dancing with tambourines and playing on instruments. |
| 21. And Miriam called out to them, Sing to the Lord, for very exalted is He; a horse and its rider He cast into the sea | 21. And Miriam sang to them, Let us give thanks and praise before the LORD, for might and supremacy are His; above the proud He is glorified, and above the lofty He is exalted. When the wicked, Pharoh in his pride followed after the people of the sons of Israel, his horses and his chariots did He cast and drown in the sea of Suph. |
| 22. Moses led Israel away from the Red Sea, and they went out into the desert of Shur; they walked for three days in the desert but did not find water. | 22. And Mosheh made Israel go forward from the sea of Suph, and they went forth into the wilderness of Chalutsa. And they journeyed three days in the desert, empty of instruction, and found no water. |
| 23. They came to Marah, but they could not drink water from Marah because it was bitter; therefore, it was named Marah. | 23. And they came to Marah, but could not drink the waters of Marah because they were bitter; therefore, he called the name of it Marah. |
| 24. The people complained against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? | 24. And the people murmured against Mosheh, saying, What will we drink? |
| 25. So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord instructed him concerning a piece of wood, which he cast into the water, and the water became sweet. There He gave them a statute and an ordinance, and there He tested them. | 25. And he prayed before the LORD, and the LORD showed him the bitter tree of Ardiphne; and he wrote upon it the great and glorious Name, and cast it into the midst of the waters, and the waters were rendered sweet. And there did the Word of the LORD appoint to him the ordinance of the Sabbath, and the statute of honouring father and mother, the judgments concerning wounds and bruises., and the punishments wherewith offenders are punished; and there he tried (them) with the tenth trial, |
| 26. **And He said, If you hearken to the voice of the Lord, your God, and you do what is proper in His eyes, and you listen closely to His commandments and observe all His statutes, all the sicknesses that I have visited upon Egypt I will not visit upon you, for I, the Lord, heal you.** | 26. **and said, If you will truly hearken to the Word of the LORD your God, and do that which is right before Him, and will listen to His precepts and keep all His statutes, all those evil things that I laid upon the Mizraee I will not lay upon you: but if you will transgress against the Word of the Law, upon you will they be sent. If you repent, I will remove them from you; for I am the LORD your Healer.** |

**Rashi & Targum Pseudo Jonathan**

**for: B’Midbar (Num.) 28:18-25‎**

| **Rashi** | **Targum Pseudo Jonathan** |
| --- | --- |
| 18. On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall not perform any mundane work. | 18. On the first day of the festival a holy convocation; no servile work will you do; |
| 19. You shall offer up a fire offering, a burnt offering to the Lord: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in the first year they shall be unblemished for you. | 19. but offer an oblation of a burnt sacrifice before the LORD, two young bullocks, one ram, and seven lambs of the year, unblemished, will you have. |
| 20. Their meal offerings [shall be] fine flour mixed with oil; three tenths for each bull and two tenths for the ram you shall offer up. | 20. And their minchas of wheat flour, mingled with olive oil, three tenths for each bullock, two tenths for the ram, |
| 21. And you shall offer up one tenth for each lamb, for all seven lambs. | 21. and for a single lamb a tenth, so for the seven; |
| 22. And one young male goat for a sin offering to atone for you. | 22. and one kid of the goats, to make an atonement for you: |
| 23. You shall offer these up besides the morning burnt offering which is offered as a continual burnt offering. | 23. beside the burnt sacrifice of the morning, the perpetual burnt sacrifice, you will make these offerings. |
| 24. Like these, you shall offer up daily for seven days, food of the fire offering, a spirit of satisfaction to the Lord; you shall offer up this in addition to the continual burnt offering and its libation. | 24. According to these oblations of the first day you will do daily through the seven days of the festival. It is the bread of the oblation which is received with favor before the LORD; it will be made beside the perpetual burnt offering, with its libation. |
| 25. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall not perform any mundane work. | 25. And on the seventh day you shall have a holy convocation; no servile work shall you do. |

**Welcome to the World of P’shat Exegesis**

In order to understand the finished work of the P’shat mode of interpretation of the Torah, one needs to take into account that the P’shat is intended to produce a catechetical output, whereby a question/s is/are raised and an answer/a is/are given using the seven Hermeneutic Laws of R. Hillel and as well as the laws of Hebrew Grammar and Hebrew expression.

**The Seven Hermeneutic Laws of R. Hillel are as follows**

[cf. <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=472&letter=R>]:

**1. Ḳal va-ḥomer:** "Argumentum a minori ad majus" or "a majori ad minus"; corresponding to the scholastic proof a fortiori.

**2. Gezerah shavah:** Argument from analogy. Biblical passages containing synonyms or homonyms are subject, however much they differ in other respects, to identical definitions and applications.

**3. Binyan ab mi-katub eḥad:** Application of a provision found in one passage only to passages which are related to the first in content but do not contain the provision in question.

**4. Binyan ab mi-shene ketubim:** The same as the preceding, except that the provision is generalized from two Biblical passages.

**5. Kelal u-Peraṭ and Peraṭ u-kelal:** Definition of the general by the particular, and of the particular by the general.

**6. Ka-yoẓe bo mi-maḳom aḥer:** Similarity in content to another Scriptural passage.

**7. Dabar ha-lamed me-'inyano:** Interpretation deduced from the context.

**Rashi’s Commentary for: ‎** **Shemot (Exodus) 13:17 – 15:26**

**17** **It came to pass when Pharaoh let...that God did not lead them** Heb. **וְלֽא-נָחָם**, and did not lead them, similar to “Go, lead(**נְחֵה**) the people” (Exod. 32:34) [and] “When you walk, it shall lead (**תִּנְחֶה**) you” (Prov. 6:22).

**for it was near**-and it was easy to return by that road to Egypt. There are also many aggadic midrashim [regarding this].

**when they see war** For instance, the war of “And the Amalekites and the Canaanites descended, etc.” (Num. 14:45). If they had gone on a direct route, they would have returned. Now, if when He led them around in a circuitous route, they said, “Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt” (Num. 14:4), how much more [would they have planned to do this] if He had led them on a direct route? [According to the sequence of the verse, the headings appear to be transposed. See Mizrachi, Gur Aryeh, and Minchath Yehudah for a correct solution of this problem.]

**Lest...reconsider** They will have [second] thoughts about [the fact] that they left Egypt and they will think about returning.

**18** **led...around** He led them around from a direct route to a circuitous route.

**the Red Sea** Heb**. סוּף יַם-,** like **לְיַם-סוּף,** to the Red Sea.**סוּף** means a marsh where reeds grow, similar to “and put [it] into the marsh (**בַּסוּף**)” (Exod. 2:3); “reeds and rushes (**וַסוּף**) shall be cut off” (Isa. 19:6). **armed** Heb. **חֲמֻשִׁים .וַחֲמֻשִׁים** [in this context] can only mean “armed.” (Since He led them around in the desert [circuitously], He caused them to go up armed, for if He had led them around through civilization, they would not have [had to] provide for themselves with everything that they needed, but only [part,] like a person who travels from place to place and intends to purchase there whatever he will need. But if he travels a long distance into a desert, he must prepare all his necessities for himself. This verse was written only to clarify the matter, so you should not wonder where they got weapons in the war with Amalek and in the wars with Sihon and Og and Midian, for the Israelites smote them with the point of the sword.) [In an old Rashi]) And similarly [Scripture] says: “and you shall cross over armed (**חֲמֻשִׁים**)” (Josh. 1:14). And so too Onkelos rendered **מְזָרְזִין** just as he rendered: “and he armed (**וְזָרֵיז**) his trained men” (Gen. 14:14). Another interpretation: **חֲמֻשִׁים** means “divided by five,” [meaning] that one out of five (**חֲמִֽשִִִֵָה**) [Israelites] went out, and four fifths [lit., parts of the people] died during the three days of darkness [see Rashi on Exod. 10:22].-[from Mechilta, Tanchuma, Beshallach 1]

**19** **for he had adjured**-Heb. **הַֽשְבֵּעַ הִֽשְבִּיעַ**. [The double expression indicates that] he [Joseph] had made them [his brothers] swear that they would make their children swear (Mechilta). Now why did he not make his sons swear to carry him to the land of Canaan immediately [when he died], as Jacob had made [him] swear? Joseph said, “I was a ruler in Egypt, and I had the ability to do [this]. As for my sons-the Egyptians will not let them do [it].” Therefore, he made them swear that when they would be redeemed and would leave there [Egypt], they would carry him [out].-[from Mechilta]

**and you shall bring up my bones from here with you**-He made his brothers swear in this manner. We learn [from this] that the bones of all [the progenitors of] the tribes they brought up [out of Egypt] with them as it is said “with you”-[from Mechilta]

**20** **They traveled from Succoth** on the second day, for on the first day they came from Rameses to Succoth.

**21** **to cause it to lead them on the way** Heb. **לַנְחֽתָם**. [The “lammed” is] vowelized with a “pattach,” which is equivalent to **לְהַנְחֽתָם**, like “to show you(**לַראֽתְכֶם**) on the way on which you shall go” (Deut. 1:33), which is like **לְהַרְאֽתְכֶם**. Here also, [it means] to cause to lead you(**לְהַנְחֽתָם**) through a messenger. Now who was that messenger? [It was] the pillar of cloud, and the Holy One, blessed be He, in His glory, led it before them. In any case, it was the pillar of cloud that He prepared so that they could be led by it, for they would travel by the pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud was not [meant] to provide light but to direct them [on] the way.

**22** **He did not move away** [I.e.,] the Holy One, blessed be He, [did not move away] the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire at night. [This verse] tells that the pillar of cloud transmitted [its light to] the pillar of fire, and the pillar of fire transmitted [its light to] the pillar of cloud, for while one had not yet set, the other one would rise.-[from Shab. 23b]

**Chapter 14**

**2** **and let them turn back** to their rear. They approached nearer to Egypt during the entire third day in order to mislead Pharaoh, so that he would say, “They are astray on the road,” as it is said: “And Pharaoh will say about the children of Israel...” (Exod. 14:3).

**and encamp in front of Pi- hahiroth** That is Pithom [one of the cities built by the Israelites, Exod 1:11], but now it was called Pi-hahiroth, since there they [the Israelites] became free men (**בְּנֵי חוֹרִין**). They [the Hiroth] are two high upright rocks, and [because there is] the valley between them [this] is called the mouth (**פִּי**) of the rocks.-[from Mechilta]

**in front of Ba’al Zephon** [Only] this was left from all the Egyptian deities in order to mislead them [the Egyptians], so they would say that their deity is powerful. Concerning this [tactic] Job explained: “He misleads nations and destroys them” (Job 12: 23).-[from Mechilta]

**3** **And Pharaoh will say** when he hears that they [the Israelites] are turning back.

**about the children of Israel** Heb**. יִשְׂרָאֵל לִבְנֵי,** concerning the children of Israel. And so [the “lammed” is understood similarly in the phrase] "The Lord will fight for you (**לָכֶם**) (verse 14), on your behalf; [and similarly,] “say about me (**לִי**)” (Gen. 20:13), [which signifies] concerning me.

**They are trapped** Heb. **נְבֻכִים**, locked in and sunk, and in French serrer, [meaning] press, tighten, or squeeze, like “in the deep (**הַבָּכָא**) valley” (Ps. 84:7); [and like] “the depths of (**מִבְּכִי**) the rivers” (Job 28:11); [and likewise] “the locks of (**נִבְכֵי**) the sea” (Job 38:16). [In his commentary on this verse, Rashi follows Menachem (Machbereth Menachem, p. 45). Rashi on Psalms and Job 28:11, however, interprets those verses as expressions of weeping, from the root **בכה**. See Judaica Press commentary digest on Job 28:11.]

**They are trapped** They are locked in the desert, for they do not know how to get out of it and where to go.

**4** **and I will be glorified through Pharaoh**-When the Holy One blessed be He wreaks vengeance upon the wicked, His name becomes magnified and glorified. So it [Scripture] says: “And I will judge against him, etc.” and afterwards [the prophet says], “And I will magnify and sanctify Myself and I will be known, etc.” (Ezek 38:22, 23) And [Scripture similarly] says: “There he broke the arrows of the bow,” [which refers to Sennacherib’s defeat,] and afterwards [i.e., the result of that], “God is known in Judah” (Ps. 76:2,4) And [Scripture similarly] says: “The Lord is known for the judgement that He performed” (Ps. 9:17).-[from Mechilta]

**through Pharaoh and through his entire force** He [Pharaoh] initiated the sinful behavior, and [thus] the retribution started with him.-[from Mechilta]

**And they did so** [This is stated] to tell their praise, that they obeyed Moses and did not say, “How will we draw near to our enemies [by returning in the direction of Egypt]? We have to escape.” Instead, they said, “All we have are the words of [Moses] the son of Amram.” [I.e., we have no other plan to follow, only the words of the son of Amram.]-[from Mechilta]

**5** **It was reported to Pharaoh** He [Pharaoh] sent officers with them, and as soon as the three days they [the Israelites] had set to go [into the desert] and return had elapsed, and they [the officers] saw that they were not returning to Egypt, they came and informed Pharaoh on the fourth day. On the fifth and the sixth [days after the Israelites’ departure], they pursued them. On the night preceding the seventh, they went down into the sea. In the morning [of the seventh day], they [the Israelites] recited the Song [of the Sea (Exod. 15:1-18)]. Therefore, we read [in the Torah] the Song on the seventh day, that is the seventh day of Passover.

**had a change** He [Pharaoh] had a change of heart from how he had felt [previously], for he had said to them [the Israelites], “Get up and get out from among my people” (Exod. 12:31). His servants [also] had a change of heart, for previously they had said to him, “How long will this one be a stumbling block to us?” (Exod. 10:7). Now they had a change of heart to pursue them [the Israelites] on account of the money that they had lent them.-[based on Mechilta]

**from serving us** Heb. **מֵעָבְדֵנוּ**, from serving us.

**6** **So he [Pharaoh] harnessed his chariot** He [did so] personally.-[from Mechilta]

**and took his people with him** He attracted them with [his] words, "We suffered, they took our money, and [then] we let them go! Come with me, and I will not behave with you as do other kings. With other kings, it is customary that their servants precede them in battle, but I will precede you," as [indeed] it is said: “Pharaoh drew near” (Exod. 14:10). [This means that Pharaoh] himself drew near and hastened before his armies. "It is customary for other kings to take plunder at the beginning, as much as he [the king] chooses. [But] I will share equally with you," as it is said: “I will share the booty” (Exod. 15:9).

**7** **select** Heb. בָּחוּר, chosen. [This is] a singular expression, [meaning that] every single chariot in this number was [a] chosen [chariot].

**and all the chariots of Egypt** And with them, all the rest of the chariots. Now where did all these animals come from? If you say [that they belonged] to the Egyptians, it says already: “and all the livestock of the Egyptians died” (Exod. 9:6). And if [you say that they belonged] to the Israelites, does it not say: “also our cattle will go with us” (Exod. 10:26). Whose were they [from if that was the case]? They [belonged] to those who feared the word of the Lord [i.e., to those who drove their servants and their livestock into the houses as in Exod. 9:20]. From here Rabbi Simeon would say, "[Even] the best of the Egyptians --[you must] kill; [even] the best of the serpents-[you must] crush its head."-[from Mechilta]

**with officers over them all** Heb. **וְשָׁלִשִׁם**, officers over the legions, as the Targum [Onkelos] renders.

**8** **And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh** Because he vacillated about whether to pursue [the Israelites] or not. [So] He hardened his heart to pursue [them].-[from Mechilta]

**and the children of Israel were marching out triumphantly** Heb. **בְּיָד רָמָה**, lit., with a high hand. With lofty and openly displayed might.

**10** **Pharaoh drew near** Heb. **וּפַרְעֽה הִקְרִיב**, lit., and Pharaoh brought near. It [the verse] should have said: **קָרַב**. What is the meaning of **הִקְרִיב**? He [Pharaoh] drew himself near and strove to go before them [his army], as he had stipulated with them.-

**the Egyptians were advancing after them** Heb. **נֽסֵעַ** [in the singular]. With one accord, like one man. Alternatively, [in the singular it means that] and behold, Egypt was advancing after them, [denoting that] they [the Israelites] saw the heavenly prince of Egypt advancing from heaven to aid the Egyptians. [From] Tanchuma.

**cried out** They seized the art of their ancestors [i.e., they prayed]. Concerning Abraham, it [Scripture] says: “to the place where he had stood before the Lord” (Gen. 19:27). 2 Concerning Isaac, [it is stated] “to pray in the field” (Gen. 24:63). Concerning Jacob, “And he entreated the Omnipresent” (Gen. 28:11). (See Judaica Press comm. digest on that verse.)-[from Mechilta; Tanchuma Beshallach 9]

**11** **Is it because there are no graves** Heb. **הֲמִבְּלִי אֵין קְבָרִים.** Is it because of the want? Namely that there are no graves in Egypt in which to be buried, that you have taken us out of there? Si por falyanze de non fosses in Old French [i.e., Is it for lack, that there are no graves?].

**12** **Isn’t this the thing [about] which we spoke to you in Egypt** When had they said [this]? "And they said to them, “May the Lord look upon you and judge’ ” (Exod. 5:21). [from Mechilta]

**than die** Heb. **מִמֻּתֵנוּ**, than we should die. If it [**מִמֻּתֵנוּ**] were vowelized with a “melupum” (i.e., a “cholam,” [**מִמּוֹתֵנוּ**] as it is known that the grammarians called a “cholam” a “melupum.” See Rashi below on Exod. 19:24), it would be explained as: “than our death.” Now that it is vowelized with a “shuruk” [**מִמֻּתֵנוּ**], it is explained as “than we should die.” Likewise [in the verse], “If only we had died (**מּוּתֵנוּ**)” (Exod. 16:3), [means] that we would die. [Similarly,] “If only I had died (**מּוּתֵי**) instead of you” (II Sam. 19:1), referring to Absalom [means, I should have died]; [And **מּוּתִי** is similar to (**קוּמִי**) in the verse:] “for the day that I will rise up (**קוּמִי**)” (Zeph. 3:8); [and also similar to (**ֽשוּבִי**) in the verse] “until I return (**ֽשוּבִי**) in peace” (II Chron. 18:26), [which mean respectively] that I rise up, that I return.

**13** **for the way you have seen the Egyptians, etc.** The way you have seen them—that is only today. It is [only] today that you have seen them, but you shall no longer continue [to see them].

**14** **The Lord will fight for you** Heb. **לָכֶם**, for you, and similarly [the “lammed” in the verse], “because the Lord is fighting for them (**לָהֶם**)” (verse 25), and similarly [in the verse] “Will you contend for God (**לָאֵל**) ?” (Job 13:8). And similarly, "and Who spoke about me (**לִי**) (Gen. 24:7), and similarly, “Will you contend for the Baal (**לַבַּעַל**)?” (Jud. 6:31).

**15** **Why do you cry out to Me** [This verse] teaches us that Moses was standing and praying. The Holy One, blessed be He, said to him, “This is no time to pray at length, when Israel is in distress.” Another explanation [of God’s question (Why do you cry out to me?) implies]: “The matter depends on Me and not on you,” as it is said further [in Scripture]: “Concerning My children and the work of My hands do you command Me?” (Isa. 45:11).-[from Mechilta, Exod. Rabbah 21: 8]

**Speak to the children of Israel and let them travel** They have nothing to do but to travel, for the sea will not stand in their way. The merit of their forefathers and their own [merit], and the faith they had in Me when they came out [of Egypt] are sufficient to split the sea for them.-[from Mechilta, Exod. Rabbah 21:8]

**19** **and went behind them** to separate between the Egyptians’ camp and the Israelites’ camp and to catch the arrows and the catapult stones of the Egyptians. Everywhere it says: “the angel of the Lord (**ה'**),” but here [it says]: “the angel of God (**אֱלֽהִים**).” Everywhere [in Scripture] **אֱלֽהִים** denotes [God’s attribute of] judgment. This teaches that at that moment, the Israelites were being judged whether to be saved or to perish with the Egyptians.

**and the pillar of cloud moved away** When it became dark, and the pillar of cloud delivered the camp to the pillar of fire, the cloud did not go away as it would customarily go away completely in the evening, but it moved away and went behind them [the Israelites] to make it dark for the Egyptians.

**20** **And he came between the camp of Egypt** This can be compared to a person walking along the road with his son walking in front of him. [When] bandits came to capture him [the son], he [the father] took him from in front of him and placed him behind him. A wolf came behind him; so, he put him [his son] in front of him. [When] bandits came in front of him and wolves behind him, he put him [his son] on his arms and fought them off. Similarly [the prophet depicts the angel protecting Israel when they drew near to the Red Sea], “But I sent to train Ephraim, he took them on his arms” (Hos. 11:3).-[from Mechilta]

**and there were the cloud and the darkness** for the Egyptians.

**and it illuminated** [I.e.,] the pillar of fire [illuminated] the night for the Israelites, and it went before them as it usually went all night long, and the thick darkness [from the cloud] was toward the Egyptians.

**and one did not draw near the other** [I.e., one] camp to [the other] camp.- [from Mechilta, Jonathan]

**21** **with the strong east wind** [I.e.,] with the east wind, which is the strongest of the winds. That is the wind with which the Holy One, blessed be He, visits retribution upon the wicked, as it is said [in the following verses]: “With an east wind I will scatter them” (Jer. 18:17); “an east wind shall come, a wind of the Lord” (Hos. 13:15); “the east wind broke you in the heart of the seas” (Ezek. 27:26); “He spoke with His harsh wind on the day of the east wind” (Isa. 27:8).-[from Mechilta]

**and the waters split** All the water in the world.-[from Mechilta Exod. Rabbah 21:6]

**23** **all Pharaoh’s horses** Heb. **כּֽל סוּס פַּרְעֽה**, lit., in the singular. Now was there only one horse? This informs us that they [the horses] are all considered by the Omnipresent as one horse.-[from Mechilta Shirah 2]

**24** **It came about in the morning watch** Heb. **בְּאַֽשְמֽרֶת**. The three parts of the night are called, **אַשְׁמוּרוּת**, watches (Ber. 3b), and the one [watch] before morning is called **אַשְׁמֽרֶת** **הַבּֽקֶר**, the morning watch. I say that because the night is divided into the watches of the songs of the ministering angels, one group after another into three parts, it is called **אַשְׁמֽרֶת**, watch. This is what Onkelos [means when he] renders **מַטְּרַת**.

**looked down** Heb. **וַיַּשְׁקֵף**, looked, that is to say that He turned toward them to destroy them, and the Targum [Onkelos] renders: **וְאִסְתְּכֵי**. This too is an expression of looking, like “to the field of seers” (Num. 23:14), [which Onkelos renders:] **לַחֲקַל** **סָכוּתָא**

**through a of fire and cloud** The pillar of cloud descends and makes it [the earth] like mud, and the pillar of fire boils it [the earth], and the hoofs of their horses slip.-[from Mechilta]

**and He threw the Egyptian camp into confusion** Heb. **וַיָּהָם**, an expression of confusion, estordison in Old French. He confused them; He took away their intelligence. We learned in the chapters of Rabbi Eliezer the son of Rabbi Yose the Galilean [not found in our edition] [that] wherever it says **מְהוּמָה** {confusion], it means a tumultuous noise. And the “father” of them all, [the best example of the use of **מְהוּמָה**, is [in the verse:] “and the Lord thundered with a loud noise, etc., on the Philistines and threw them into confusion (**וַיְהוּמֵּם**)” (I Sam. 7:10).

**25** **And He removed the wheels of their chariots** With the fire the wheels were burned, and the chariots dragged, and those sitting in them were moved to and fro, and their limbs were wrenched apart.-[from an unknown source, similar to Mechilta]

**and He led them with heaviness** In a manner that was heavy and difficult for them. [This punishment was] in the measure that they [the Egyptians had] measured [to the Israelites], namely “and he made his heart heavy, he and his servants” (Exod. 9:34). Here too, “He led them with heaviness.”-[from an unknown source, similar to Mechilta]

**is fighting for them against the Egyptians** Heb. **בְּמִצְרָיִם**, [is like] against the Egyptians. Alternatively: **בְּמִצְרָיִם**[means] in the land of Egypt, for just as these [Egyptians] were being smitten in the sea, so were those remaining in Egypt being smitten.-[from Mechilta]

**26** **and let the water return** [I.e., the water] that is standing upright like a wall [will] return to its place and cover up the Egyptians.

**27** **toward morning** Heb. **לִפְנוֹת** **בּֽקֶר**, at the time the morning approaches [lit., turns (**פּוֹנֶה**) to come].

**to its strength** Heb. **לְאֵיתָנוֹ**. To its original strength.-[from Mechilta]

**were fleeing toward it** Because they were confused and crazed and running toward the water.

**and the Lord stirred** Heb. **וַיְנַעֵר**. As a person stirs (**מְנַעֵר**) a pot [of food] and turns what is on the top to the bottom and what is on the bottom to the top, so were they [the Egyptians] bobbing up and down and being smashed in the sea, and the Holy One, blessed be He, kept them alive to bear their tortures.-[from Mechilta] **stirred** Heb. **וַיְנַעֵר**. [Onkelos renders it] **וְֽשַנִּיק**, which means stirring in the Aramaic language, and there are many [examples of this word] in aggadic midrashim.

**28** **and covered the chariots...the entire force of Pharaoh** Heb. **לְכֽל** **חֵיל** **פַּרְעֽה** So is the custom of Scriptural verses to write a superfluous “lammed,” such as in “all (**לְכָל**) its utensils you shall make copper” (Exod. 27:3); and similarly, “all (**לְכֽל**) the utensils of the Tabernacle for all its services” (Exod. 27:19); [and in the phrase] “their stakes and their ropes, along with all (**לְכָל**) their utensils” (Num. 4:32), and it [the “lammed”] is [used] merely to enhance the language.

**30** **and Israel saw the Egyptians dying on the seashore** For the sea spewed them out on its shore, so that the Israelites would not say, "Just as we are coming up on this side [of the sea], so are they coming up on another side, far from us, and they will pursue us."-[from Mechilta and Pes. 118b]

**31** **the great hand** The great mighty deed that the hand of the Holy One, blessed be He, had performed. Many meanings fit the term **יָד**, and they are all expressions derived from an actual hand, and he who interprets it must adjust the wording according to the context.

**Chapter 15**

**1** **Then...sang** Heb. **אָז** **יָשִׁיר**. [The future tense presents a problem. Therefore, Rashi explains:] Then, when he [Moses] saw the miracle, it occurred to him to recite a song, and similarly, “Then Joshua spoke (**אָז** **יְדַבֵּר** **יְהשֻׁעַ**)” (Josh. 10:12); and similarly, “and the house [which] he would make (**יַעֲשֶׂה**) for Pharaoh’s daughter” (I Kings 7:8), [which means] he decided to make it for her. Here too, **יָשִׁיר** [in the future tense means that] his heart dictated to him that he should sing, and so he did, “and they spoke, saying, I will sing to the Lord.’ ” Likewise, with [the above reference to] Joshua, when he saw the miracle [of the defeat of the Amorite kings (Josh. 10:11)], his heart dictated to him that he speak [praises to God], and so he did, “and he said in the sight of Israel” (Josh. 10:12). Likewise, the song of the well, with which [Scripture] commences: “Then Israel sang (**אָז** **יָשִׁיר**)” (Num. 21:17), it explains after it, “Ascend, O well!, sing to it.” [I.e., in these three instances, the “yud” of the future tense denotes the thought, and after each one, Scripture continues that the thought was brought to fruition.] “Then did Solomon build (**אָז** **יִבְנֶה**) a high place” (I Kings 11:7); the Sages of Israel explain that he sought to build [it] but did not build [it] (Sanh. 91b). We [thus] learn that the “yud” may serve to indicate a thought. This is to explain its simple meaning, but the midrashic interpretation is [as follows]: Our Rabbis of blessed memory stated: From here is an allusion from the Torah to the resurrection of the dead (Sanh. 91b, Mechilta), and so it is [i.e., the future tense is used] with them all, except that of Solomon, which they explained as [implying] “he sought to build but did not build.” One cannot say and explain this form like other words written in the future, but which mean [that they occurred] immediately, such as “So would Job do (**וָעֲשֶׂה**)” (Job 1:5); “by the command of the Lord would they encamp (**יַחֲנוּ**)” (Num. 9:23); “And sometimes the cloud would be (**יִהְיֶה**)” (Num. 9:21), because that is [an example of] something that occurs continually, and either the future or the past is appropriate for it, but that which occurred only once [i.e., the song that was sung], cannot be explained in this manner.-

**for very exalted is He** Heb. **גָאֽה** **גָאָה**, [to be interpreted] according to the Targum [He was exalted over the exalted, and the exaltation is His]. Another explanation: [The] doubling [of the verb] comes to say that He did something impossible for a flesh and blood [person] to do. When he fights with his fellow and overwhelms him, he throws him off the horse, but here, “a horse and its rider He cast into the sea,” [i.e., with the rider still on the horse]. Anything that cannot be done by anyone else is described as exaltation (**גֵּאוּת**), like “for He has performed an exalted act (**גֵּאוּת**)” (Isa. 12:5). Similarly, [throughout] the entire song you will find the repetitive pattern, such as: “My strength and my praise are the Eternal, and He was my salvation” (verse 2); “The Lord is a Master of war; the Lord is His Name,” (verse 3); and so on, all of them (in an old Rashi). Another explanation: **גָאֽה** **גָאָה** means for He is exalted beyond all songs, [i.e.,] for however I will praise Him, He still has more [praise]. [This is] unlike the manner of a human king, who is praised for something he does not possess.-[from Mechilta]

**a horse and its rider** Both bound to one another, and the water lifted them up high and brought them down into the depths, and [still] they did not separate.-[from Mechilta]

**He cast** Heb. **רָמָה**, [meaning] He cast, and similarly, “and they were cast (**וּרְמִיו**) into the burning, fiery furnace” (Dan. 3:21). The aggadic midrash, however, [states as follows]: One verse (verse 1) says: **רָמָה** **בַיָם**, [derived from **רוּם**, meaning “to cast up,”] and one verse (verse 4) says: **יָרָה** **בַיָם** [meaning “to cast down”]. [This] teaches us that they [the horse and rider] went up and [then] descended into the deep, [i.e., they were thrown up and down]. [The meaning of **יָרָה** is here] similar to: “who laid (**יָרָה**) its cornerstone” (Job 38:6), [which signifies laying the stone] from above, downward.-[from Mechilta, Tanchuma, Beshallach 13]

**2** **The Eternal’s strength and His vengeance were my salvation** Heb. **עָזִי וְזִמְרָת יָ**-**ה**. Onkelos renders: My strength and my praise, [thus interpreting] **עָזִי** like **עֻזִי**  [my strength] with a “shuruk,” and **וְזִמְרָת** like **וְזִמְרָתִי** [my song]. But I wonder about the language of the text, for there is nothing like it [the word **עָזִי**] in Scripture with its vowelization except in three places [i.e., here and in Isa. 12:2 and Ps. 118:14], where it is next to **וְזִמְרָת**, but [in] all other places, it is vowelized with a “shuruk" [now called a "kubutz"], [e.g., in the phrase] "O Lord, Who are my power (**עֻזִי**) and my strength” (Jer. 16:19); “[Because of] his strength (**עֻזוֹ**), I hope for You” (Ps. 59:10). Likewise, any word [noun] consisting of two letters, vowelized with a “melupum,” [i.e., a "cholam,"] when it is lengthened by [the addition of] a third letter, and the second letter is not punctuated with a “sheva” the first [letter] is vowelized with a “shuruk,” e.g., **עֽז** strength, becomes **עֻזִי**, my strength, spittle (Job 30:10), **רֽק** becomes **רֽקִי**, my spittle (Job 7:19). allotment (Gen. 47:22), **חֽק** becomes **חֽקִי**, my allotment (Prov. 30:8). **עֽל**, yoke (Deut. 28:48), becomes **עֻלוֹ**, his yoke, “shall be removed...his yoke **עֻלוֹ**” (Isa. 10:27). **כּֽל**, all (Gen. 21:12), becomes **כֻּלוֹ**, all of it, “with officers over them all **כֻּלוֹ**” (Exod. 14:7). But these three [examples of the phrase], **עָזִי וְזִמְרָת**, [namely] the one [written] here, the one [written in] Isaiah (12:2), and the one [written in] Psalms (118:14) [all examples of the word **עָזִי [**are vowelized with a short “kamatz.” Moreover, not one of them [i.e., of these examples] is written **וְזִמְרָתִי** but **וְזִמְרָת**, and next to each of them it says **וַיְהִי**-**לִי** **לִיֽשוּעָה**, were my salvation. Therefore, in order to reconcile the language of the text, I say that **עָזִי** is not like **עֻזִי**, nor is **וְזִמְרָת** like **וְזִמְרָתִי**, but **עָזִי** is a noun [and the final “yud” is only stylistic], like [the final “yud” in these examples:] “You Who dwell (**הַישְׁבִי**) in heaven” (Ps. 123:1); “who dwell (**שֽׁכְנִי**) in the clefts of the rock” (Obad. 1:3); “Who dwells (**שֽׁכְנִי**) in the thorn bush” (Deut. 33:16). And this is the praise [that Moses and the Israelites sing to God]: The strength and the vengeance of the Eternal--that was my salvation. [In brief, the “yud” at the end of the word is a stylistic suffix, which has no bearing on the meaning.] And the word **וְזִמְרָת** is connected to the word denoting the Divine Name, like “to the aid of (**לְעֶזְרַת**) the Lord” (Jud. 5:23); [and like the word **בְּעֶבְרַת** in] “By the wrath of (**בְּעֶבְרַת**) the Lord” (Isa. 9:18); [and the word **דִבְרַת** in:] “concerning the matter of (**דִבְרַת**)” (Eccl. 3:18). [In brief, the **ַת** or, **ָת** denotes the construct state of a feminine noun.] The expression **וְזִמְרָת** is an expression related to “and your vineyard you shall not prune (**א** **תִזְמֽר**)” (Lev. 25:4); “the downfall of (**זְמִיר**) the tyrants” (Isa. 25:5), an expression denoting mowing down and cutting off. [Thus, the phrase means:] The strength and the vengeance of our God was our salvation. Now [since this is the meaning of the phrase,] do not be puzzled about the expression **וַיְהִי**, [i.e.,] that it does not say **הָיָה** [without a “vav” since this is the verb following **עָזִי** **וְזִמְרָת** and does not begin a clause as the conversive “vav” usually does], for there are verses worded this way, and this is an example: “[against] the walls of the house around [both] the temple and the sanctuary, he made (**וַיַּעַשׂ**) chambers around [it]” (I Kings 6:5). It should have said **עָשָׂה**, “chambers around [it]” [instead of **וַיַּעַשׂ**]. Similarly, in (II) Chron. (10:17): “But the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah-Rehoboam reigned (**וַיִמְלֽךְ**) over them.” It should have said: “Rehoboam (**מָלַךְ**) over them.” [Similarly,] “Because the Lord was unable...He slaughtered them (**וַיִשְׁחָטֵם**) in the desert” (Num. 14:16). It should have said: **שְׁחָטָם**. [Similarly,] “But the men whom Moses sent...died (**וַיָמוּתוּ**)” (Num 14:36, 37). It should have said: **מֵתוּ**. [Similarly,] “But he who did not pay attention to the word of the Lord left (**וַיַעֲזֽב**)” (Exod. 9:21). It should have said: **עָזַב**.

**this is my God** He revealed Himself in His glory to them [the Israelites], and they pointed at Him with their finger [as denoted by **זֶה**, this]. By the sea, [even] a maidservant perceived what prophets did not perceive.-[from Mechilta]

**and I will make Him a habitation** Heb. **וְאַנְוֵה**. Onkelos rendered it as an expression of habitation (**נָוֶה**) [as in the following phrases]: “a tranquil dwelling (**נָוֶה**)” (Isa. 33: 20); “a sheepfold (**נְוֵה**)” (Isa. 65:10). Another explanation: **וְאַנְוֵהוּ** is an expression of beauty (**נוּ**). [Thus, the phrase means] I will tell of His beauty and His praise to those who enter the world, such as: [When Israel is asked:] "How is your beloved more than another beloved...? [Israel will say] My beloved is white and ruddy..." and the entire section [of Song of Songs] (Song of Songs 5:9, 10).-[from Mechilta]

**the God of my father** is this One, and I will exalt Him.

**the God of my father** I am not the beginning of the sanctity [i.e., I am not the first to recognize His sanctity], but the sanctity has been established and has remained with me, and His Divinity has been upon me since the days of my forefathers.-[from Mechilta]

**3** **The Lord is a Master of war** Heb. **אִישׁ** **מִלְחָמָה**, lit., a man of war, [which is inappropriate in reference to the Deity. Therefore,] Rashi renders: Master of war, like “Naomi’s husband (**אִישׁ** **נָעֳמִי**)” (Ruth 1:3) and so, every [instance in the Torah of] **אִישׁ**, husband, and **אִישֵׁךְ**, your husband, is rendered: **בַּעַל**, master. Similarly, “You shall be strong and become a man (**לְאִישׁ**)” (I Kings 2:2), [meaning] a strong man.-

**the Lord is His Name** His wars are not [waged] with weapons, but He wages battle with His Name, as David said [to Goliath before fighting him], “[You come to me with spear and javelin] and I come to you with the Name of the Lord of Hosts” (I Sam. 17:45). Another explanation: The Lord **י-ה-ו-ה**, denoting the Divine Standard of Clemency,] is His Name--Even when He wages war and takes vengeance upon His enemies, He sticks to His behavior of having mercy on His creatures and nourishing all those who enter the world, unlike the behavior of earthly kings. When he [an earthly king] is engaged in war, he turns away from all his [other] affairs and does not have the ability to do both this [i.e., wage war] and that [other things].-[from Mechilta]

**4** **He cast into the sea** Heb. **יָרָה** **בַיָם**. [Onkelos renders:] **שְׁדִי** .**שְׁדִי** **בְיַמָּא** is an expression of casting down (**יָרָה**), as [Scripture] says: “or shall surely be cast down (**יָרֽה** **יִיָָּרֶה**)” (Exod. 19:13), which Onkelos renders: **אִשְׁתְּדָאָה** **יִשְׁתְּדִי**. The “tav” serves in these [forms] in the hithpa’el form.

**and the elite of** Heb. **וּמִבְחַר**, a noun, like **מֶרְכָּב**, riding gear (Lev. 15:9); **מִשְׁכָּב**, bed (Lev. 15:23); **מִקְרָא** **קֽדֶשׁ**, holy convocation (Exod. 12:16, Lev. 23:3).

**sank** Heb. **טֻבְּעוּ**. The term **טְבִיעָה** [for sinking] is used [in the Tanach] only [when referring] to a place where there is mud, like “I have sunk (**טָבַעְתִּי**) in muddy depths” (Ps. 69:3); “and Jeremiah sank (**וַיִּטְבַּע**) into the mud” (Jer. 38:6). This informs [us] that the sea became mud, to recompense them [the Egyptians] according to their behavior, [namely] that they enslaved the Israelites with [work that entailed] clay and bricks.-[from Mechilta]

**5** **covered them** Heb. **יְכַסְיֻמוּ**, like **יְכַסוּם**. The “yud” in the middle of it is superfluous. This is, however, a common biblical style [to add an additional “yud”], like “and your cattle and your flocks will increase (**יִרְבְּיֻן**)” (Deut. 8:13); “They will be sated (**יִרְוְיֻן**) from the fat of Your house” (Ps. 36:9). The first “yud,” which denotes the future tense, is to be explained as follows: They sank in the Red Sea, so that the water would return and cover them up. There is no word in Scripture similar to **יְכַסְיֻמוּ** in its vowelization. It would usually be vowelized **יְכַסְיֻמוּ** with a “melupum.” [Here too it is obvious that Rashi means a “cholam,” as I explained above (Exod. 14:12).]

**like a stone** Elsewhere (verse 10), it says, “they sank like lead.” Still elsewhere (verse 7), it says, “it devoured them like straw.” [The solution is that] the [most] wicked were [treated] like straw, constantly tossed, rising and falling; the average ones like stone; and the best like lead-[i.e.,] they sank immediately [and thus were spared suffering].-[from Mechilta]

**6** **Your right hand...Your right hand** twice. When the Israelites perform the will of the Omnipresent, [even] the left hand becomes a right hand.-[Rashi from Mechilta]

**Your right hand, O Lord, is most powerful** to save Israel, and Your second right hand crushes the foe. It seems to me, however, that that very right hand [also] crushes the foe, unlike a human being, who cannot perform two kinds of work with the same hand. The simple meaning of the verse is: Your right hand, which is strengthened with might--what is its work? Your right hand, O Lord, crushes the foe. There are many verses resembling it [i.e., where parts of the verse are repeated]: “For behold Your enemies, O Lord, for behold Your enemies will perish” (Ps. 92:10); “How long will the wicked, O Lord, how long will the wicked rejoice?” (Ps. 94:3); “The rivers have raised, O Lord, the rivers have raised their voice” (Ps. 93:3); “Not for us, O Lord, not for us” (Ps. 115:1); “I will answer, says the Lord; I will answer the heavens” (Hos. 2:23); “I to the Lord, I shall sing” (Jud. 5:3); “Had it not been for the Lord, etc. Had it not been for the Lord Who was with us when men rose up against us” (Ps. 124:1, 2); “Praise! Praise! Deborah. Praise! Praise! Utter a song” (Jud. 5:12); “A foot shall trample it, the feet of a poor man” (Isa. 26:6); “And He gave their land as an inheritance, an inheritance to Israel His people” (Ps. 135:12).

**is most powerful** Heb. **נֶאְדָּרִי** The “yud” is superfluous, like “populous (**רַבָּתִי עָם**)...princess (**שָׂרָתִי**) among the provinces” (Lam. 1:1); “what was stolen by day” (**גְּנֻבְתִי**) (Gen. 31: 39).

**crushes the foe** Heb. **תִּרְעַץ**, [which means] it constantly crushes and breaks the foe. Similar to this, “And they crushed (**וַיִרְעֲצוּ**) and broke the children of Israel,” in Jud. (10:8). (Another explanation: Your right hand, which is strengthened with might-it breaks and strikes the foe.)

**7** **And with Your great pride** -(If the hand alone crushes the foe, then when it is raised with its great pride, it will [definitely] tear down those who rise up against Him. And if with His great pride alone His foes are torn down, how much more so, when He sends upon them His burning wrath, will it consume them.)

**You tear down** You always tear down those who rise up against You. And who are those who rise up against Him? These are the ones who rise up against Israel, and so does he [the Psalmist] say, “For behold, Your enemies stir.” And what is that stirring? “Against Your people they plot cunningly” (Ps. 83:3, 4). For this reason, he calls them the enemies of the Omnipresent.-[from Mechilta]

**8** **And with the breath of Your nostrils** Breath which comes out of the two nostrils of the nose. Scripture speaks anthropomorphically about the Shechinah, on the model of a mortal king, in order to enable the ears of the people to hear it [to understand God’s anger] as it usually occurs [in humans], so that they should be able to understand the matter. [Namely that] when a person becomes angry, wind comes out of his nostrils. Likewise, “Smoke went up from His nostrils” (Ps. 18:9), and similarly, “and from the wind of His nostrils they will be destroyed” (Job 4:9). And this is what it [Scripture] says: “For the sake of My Name, I defer My anger” (Isa. 48:9) [lit., I lengthen the breath of My nose]. [This means that] when his [a person’s] anger subsides, his breath becomes longer, and when he becomes angry, his breath becomes shorter; [the verse continues:] “and for My praise I restrain My wrath (**אֶחֱטָם**) for you” (Isa. 48:9). [I.e.,] I put a ring (**חֲטָם**) into My nostrils in front of the anger and the wind, [so] that they should not come out. “For you” means “for your sake.” [The word] **אֶחֱטָם** is like [the expression in the Mishnah:] “a dromedary with a nose ring” (**בַּחֲטָם**) in tractate Shabbath (51b). This is how it appears to me. And concerning every [expression of] **אַף** and **חָרוֹן** in the Bible [which are expressions of anger] I say this: [The expression] **חָרָה** **אַף**, anger was kindled, is like [the word **חָרָה** in:] “and my bones dried out (**חָרָה**) from the heat” (Job 30:30); **חָרָה** is an expression of fire and burning, for the nostrils heat up and burn at the time of anger. **חָרוֹן** (burning) is from the root **חרה** (to burn) just as **רָצוֹן** (will) is from the root **רצה** (to desire). And likewise, **חֵמָה** is an expression of heat (**חֲמִימוּת**). Therefore, it [Scripture] says: “and his anger (**וַחֲמָתוֹ**) burnt within him” (Esther 1:12), and when the anger subsides, we say, “His mind has cooled off (**נִתְקָרְרָה** **דַעְתּוֹ**).”

**the waters were heaped up** --Heb. **נֶעֶרְמוּ**. Onkelos rendered [this word] as an expression of cunning (**עַרְמִימוּת**). According to the clarity of Scripture, however, it is an expression related to “a stack (**עֲרֵמַת**) of wheat” (Song of Songs 7:3), and [the phrase that follows:] “the running water stood erect like a wall” proves this.

**the waters were heaped up** From the heat of the wind that came out of Your nose, the water dried up, and it became like piles and heaps of grain stacks, which are tall.

**like a wall** Heb. **כְמוֹ**-**נֵד,** as the Targum [Onkelos] renders: **כְּשׁוּר**, like a wall.-

**wall** Heb. **נֵד**, an expression of heaping and gathering, like “a heap (**נֵד**) of harvest on a day of sickness” (Isa. 17:11); “He gathers (**כּֽנֵס**) as a mound **כַּנֵד**” (Ps. 33:7). It does not say, “He brings in as a flask **כַּנּֽאד**,” but **כַּנַּד**. Now if **כַּנַּד** were the same as **כַּנּֽאד**, and **כּֽנֵס** were an expression of bringing in, it should have said, “He brings in as into a flask ( **מַכְנִיס** **כִּבְנֽאד**) the waters of the sea.” Rather, **כּֽנֵס** is an expression of gathering and heaping, and so, “shall stand in one heap (**נֵד**)”; “stood in one heap (**נֵד**).” (Josh. 3:13, 16); and the expression of rising and standing does not apply to flasks, but to walls and heaps. Moreover, we do not find **נּֽאד**, meaning a flask, vowelized [with any vowel] but with a “melupum,” (meaning a “cholam,”) like [in the phrases:] “place my tears into Your flask (**בְּנּֽאדֶךָ**)” (Ps. 56: 9); “the flask of **נּֽאד** milk” (Jud. 4:19).

**congealed** Heb. **קָפְאוּ**, like “and curdle me (**תַּקְפִּיאֵנִי**) like cheese” (Job 10:10). [I.e.,] that they [the depths] hardened and became like stones, and the water hurled the Egyptians against the stone with [all its] might and fought with them [the Egyptians] with all kinds of harshness.

**in the heart of the sea** Heb. **בְּלֶב** **יָם**, in the strongest part of the sea. It is customary for the Scriptures to speak in this manner, [for instance:] “until the heart of (**לֵב**) the heavens” (Deut. 4:11); in the heart of (**בְּלֵב**) the terebinth" (II Sam. 18:14). [The heart in these examples is] an expression denoting the root and the strength of anything.-

**9** **[Because] the enemy said** --to his people, when he enticed them with [his] words, "I will pursue, and I will overtake them, and I will share the plunder with my officers and my servants."

**will be filled from them** Heb. **תִּמְלָאֵמוֹ**, equivalent to **תִּמְלָא** **מֵהֶם**, will be filled from them.

**my desire** --Heb. **נַפְשִׁי**, lit., my soul, my spirit, and my will. Do not be surprised at [one] word speaking for two [words]; i.e., **תִּמְלָאֵמוֹ**, instead of **תִּמְלָא** **מֵהֶם**, because there are many such words [in Tanach like this], e.g., “you have given me (**נְתַתָּנִי**) dry land” (Jud. 1:15), [which is] like **נָתַתָּ** **לִי** “and they could not speak with him (**דַּבְּרוּ**) peacefully” (Gen. 37:4), [which is] like **דַּבֵּר** **עִמוֹ** “my children have left me (**יְצָאוּנִי**) ” (Jer. 10:20), [which is] like **יָצְאוּ** **מִמֶנִי** “I will tell him (**אַגִּידֶנּוּ**) ” (Job 31:37), [which is] like **אַגִיד** **לוֹ**. Here too, **תִּמְלָאֵמוֹ** is equivalent to **תִִִּמְלָאֵמוֹ** **נַפְשִׁי** **מֵהֶם.**

**I will draw my sword** Heb. **אָרִיק** **חַרְבִּי**, lit., I will empty my sword. I will draw, and because one empties the sheath by drawing it [the sword], and it remains empty, an expression of emptying is appropriate, like “And it came to pass that they were emptying (**מְרִיקִים**) their sacks” (Gen. 42:35); “and they shall empty (**יָרִיקוּ**) his vessels” (Jer. 48:12). Do not say that the expression of emptiness [in these examples] does not apply to what comes out [of its container] but [instead applies] to the sheath, the sack, or the vessel from which it came out, but not to the sword or the wine, and [thus] to force an interpretation of **אָרִיק** **חַרְבִּי** like the language of “and he armed (**וַיָרֶק**) his trained men” (Gen. 14:14), [claiming that its] meaning [is] "I will arm myself with my sword.” [To this I answer that] we find the expression [of emptying] also applied to that which comes out, e.g., “oil poured forth (**תּוּרַק**) ” (Song of Songs 1:3); “and he has not been poured (**הוּרַק**) from one vessel to another vessel” (Jer. 48:11). It is not written: “the vessel was not emptied (**הוּרַק**)” but “the wine was not poured (**הוּרַק**) from one vessel to another vessel.” Similarly, “and they will draw (**וְהֵרִיקוּ**) their swords on the beauty of your wisdom” (Ezek. 28:7), referring to Hiram [the king of Tyre]- [following Onkelos, Jonathan].

**my hand will impoverish them** Heb. **תּוֹרִישֵׁמוֹ**, an expression of poverty (**רֵישׁוּת**) and destitution, like “The Lord impoverishes (**מוֹרִישׁ**) and makes rich” (I Sam. 2:7).

**10** **You blew** Heb. **נָשַׁפְתָּ**, an expression of blowing, and likewise: “and also, He blew (**נָשַׁף**) on them” (Isa. 40:24).

**they sank** Heb. **צָלֲלוּ**, [which means] they sank; they went down to the depths, an expression of **מְצוּלָה**, deep.

**like lead**-Heb. **כַּעוֹפֶרֶת**, plomb in French, lead.

**11** **among the powerful** Heb. **בָּאֵלִם**, among the strong, like “and the powerful (**אֵילֵי**) of the land he took away” (Ezek. 17:13); “my strength **אֱיָלוּתִי**, hasten to my assistance” (Ps. 22:20).

**Too awesome for praises** [You are] too awesome for [one] to recite Your praises, lest they fall short, as it is written: “Silence is praise to You” (Ps. 65:2).

**12** **You inclined Your right hand** When the Holy One, blessed be He, inclines His hand, the wicked perish and fall, because all are placed in His hand, and they fall when He inclines it. Similarly, it [Scripture] says: “and the Lord shall turn His hand, and the helper shall stumble, and the helped one shall fall” (Isa. 31:3). This can be compared to glass vessels placed in a person’s hand. If he inclines his hand a little, they fall and break.-[based on Mechilta]

**the earth swallowed them up** From here [we deduce] that they merited to be buried as a reward for saying, “The Lord is the righteous One” (Exod. 9:27).-[from Mechilta]

**13** **You led** Heb. **נֵהַלְתָּ**, an expression of leading. Onkelos, however, rendered [it as] an expression of carrying and bearing, but he was not exact in explaining it in accordance with the Hebrew. [I.e., he explained the sense of the verse, but he did not translate the word literally.]

**14** **they trembled** Heb. **יִרְגָזוּן**, [which means] they tremble.

**the inhabitants of Philistia** [They trembled] since they slew the children of Ephraim, who hastened the end [of their exile] and went out [of Egypt] forcibly, as is delineated in (I) Chronicles (7:21). And the people of [the town of] Gath slew them [the children of Ephraim].-[from Mechilta]

**15** **the chieftains of Edom...the powerful men of Moab** Now they had nothing to fear at all, because they [the Israelites] were not advancing upon them. Rather, [they trembled] because of grief, that they were grieving and suffering because of the glory of Israel.

**melted** Heb. **נָמֽגוּ**, [as in the phrase] “with raindrops You dissolve it (**תְּמֽגְגֶנָּה**)” (Ps. 65:11). They [the inhabitants of Canaan] said, “They are coming upon us to annihilate us and possess our land.”-[from Mechilta]

**16** **May dread...fall upon them** Heb. **אֵימָתָה**, upon the distant ones.-[from Mechilta]

**and fright** Heb. **וָפַחַד**. Upon the nearby ones, as the matter that is stated: “For we have heard how the Lord dried up [the water of the Red Sea for you, etc.]” (Josh. 2:10).[from Mechilta]

**until...cross over, until...crosses over** As the Targum [Onkelos] renders.

**You have acquired** Heb. **קָנִיתָ**. [I.e., whom] You loved more than other nations, similar to an article purchased for a high price, which is dear to the person [who purchased it].

**17** **You shall bring them** Moses prophesied that he would not enter the land [of Israel]. Therefore, it does not say: “You shall bring us.” (It appears that it should read “that they would not enter the land, etc.” Indeed, this is the way it is stated in Baba Bathra 119b and in Mechilta: The sons will enter but not the fathers. Although the decree of the spies had not yet been pronounced, he [Moses] prophesied, not knowing what he was prophesying.-[Maharshal])

**directed toward Your habitation** The Temple below is directly opposite the Temple above, which You made.-[from Mechilta]

**the sanctuary** Heb. **מִקְּדָשׁ**. The cantillation sign over it is a “zakef gadol,” to separate it from the word ה' following it. [The verse thus means:] the sanctuary which Your hands founded, O Lord. The Temple is beloved, since, whereas the world was created with “one hand,” as it is said: “Even My hand laid the foundation of the earth” (Isa. 48:13), the sanctuary [will be built] with “two hands.” When will it be built with "two hands"? At the time when “the Lord will reign to all eternity” [verse 18]. In the future, when the entire ruling power is His.-[from Mechilta and Keth. 5a]

**18** **to all eternity** Heb. **לְעֽלָם** **וָעֶד**. [This is] an expression of eternity, and the “vav” in it is part of the root. Therefore, it is punctuated with a “pattach.” But in “and I am He Who knows, and [I am] a witness **וָעֵד**” (Jer. 29:23), in which the “vav” is a prefix, it is punctuated with a “kamatz.”

**19** **When Pharaoh’s horses came** Heb. **כִּי** **בָא** When they came.

**20** **Miriam, the prophetess, Aaron’s sister, took** When did she prophesy? When she was [known only as] “Aaron’s sister,” before Moses was born, she said, “My mother is destined to bear a son” [who will save Israel], as is found in Sotah 12b, 13a). Another explanation: [It is written] Aaron’s sister since he [Aaron] risked his life for her when she was afflicted with zara’ath; [thus] she is called by his name (Mechilta).

**a timbrel** Heb. **הַתּֽף**, a type of musical instrument.

**with timbrels and with dances** The righteous women of that generation were [so] certain that the Holy One, blessed be He, would perform miracles for them, they took timbrels out of Egypt.-[from Mechilta]

**21** **And Miriam called out to them** Moses said the Song to the men, and they answered after him, and Miriam said the song to the women [and they too repeated it].-[from Mechilta]

**22** **Moses led Israel away** lit., made Israel journey. He led them away against their will, for the Egyptians had adorned their steeds with ornaments of gold, silver, and precious stones, and the Israelites were finding them in the sea. The plunder at the sea was greater than the plunder in Egypt, as it is said: “We will make you rows of gold with studs of silver” (Song of Songs 1:11). Therefore, he had to lead them against their will.-[from Tanchuma Buber, Beshallach 16, Mechilta, Exod. 12:35, Song Rabbah 1:11]

**23** **They came to Marah** Heb. **מָרָתָה**, like **לְמָרָָה**. The “hey” at the end**מָרָתָה** is instead of a “lammed” [prefix] at the beginning [of the word], and the “thav” is instead of the “hey” [that is part] of the root in the word **מָרָָה**. But when a suffix is added, when it is attached to a “hey” that replaces a “lammed,” the “hey” of the root is transformed into a “thav.” Similarly, every “hey” that is part of the root of the word is transformed into a “thav” when a suffix is added, like “I have no wrath (**חֵמָה**) ” (Isa. 27:4), [becomes] “and his wrath (**וַחֲמָתוֹ**) burnt within him” (Esther 1:12). Note that the “hey” of the root is transformed into a “thav” when it is placed next to the added “vav.” Likewise, “bond servants and handmaids (**וְאָמָה**)“ (Lev. 25:44), [becomes] and "Here is my handmaid (**אֲמָתִי**) Bilhah” (Gen. 30:3); “a living (**חַיָה**) soul” (Gen. 2:7), [becomes] “and his living spirit (**חַיָתוֹ**) causes him to abhor food” (Job 33:20); “between Ramah (**הָרָמָה**)” (Jud. 4:5), [becomes] “And his return was to Ramah (**הָרָמָתָה**)” (I Sam. 7: 17).

**24** **complained** Heb. **וַיִנוּ**. This is in the niph’al conjugation. [In this case, the niph’al denotes the reflexive, as we see further in Rashi.] Likewise, in the Targum [Onkelos], it is also a niph’al expression: **וְאִתְרַעֲמוּ**. The nature of the term denoting complaint **תְּלוּנָה** [is that it] reverts to the person [complaining], **מִתְלוֹנֵן** [complains] or **מִתְרוֹעֵם** [storms], but one does not say **לוֹנֵן** or **רוֹעֵם** [Hebrew]. The Frenchman also says, “Decomplenst sey.” He reverts the statement to himself when he says, “Sey.”

**25** **There He gave them** In Marah, He gave them some sections of the Torah so that they would busy themselves with them, namely [they were given the laws governing] the Sabbath, the red cow, and laws of jurisprudence.-[from Mechilta and Sanh. 56b]

**and there He tested them** [He tested] the people and saw how stiff-necked they were, that they did not consult Moses with respectful language, “Entreat [God to have] mercy upon us that we should have water to drink,” but they complained.-[from Mechilta]

**26** **If you hearken** This is the acceptance [of the law] that they should accept upon themselves.

**and you do** --This means the performance [of the commandments].

**and you listen closely** [This means that] you [should] incline your ears to be meticulous in [fulfilling] them.

**all His statutes** Things that are only the decree of the King, without any [apparent] rationale, and with which the evil inclination finds fault, [saying,] “What is [the sense of] the prohibition of these [things]? Why were they prohibited?” For example, [the prohibitions of] wearing shatnes [a mixture of wool and linen] and eating pork, and [the ritual of] the red cow and their like.-[based on Yoma 67b]

**I will not visit upon you** And if I do bring [sickness upon you], it is as if it has not been brought, “for I, the Lord, heal you.” This is its midrashic interpretation (see Sanh. 101a, Mechilta). According to its simple meaning, [we explain:] “for I, the Lord, am your Physician” and [I] teach you the Torah and the mitzvoth in order that you be saved from them [illnesses], like this physician who says to a person, “Do not eat things that will cause you to relapse into the grip of illness.” This [warning] refers to listening closely to the commandments, and so [Scripture] says: “It shall be healing for your navel” (Prov. 3:8).-[from Mechilta]

**Midrash PESIQTA deRAB KAHANA**

**Pisqa Seven**

**And it came to pass at midnight *[that the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the handmaiden behind the millstones, and all the firstborn of the cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where one was not dead. And he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Rise up, go forth from among my people, both you and the people of Israel, and go, serve the LORD as you have said. Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also!]***(Ex. 12:29-32).

**VII:I**

‎R. Tanhum of Jaffa in the name of R. Nunayya of Caesarea opened discourse by citing the following verse: *"But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task* (Ps, 73:16). Said David, **'No one can reckon the exact moment of midnight except for the Holy One, blessed be He**, but, as for me, *But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task.* For no creature can reckon the exact moment except for Him, for it is said: *And it came to pass at midnight {that the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the handmaiden behind the millstones, and all the firstborn of the cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where one was not dead. And he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Rise up, go forth from among my people, both you and the people of Israel, and go, serve the Lord as you have said. Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone; and bless me also!]”* (Ex. 12:29-32).

**VII:II ‎**

‎R. Aha opened discourse by citing this verse: *I am the LORD, the LORD is My name; I will not give My glory to another ‎god, nor My praise to any idol* (Is. 42:8). *‎I am the LORD, the LORD is my name*: said R. Aha, "Said the Holy One, blessed be He, '*I am the LORD, the LORD is ‎My name*. ‎That is the name that was given to Me by the first Man. ‎That is My name, concerning which I made a stipulation with Myself. That is the name concerning which I stipulated between the angels and Myself.

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‎*... I will not give My glory to another god, nor My praise to any idol* (Is. 42:8): ‎R. Menahema said in the name of R. Abin, "This refers to the shades."

R. Nehemiah in the name of R. Mina said, "No creature except for the Holy One, blessed be He, can distinguish ‎between the drop of sperm that produces a firstborn and one that does not But as for me, *But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task. ‎*For no creature can reckon the exact moment except for Him, for it is said: *And it came to pass at midnight ‎‎[that the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt*." ‎ ‎

**VII:III ‎**

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***I make My servants' prophecies come true and give effect to My messengers' designs. I say of Jerusalem, "She will ‎be inhabited once more," and of the cities of Judah, "They will be rebuilt, all their ruins I will restore"*** (Is. 44:26): R. Berekhiah in the name of R. Levi: "If someone can *make My servants' prophecies come true and give effect ‎to my messengers' designs*, do we not know that He will say of Jerusalem, *She will be inhabited once more, ‎and of the cities of Judah, They will be rebuilt, all their ruins I will restore*? ‎But the point is this: an angel appeared to Jacob, our father, and said to him, What is your name? *And he said, ‎Jacob. And he said, Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel* (Gen. 32:28-29). ‎Then the Holy One, blessed be He, appeared to our father, Jacob, so as to confirm the decree of that angel: ‎*And God said to him, Your name is Jacob* (Gen. 35:9, 10).As to Jerusalem, since all of the prophets prophesied that Jerusalem would be rebuilt, how much the more so ‎‎[will God confirm what his prophets have said]!"

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‎Another interpretation of the verse: *“I make My servants' prophecies come true and give effect to My messengers' ‎designs. I say of Jerusalem, "She will be inhabited once more," and of the cities of Judah, "They will be rebuilt, all their ‎ruins I will restore.””* (Is. 44:26): *‎I make ‎My servants' prophecies come true* refers to Moses: *Not so is My servant Moses* (Num. 12:7). *And give effect to My messengers' designs* refers to Moses: *He sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt* ‎‎(Num. 20:16). ‎Said the Holy One, blessed be He, to Moses, *Go, say to Israel, I will pass through the land of Egypt on that ‎night* (Ex. 12:12). Moses went and told Israel: *Thus said the LORD, At midnight I will go forth through Egypt* (Ex. 11:4). ‎‎[Noting that Moses had specified the exact time,] said the Holy One, blessed be He, “I have already made a ‎promise to Moses, saying to him, *Not so is My servant, Moses. In My entire household he is faithful* (Num. 12:7). ‎Will My servant, Moses, tum out to be a bluffer?” But what has Moses said? *At midnight I will go forth through Egypt.* ‎So I will do it at midnight: *and it came to pass at midnight [that the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of ‎Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the ‎dungeon, and all the firstborn of the cattle.}*" ‎

**VII:IV ‎**

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***At midnight I rise to give You thanks for the justice of Your decrees. I keep company with all who fear You, with all ‎who follow Your precepts. The earth is full of Your never-failing love; O LORD, teach me Your statutes*** (Ps. 119:62-64): ‎R. Phineas in the name of R. Eleazar bar Menahem: "What would David do? He would take a psaltery and a harp and put them at his pillow and get up at midnight and play on them. **And the Sages of Israel would hear the sound and say, 'Now if King David is occupied with Torah-study, how ‎much the more so should we!' It came about that all of Israel would occupy themselves in the study of Torah."**

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‎Said R. Levi, "There was a window by the bed of David, open to the north, and the harp was suspended at it, and as ‎the north went blew at midnight, it would rush through the harp, and the harp would give forth sound on its own, in line ‎with this verse: *When the instrument played* (2 Kgs. 3:5). ‎What it says is not, 'when David played ... ,' but, *When the instrument played*. ‎This indicates that the harp would give forth sound on its own. **And the Sages of Israel would hear the sound and say, 'Now if King David is occupied with Torah-study, how ‎much the more so should we!' ‎It came about that all of Israel would occupy themselves in the study of Torah." ‎**

*[… and it came to pass at midnight that the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of ‎Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the cattle:]* ‎That is in line with what David said: *[My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast. I will sing and raise a psalm;] ‎awake, my glory, awake, lute and harp, I will awake at dawn of day* (Ps. 57:7-8). I will awake my glory before the glory of my creator, my glory is nothing before the glory of my creator. *I will awake at dawn of day*: I will awake the dawn, and the dawn will not wake me up. But his impulse to do evil roused him and said to him, "David, ordinarily dawn wakes up kings, but you say, *I ‎will awake at dawn of day*! Kings usually sleep to the third hour, but you say, *At midnight I rise to give you ‎thanks for the justice of Your decrees*.” ‎

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What is the meaning of *the justice of Your decrees*? ‎[Thanks are due for] the decree of judgment that You carried out against the wicked Pharaoh, and the justice ‎that You did with our elder, Sarah. That is in line with this verse: *And the LORD afflicted Pharaoh with great plagues* (Gen. 12: 17). ‎

Another interpretation of *the justice of Your decrees*: ‎‎[David said,] "[Thanks are due for] the decree of judgment that You carried out against the nations of the world ‎‎[Ammon and Moab], and the justice that You did with our ancestor and our ancestress [reference here is to ‎Boaz and Ruth]. For if he [Boaz] had [Braude and Kapstein, p. 143:] slipped into her as she lay at his feet, whence would I ‎have had my origin? Instead, You set a blessing into his heart, so he said, Blessed are You of the LORD, my daughter (Ruth 3:10).

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‎Another interpretation of *the justice of Your decrees*: ‎‎[Thanks are due for] the decree of judgment that You carried out against the Egyptians in Egypt. And for the righteousness/generosity that You carried out with our forefathers in Egypt. For they had to their credit only two religious duties on account of which they should be redeemed, the blood ‎of the Passover-offering and the blood of circumcision. That is in line with this verse: *And I passed over you and I saw you wallowing in your bloods, and I said to you, ‎In your bloods, live* (Ezek 16:6). *In your bloods*: the blood of the Passover-offering and the blood of ‎circumcision.

**VII:V ‎**

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Said R. Simeon b. Yohai, "Moses did not know how to calculate split seconds, let alone minutes or hours, of the ‎night. But the Holy One, blessed be He, knows how to calculate split seconds, let alone minutes and hours, can stay within ‎the rule even by a hair's breadth." [Mandelbaum, p. 125, n. to 1. 13:] Therefore it is written, ***... and it came to pass at midnight [that the LORD ‎smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn ‎of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the cattle.} ‎***

Who divided the night? R. Benjamin bar Japheth in the name of R. Yohanan: "The night divided itself up on its own." ‎Rabbis say, "Its creator divided it."

Here you read: *And it came to pass at midnight* (Ex. 12:29) and elsewhere: *And He divided the night for them* (Gen. 14:15). Said R. Tanhuma, "[God said,] 'Your father went forth with me at midnight, so I will go forth with his children at ‎midnight.'” Rabbis say, "Said the Holy One, blessed be He, 'Your father went forth with me last night to midnight, so I will go forth ‎with his children from midnight to the morning.'" ‎

‎Said R. Yohanan, "The angelic prince who protects the Egyptians will fall only by day. What verse of Scripture so indicates? *Daylight will fail in Tahpanhes, when I break the yoke of Egypt there; ‎‎[then her boasted might will be subdued; a cloud will cover her, and her daughters will go into captivity. ‎Thus I will execute judgment on Egypt, and they will know that I am the LORD]* (Ezek. 30:18-19)." ‎And Scripture further states, *On that day there will be five cities in the land of Egypt speaking the language ‎‎[of Canaan and swearing allegiance to the LORD of Hosts, and one of them will be called the City of the Sun]* ‎‎(Is. 19:18)." ‎What are these five cities? R. Hilkiah in the name of R. Simon says, "**No**, which is **Alexandria,** **Noph,** which is **Memphis,** **Tehaphnehes,** ‎which is **Hophnias,** t**he city of ‎the sherds,** which is [Braude and Kapstein, p. 145:] **Ostracena**, and **the city of the sun**, which is **Heliopolis**.

Said Rabban Yohanan b. Zakkai, "We have found that both night and day are called day, for it is written, *And there was evening, and there was morning, one day* ‎‎(Gen. 1:5)." ‎R. Joshua bar Nehemiah derived the same proposition from this verse: ‎‎"*Also the night will not be too dark for you, and the night will glow like the day, darkness like light* (Ps. 139:12). ‎‎"[God says,] 'That is darkness which is light for Me, and night so far as mortals are concerned. '" ‎That yields the conclusion that on that very day the firstborn of the Egyptians died. ‎How did it work out? They were smitten with a death-dealing blow in the evening, then writhed all night, and in the morning died. What verse of Scripture indicates it? "We have all died" is not what it says, but rather, *We are all dying*, that is to say, breathing our last. ‎That is in line with this verse: *On the day on which I smote every firstborn* (Num. 3:13), and, further, *On the day on which I sanctified to me every firstborn* (Num. ‎‎8:17). ‎On this basis you must conclude that on the day on which the firstborn of the Egyptians died, I sanctified to Me every firstborn [of Israel]. ‎

**VII:VI ‎**

‎***... the Lord smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt*** (Ex. 12:29): ‎When the verse refers to a firstborn, it adds, *all the firstborn*, encompassing the firstborn of a man and the firstborn of a woman, the firstborn of a male and the ‎firstborn of a female. ‎How so? If a man had sexual relations with ten women and then they produced ten sons, it would tum out that all of them were firstborn of women. If ten men had sexual relations with one woman and she produced ten sons, all of them would turn out to be the firstborn of males. But take note of a case in which there was a household in which was no firstborn either for a male or for a female? How then can I apply to that house the verse: *‎‎for there was not a house where one was not dead*? ‎**Said R. Abba bar Aha, ''Then the one in charge of the household would die. That is in line with this verse: *Shimri the one in charge, for though he was not firstborn, ‎nonetheless his father put him in charge* (1 Chr. 26:10)." ‎**

It was taught on Tannaite authority in the name of R. Nathan, "On the day on which a firstborn of one of them died, he would make an icon of him in the house. ‎On that day [on which the firstborn was killed,] it too was smashed up, shattered, and scattered. ‎It was as hard for the parent as if on that very day he had buried the firstborn himself. Said R. Yudan, "Since the Egyptians would bury their dead in their houses, the dogs would come in through the burial niches [better: sewer pipes] and pull ‎out the bones of the firstborn among the dead and play with them. It was as hard for the parent as if on that very day he had buried the firstborn himself."

**VII:VII**

‎***.. from the firstborn of Pharaoh [who sat on his throne even to the firstborn of the maidservant who is behind the mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle]*** (Ex. 12:29): ‎On the basis of that statement [read as *from the firstborn, Pharaoh*] it follows that Pharaoh himself was a firstborn. ‎

All of the firstborn came to their fathers, saying to them, “Since Moses has said, *And every firstborn will die* (Ex. 11:5), all the things that he has said against ‎this people have come upon them. But now go and let these Hebrews go from among you, and if you do not do so, lo, this people is going to die." They said, "Each one of us has ten sons. Let one of them die, and let what these Hebrews say not come to pass." They said, "The sole remedy for the matter is [or us to go to Pharaoh, for he is a firstborn. He may have mercy on his own life and let these Hebrews go ‎away from among us." ‎They went to Pharaoh, saying to him, "Since Moses has said, *And every firstborn will die* (Ex. 11:5), all the things that he has said against this people have ‎come upon them. But now go and let these Hebrews go from among you, and if you do not do so, lo, this people is going to die." ‎ He said, "Go and beat the humps of these people. I have said, 'It is my life or the lives of these Hebrews!' And you say this!" The firstborn went and killed sixty myriads of their fathers. That is in line with this verse: *To the one who smote Egypt through their firstborn* (Ps. 136: 1 0). ‎What is written is not, "To the one who smote the Egyptians in Egypt," but, *To the one who smote the Egyptians through their firstborn*. [for] the firstborn ‎killed their fathers, in the number of sixty myriads.

‎R. Abun in the name of R. Judah b. Pazzi said, "Batyah, the daughter of Pharaoh, was a firstborn. On account of what merit was she saved? It was through ‎the prayer of Moses. ‎For it is written: *She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night* (Prov. 31: 18). ‎The reference to night calls to mind the verse: *It is a watch night for the LORD* (Ex. 12:42)." ‎

**VII:VIII ‎**

‎***[..from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne] even to the firstborn of the maidservant who is behind the mill, [and all the firstborn of the cattle]*** (Ex. ‎‎11:5): ‎R. Huna and R. Aha in the name of R. Eleazar son of R. Yose the Galileans, "Even the handmaiden who were latched to the millstones would say, 'We take ‎pleasure in our subjugation, so long as the Israelites also are subjugated." Said R. Judah b. Pazzi, "There is a traditional narrative that this was with reference to Seah, daughter of Asher, for when she came down to Egypt, they ‎had latched her to the millstones." ‎

**VII:IX ‎**

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***... and all the firstborn of the cattle*:** ‎If man had sinned, what sin had beasts done? It was because the Egyptians bow down to the ram. ‎It was so that the Egyptian would not have occasion to say, "Our god [the ram] has brought this punishment on us. Our god is strong, for it has stood ‎up for itself. Our god is strong, because the punishment did not touch it."

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**VII:X ‎**

‎R. Huna and R. Joshua bar Abin, son-in-law of R. Levi, in the name of R. Levi: "The Merciful God does not touch lives first of all [but exacts vengeance on ‎property]. From whom do you learn that fact? From Job: *A messenger came to Job and said, The oxen were plowing and the asses feeding beside them* (Job 1:14). What is the meaning of, *and the asses feeding beside them*? ‎Said R. Hama, "A model of the order of the world to come was made for him, in line with this verse: *Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when ‎the one who ploughs will overtake the one who reaps* (Amos 9:13). [Mendelbaum: That is, corn will ripen within moments after the seed is planted, so ‎that browing animals will follow in the tracks of the plowing animals.]" ‎

Said R. Abba bar Kahana, "[With reference to the verse, *The Sabeans made a raid and took the oxen and the asses away, yes, they smote the servants with ‎the edge of the sword* (Job 1: 15),] they went out of Kefar Kerinos and went through the whole of Ublin, and when they came to Migdal Sebayya, they ‎died." ‎Said R. Hama, “[In the verse, *And I alone have escaped* (Job 1: 15),] the word *alone* bears the sense of *solely*, that is, he alone escaped [only with his life], ‎but was himself broken and beaten." Said R. Yudan, "*And I alone have escaped to tell you* (Job 1:15) means that 'the sole purpose for which I escaped was to tell you,' at which point he died. ‎That is in line with this verse: *While he was still speaking, there came another and said, The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and ‎the servants and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you*. *While he was speaking there came another and said, The Chaldaeans formed three ‎companies and made a raid upon the camels and took them and slew the servants with the edge of the sword and I alone have escaped to tell you.* (Job ‎‎1:14-17).When Job heard this news, he forthwith began to collect a troop to make war against them [but then he changed his mind, as will now be explained]. That ‎is in line with this verse: *Because I stood in great fear of the multitude, and the contempt of families terrified me, so that I kept silence and did not go out ‎of doors* (Job 31:34)." ‎

Said Job [in gathering his troops], "This nation is the most contemptible of all nations: *Behold the land of the Chaldaeans - the people that* was *a no-people* ‎‎(Is. 23:13). Would that it had never come into existence. Does that people think that it can frighten me?” But when people told him, "*The fire of God fell from heaven*, he said, "If it is from Heaven, what can I do." ‎Forthwith: ... *so that I kept silence and did not go out of doors*. ‎And then: *And he took a potsherd with which to scrape himself and sat among the ashes* (Job 2:8). ‎

‎[The same proposition derives from the case] also of Mahlon and Chilion. First their horses, camels, and asses died, and then he died, ‎as it is said: *And Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died* (Ruth 1:3), then the two sons: *Mahlon and Chilion died, both of them* (Ruth 1:5). [Delete: And then she died.]

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‎So too is the rule applying to skin-ailments which affect man. ‎**First of all, it begins on his house, and, if the man repents, the affected stone has only to be removed: *They will dismantle the stones* (Lev. 14:40). If the ‎man does not repent, then the whole house has to be dismantled: ‎*And he will dismantle the house* (Lev. 14:45). And then it ‎ affects his clothing. If he repents, the clothing has to be ripped: *And he will tear the affected patch out of the garment or the hide or from the warp or from the woof* ‎‎(Lev. 13:56). If he does not repent, then the clothing has to be burned: *And he will burn the clothing* (Lev. 13:52). Then it affects his body. If he repents, it goes ‎away, and he departs, and if not, it comes back on him: *And he will sit solitary, his dwelling will be outside of the camp* (Lev. 13:46) [Tosefta. Neg. 6:4]**

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‎So too is the rule as to the events in Egypt: First the measure of justice affected their property: *He smote their vines and their fig trees* (Ps. 105:33). Then: *He gave over their cattle to the hail and their flocks to fiery bolts of lightning* (Ps, 78:48). ‎Then at the end: *He smote all the firstborn of Egypt* (Ps, 78:51). ‎

**VII:XI ‎**

‎R. Levi bar Zechariah in the name of R. Berekhiah: "It was with the arts of royal siege-warfare that God came against them. First of all, [a besieging army] shuts up their water supply, then he brings against them thunders of war, then he shoots arrows, then he brings troops, ‎then he storms them, then he pours burning oil, then he throws great stones against them, then he brings against them scaling troops, then he captures ‎them, then he takes out their greatest figure and kills him. ‎[So too is the order of God's siege of Egypt:] first he shut up their water supply: *He turned their rivers into blood* (Ps, 78:44). ‎Then he brought against them thunders of war: This refers to the frogs.” (Said R. Yose bar Hanina, "The croaking was worse for them than the frogs themselves." "Then he shot arrows: This refers to the lice. Then he brought troops: This refers to the swarms of wild beasts. Then he starved them out: *A very heavy murrain* (Ex. 9:3). ‎Then he poured burning oil: This refers to the boils. Then he threw great stones against them: This refers to the hail. Then he brought against them scaling troops: This refers to the locusts. Then he captured them: this refers to the darkness. Then he took out their greatest figure and killed him: This refers to the killing of the firstborn." ‎

R. Levi, son-in-law of R. Zechariah, in the name of R. Berekhiah said, "As at the news concerning Egypt, so they shall be startled at the fall of the adversary (Is. 23:5)." ‎Said R. Eliezer, "**Whenever the name of Tyre is written in Scripture, if it is written out [with all of the letters], then it refers to the province of Tyre. Where ‎it is written without all of its letters (and so appears identical to the word for enemy). the reference of Scripture is to Rome. [So the sense of the verse is ‎that Rome will receive its appropriate reward.]"** ‎

‎[Resuming the discussion begun at VII:XI with the information just now given:] R. Levi in the name of R. Hama bar Hanina: "He who exacted vengeance from ‎the former [oppressor] will exact vengeance from the latter. Just as, in Egypt, it was with blood, so with Edom it will be the same: *I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars ‎of smoke* (Job 3:3). ‎Just as, in Egypt, it was with frogs, so with Edom it will be the same: *‎The sound of an uproar from the city, an uproar because of the palace, an uproar of the Lord who renders recompense to his enemies* (Is. 66:6). ‎Just as, in Egypt, it was with lice, so with Edom it will be the same: *‎The streams of Bosrah will be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch* (Is. 34:9). *Smite the dust of the ‎earth that it may become lice* (Ex. 8:12). ‎ Just as, in Egypt, it was with swarms of wild beasts, so with Edom it will be the same: *The pelican and the bittern will possess it* (Is. 34:11). Just as, in Egypt, it was with pestilence, so with Edom it will be the same: *I will plead against Gog with pestilence and with blood* (Ez. 38:22). ‎Just as, in Egypt, it was with boils, so with Edom it will be the same: *‎This will be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the peoples that have warred against Jerusalem: their flesh will consume away while they stand upon their ‎feet* (Zech. 14:12). ‎Just as, in Egypt, it was with great stones, so with Edom it will be the same: *I will cause to rain upon Gog ... an overflowing shower and great hailstones* ‎‎(Ez. 38:22). ‎Just as, in Egypt, it was with locusts, so with Edorn it will be the same: ‎*And you, son of man, thus says the LORD God: Speak to birds of every sort ... the flesh of the mighty will you eat ... blood will you drink ... you will eat fat until you ‎are full and drink blood until you are drunk* (Ez. 39:17-19). ‎Just as, in Egypt, it was with darkness, so with Edom it will be the same: *He will stretch over Edom the line of chaos and the plummet of emptiness* (Is. ‎‎34:11). ‎Just as, in Egypt, he took out their greatest figure and killed him, so with Edom it will be the same: *A great slaughter in the land of Edom, among them ‎to come down will be the wild oxen* (Is. 34:6-7). ‎Said R. Meir, "[The letters of the word for wild (*reemim*) may be read as *Rome,* thus,] '*Among them to come down shall be Rome.*" ‎ ‎

**VII:XII ‎**

‎

***For behold darkness will cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. [And nations ‎will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising]*** (Is. 60:2-3): ‎

R. Levi bar Zechariah in the name of R. Berekhiah: "*Darkness and thick darkness* affected Egypt for three days. What verse of Scripture indicates it? *And ‎there was darkness, thick darkness* (Ex. 10:22). ‎But emptiness and void have never yet affected this world. ‎But where [and when] will they come to pass? They will envelope the great city of Rome: *He will stretch over it the line of chaos and the plummet of emptiness* (Is. 34:11)." ‎Rabbis say, "As to the nations of the world, who never accepted the Torah which was given in darkness, concerning them Scripture says, *For behold ‎darkness will cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples* .... But as to Israel, which accepted it in darkness, concerning them Scripture says, *... but the LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you.*"

**Ashlamatah: Shmuel bet ( II Samuel) 22:1-51**

| **Rashi** | **Targum** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. And David spoke to the Lord the words of this song, on the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul; | 1. And David gave praise in prophecy before the LORD the words of this praise on account of all the days that the LORD saved Israel from the hand of all their enemies and also for David from the sword of Saul. |
| 2. And he said, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and a rescuer to me. | 2. And he said: "The LORD is my strength and my security and the one saving me, |
| 3. God is my rock, under whom I take cover; My shield, and the horn of my salvation, my support, and my refuge; [He is] my savior Who saves me from violence. | 3. my God, who takes delight in me; He has drawn me near to fear of Him; my strength from before whom strength is given to me and redemption to grow strong against my enemies; my security on account of whose Memra I trust in time of distress, shielding me from my enemies. And he said: "For the land ~ my horn in His redemption; my support that His Memra supported me when I was fleeing from before those pursuing me; my redemption from my enemies; and also, from the hand of all robbers He saved me. |
| 4. With praise, I call to the Lord, for from my enemies I shall be saved. | 4. David said in praise: "I am praying before the LORD who in all times saves me from my enemies. |
| 5. For the pains of death have encompassed me; streams of scoundrels would affright me. | 5. For distress surrounded me like a woman who sits upon the birth-stool, and she does not have strength to give birth, and she is in danger of dying. A company of sinners terrified me. |
| 6. Bands of [those that shall inherit] the nether world have surrounded me; the snares of death confronted me. | 6. An army of evil men surrounded me; those who were girt with weapons of killing came before me. |
| 7. When I am in distress, I call upon the Lord, yes, I call upon my God: and out of His abode He hears my voice, and my cry enters His ears. | 7. David said: "When I was in distress, I was praying before the LORD and before my God I was entreating and from His temple He was receiving my prayers, and my petitions were made before Him. |
| 8. Then the earth shook and quaked, the [very] foundations of heaven did tremble; and they were shaken when he was angered. | 8. The earth was stirred up and shaken; the foundations of the heavens trembled and bent down, for His anger was strong |
| 9. Smoke went up in His nostrils, and fire out of His mouth did devour; coals flamed forth from Him. | 9. The haughtiness of Pharaoh went up like smoke before Him. Then He sent His anger like a burning fire which was from before Him; His wrath was destroying like coals of burning fire from His Memra |
| 10. And He bent the heavens, and He came down; and thick darkness was under His feet. | 10. He bent the heavens, and his glory was revealed= and a cloud covered the way before him. |
| 11. And He rode upon a cherub and did fly; He was seen upon the wings of the wind. | 11. He was revealed in His might upon the swift cherubim, and He drove with strength upon the wings of the wind. |
| 12. And He fixed darkness about Him as booths; gathering of waters, thick clouds of the skies. | 12. He made His Shekinah reside in thick darkness; a glorious cloud (was) all round about Him, bringing down mighty waters from the mass of light clouds in the height of the world. |
| 13. From the brightness before Him flamed forth coals of fire. | 13. From the visage of His splendor the heavens of heavens were shining forth, His wrath like coals of burning fire from His Memra. |
| 14. The Lord thundered from heaven; and the Most High gave forth His voice. | 14. The LORD thundered from the heavens, and the Most High lifted up His Memra. |
| 15. And He sent out arrows and He scattered them, lightning and He discomfited them. | 15. And He sent forth His smiting like arrows and scattered them, lightnings, and confused them. |
| 16. And the depths of the sea appeared; the foundations of the world were laid bare, by the rebuke of the Lord and the blast of the breath of His nostrils. | 16. And the depths of the sea were seen, the foundations of the world were revealed in the wrath from before the LORD, from the Memra of the strength of His anger. |
| 17. He sent from on high [and] He took me; He drew me out of many waters. | 17. He sent His prophets, a strong king who was sitting in the strength of the height; He took me, He rescued me from many nations. |
| 18. He delivered me from my mighty enemy; from them that hated me; for they were too powerful for me. | 18. He rescued me from those hating me, for some of my enemies overpowered me, for they were prevailing against me. |
| 19. They confronted me on the day of my calamity; but the Lord was a support to me. | 19. They were coming before me on the day of my exile» and the Memra of the Lord= was a support for me. |
| 20. And He brought me forth into a wide place; He delivered me because He took delight in me. | 20. He brought me forth to the open place; He rescued me, for He took delight in me. |
| 21. The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He recompensed me. | 21. David said: "The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness/generosity; according to the purity of my hands He returned to me. |
| 22. For I have kept the ways of the Lord and have not wickedly departed from [the commandments of] my God. | 22. For I have kept ways that are good before the LORD, and I have not walked in evil before my God. |
| 23. For all His ordinances were before me; and [as for] His statutes, I did not depart from it. | 23. For all His judgments are revealed for me to do them, and His statutes l have not turned aside from them. |
| 24. And I was single-hearted toward Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity. | 24. And I was blameless in fear of Him, and I was keeping my soul from sins. |
| 25. And the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness before His eyes. | 25. And the LORD returned to me according to my righteousness/generosity, according to my purity before His Memra. |
| 26. With a kind one, You show Yourself kind. With an upright mighty man, You show Yourself upright. | 26. Abraham who was found pious before You; therefore, You did much kindness with his seed. Isaac who was blameless in fear of You; therefore, You made perfect the word of Your good pleasure with him. |
| 27. With a pure one, You show Yourself pure; But with a perverse one, You deal crookedly. | 27. Jacob who was walking in purity before You - You chose his sons from all the nations, You set apart his seed from every blemish. Pharaoh and the Egyptians who plotted plots against Your people - You mixed them up like their plans. |
| 28. **And the humble people You do deliver; But Your eyes are upon the haughty [in order] to humble them.** | 28. **And the people, the house of Israel, who are called in this world a poor people, You will save; and by Your Memra You will humble the strong who are showing their might against them.** |
| 29. **For You are my lamp, O' Lord; And the Lord does light my darkness.** | 29. **For you are its LORD; the light of Israel (is) the LORD. And the LORD brings me forth from the darkness to light and shows me the world that is to come for the just ones.** |
| 30. For by You I run upon a troop; By my God I scale a wall. | 30. For by Your Memra I will have large armies; by the Memra of my God I will conquer all strong cities |
| 31. **[He is] the God Whose way is perfect; The word of the Lord is tried; He is a shield unto all them that trust in him.** | 31. **God whose way is straight - the Law of the LORD is proved; He is strong for all who entrust themselves to His Memra** |
| 32. For who is God, save the Lord? And who is a rock, save our God? | 32. Therefore on account of the sign and the redemption that You work for Your anointed one and for the remnant of Your people who are left, all the nations, peoples, and language groups will give thanks and say: ‘There is no God except the LORD, for there is none apart from You.’ And Your people will say: ‘There is no one who is strong except our God.’ |
| 33. God is He who has fortified me with strength; and He looseth perfectly my path. | 33. The God who helps me with might and makes my way blameless. |
| 34. He makes my feet like hinds; And sets me upon my high places. | 34. He makes my feet light like the hind, and upon my stronghold He establishes me. |
| 35. He trains my hand for war, so that mine arms do bend a brass bow. | 35. He instructs my hand to do battle and strengthens my arms like the bow of bronze. |
| 36. And You have given me the shield of Your salvation; And You have increased Your modesty for me. | 36. And You have given to me strength; You have rescued me; and You have made me great by Your Memra |
| 37. You have enlarged my step[s] beneath me; And my ankles have not slipped. | 37. You have made a great space for my step before me, and my knees did not shake. |
| 38. I have pursued my enemies and have destroyed them; Never turning back until they were consumed. | 38. I pursued those hating me, and I destroyed them; and I did not turn back until I destroyed them completely. |
| 39. And I have consumed them, and I have crushed them that they cannot rise; Yes, they are fallen under my feet. | 39. And I destroyed them and destroyed them completely, and they were not able to arise= and they fell killed beneath the soles of my feet |
| 40. For You have girded me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those that rose up against me. | 40. And you helped me with might to do battle; you shattered the nations who were arising to do harm to me beneath me. |
| 41. And of my enemies You have given me the back of their necks; them that hate me, that I may cut them off. | 41. And You shattered those hating me before me; my enemies were turning their backs and I destroyed them. |
| 42. They looked about, but there was no one to save them; [Even] to the Lord, but He answered them not. | 42. They were seeking a helper, and there was no deliverer for them; and they were praying before the LORD, and their prayer was not being accepted. |
| 43. Then I ground them as the dust of the earth, as the mud of the streets I did tread upon them, I did stamp them down. | 43. And I trampled them like the dust of the earth, like the dirt of the streets I stepped on them; I trampled them down. |
| 44. **And You have allowed me to escape from the contenders amongst my people; You shall keep me as head of nations; a people whom I have not known serve me.** | 44. **And You rescued me from the strife of the people. You appointed me head for the nations; a people that I did not know were serving me.** |
| 45. Strangers lie to me; as soon as their ears hear, they obey me. | 45. Sons of the nations submitted themselves to me; as soon as the ear heard, they were listening to me. |
| 46. The strangers will wilt, and become lame from their bondage. | 46. Sons of the nations perished, and came trembling from their fortresses. |
| 47. The Lord lives, and blessed be my Rock; And exalted be the God, [who is] my rock of salvation. | 47. Therefore on account of the sign and the salvation that You have done for Your people, they confessed and said: “May the LORD live and blessed is the Strong One before whom strength is given to us and salvation and exalted be God, the strength of our salvation,” |
| 48. The God who takes vengeance for me; And brings down peoples under me. | 48. the God who was making vengeance for me and shattering the nations who arose to do harm to me beneath me, |
| 49. And that brings me forth from my enemies; And above those that rise against me, You have lifted me; from the violent man You deliver me. | 49. and saved me from those hating me, and against those who arose to do harm to me You made me more powerful; from Gog and the army of the captured nations - who were with him You rescued me. |
| 50. Therefore I will give thanks to You, O' Lord, among the nations, and to your name I will sing praises. | 50. Therefore I will give thanks before You, LORD, among the Gentiles; and to your name I will speak praises. |
| 51. **He gives great salvation to His king, and He performs kindness to His anointed; to David and to his seed, forevermore.** | 51. **He works much salvation with His king and does goodness to His anointed one (Messiah), to David and to his seed, forever.** |

**Nazarean Codicil: Revelation 2:1-7**

**Rabbi Dr. Eliyahu ben Abraham & Hakham Dr. Yosef ben Haggai’s Rendition**

1And to the angel of the congregation in Ephesus, write, 'So says he who holds the seven stars in his hand, he who walks among the Menorot (seven branched candlesticks) of gold.

2 I know your works and your labor and your endurance and that you are not able to bear evil [ones]. And you have tested those who say about themselves that they are to be Sh’liachim (apostles) and are not and you have found them [to be] liars.

3 And you have endurance, and you bear a burden because of my name (or, authority) and you have not become weary.

4 **But I have [something] against you, because you have left your first love.[[5]](#footnote-5)**

5 Remember from where you came and do the former works, but if not, I will come to you and I will remove your Menora (candelabra – i.e., the seven ministers of the congregation), unless you repent.

6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans (i.e., Oppressors of the Laity), that I also hate.'

7 He who has ears should hear what the Spirit says to the congregations. And to him who overcomes, I will allow [him] to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of PaRDeS (paradise) of Ha-Shem."

**Blessing After Torah Study**

**Barúch Atáh Adonai, Elohénu Meléch HaOlám,**

**Ashér Natán Lánu Torát Emét, V'Chayéi Olám Natá B'Tochénu.**

**Barúch Atáh Adonái, Notén HaToráh. Amen!**

**Blessed is Ha-Shem our God, King of the universe,**

**Who has given us a teaching of truth, implanting within us eternal life.**

**Blessed is Ha-Shem, Giver of the Torah. Amen!**

**“Now unto Him who is able to preserve you faultless, and spotless, and to establish you without a blemish,**

**before His majesty, with joy, [namely,] the only one God, our Deliverer, by means of Yeshua the Messiah our Master, be praise, and dominion, and honor, and majesty, both now and in all ages. Amen!”**



# Pesach Eighth Day – Yom Tob

**(Wednesday Evening April 12, 2023)**

**Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 7**

**Barukh Atah ADONAI**

**Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam**

**Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu**

**Al S’firat HaO’omer.**

**Today is seven days of the Omer which is one week.**

**The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!**

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| 7 | Masoret/Moreh | Nisan 22 | 1:18-23 | Chesed coupled with humility |

**Ephesians 1:18-23 The eyes of your understanding[[6]](#footnote-6)** (Binah)**[[7]](#footnote-7) being enlightened[[8]](#footnote-8), that you may see** (have direct knowledge) **what is the confidence[[9]](#footnote-9) of his** (Messiah) **mission, and what is the wealth of splendor of his inheritance[[10]](#footnote-10) in union[[11]](#footnote-11) with the Tsadiqim** (saints)**. And what is the excellent magnitude of His (God’s) power** working **in us, the faithfully obedient who** **operate according to His majestic strength and cosmic power.** This power **He** (God) **worked in Messiah by raising him from the dead, and He seated him at His right hand in the heavenlies, far above all principalities (Hokhmah) and authorities (Binah) and power (Da’at) and dominion (G’dolah),[[12]](#footnote-12) and every authority[[13]](#footnote-13) being named, not only in this present age, but also in the World ever Coming.****And He** (God) **has subjected all things under his** (Messiah’s) **authority[[14]](#footnote-14) and gave him to be head over all things to the Esnoga** (Synagogue), **which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything** (with the presence, power, agency, and riches of God).

**Eighth Day of Pesach - Last Yom Tob of Pesach**

**(Thursday Morning April 13, 2023) - Morning Service & Yizkor**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Shabbat** | **Torah Reading:** |
| **עַשֵּׂר תְּעַשֵּׂר** |  |
| **“A’asher T’Asher”** | Reader 1 – D’barim 15: 19-23 |
| **“Surely you will tithe”** | Reader 2 – D’barim 16:1-4 |
| **“Indispensablemente diezmarás”** | Reader 3 – D’barim 16:5-8 |
| **Torah**: D’barim (Deuteronomy) 15:19 – 16:17  Bamidbar (Numbers) 28:18-25 | Reader 4 – D’barim 16:9-12 |
| Tehillim (Psalms) 136 | Reader 5 – D’barim 16:13-17 |
| **Ashlamatah**: Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 10:32 – 12:6 | Maftir – B’Midbar 28:18-25 |
| **Nazarean Codicil**: Revelation 2:1-7 | Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 10:32 – 12:6 |

**Blessings Before Torah Study**

**Blessed are You, Ha-Shem our G-d, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us through Your commandments, and commanded us to actively study Torah. Amen!**

**Please Ha-Shem, our G-d, sweeten the words of Your Torah in our mouths and in the mouths of all Your people Israel. May we and our offspring, and our offspring's offspring, and all the offspring of Your people, the House of Israel, may we all, together, know Your Name and study Your Torah for the sake of fulfilling Your desire. Blessed are You, Ha-Shem, Who teaches Torah to His people Israel. Amen!**

**Blessed are You, Ha-Shem our G-d, King of the universe, Who chose us from all the nations, and gave us the Torah. Blessed are You, Ha-Shem, Giver of the Torah. Amen!**

**Ha-Shem spoke to Moses, explaining a Commandment. "Speak to Aaron and his sons and teach them the following Commandment: This is how you should bless the Children of Israel. Say to the Children of Israel:**

**May Ha-Shem bless you and keep watch over you; - Amen!**

**May Ha-Shem make His Presence enlighten you, and may He be kind to you; - Amen!**

**May Ha-Shem bestow favor on you and grant you peace. – Amen!**

**This way, the priests will link My Name with the Israelites, and I will bless them."**

**These are the Laws for which the Torah did not mandate specific amounts: How much growing produce must be left in the corner of the field for the poor; how much of the first fruits must be offered at the Holy Temple; how much one must bring as an offering when one visits the Holy Temple three times a year; how much one must do when doing acts of kindness; and there is no maximum amount of Torah that a person must study.**

**These are the Laws whose benefits a person can often enjoy even in this world, even though the primary reward is in the Next World: They are: Honouring one's father and mother; doing acts of kindness; early attendance at the place of Torah study -- morning and night; showing hospitality to guests; visiting the sick; providing for the financial needs of a bride; escorting the dead; being very engrossed in prayer; bringing peace between two people, and between husband and wife; but the study of Torah is as great as all of them together. Amen!**

**Rashi & Targum Pseudo Jonathan**

**for: D’barim (Deut.) ‎****15:19 – 16:17‎‎**

| **Rashi** | **Targum Pseudo Jonathan** |
| --- | --- |
| 19. Every firstborn male that is born of your cattle or of your flock you shall sanctify to the Lord, your God. You shall neither work with the firstborn of your ox, nor shear the firstborn of your flock. | 19. Every firstling male that comes of your herd and flock you will consecrate before the LORD your God. You will not work with the firstlings of your herd, nor shear the firstlings of your flocks; |
| 20. You shall eat it before the Lord, your God, year by year, in the place the Lord chooses-you and your household. | 20. you will eat thereof before the LORD your God from year to year, in the place which the LORD will choose, you and the men of your houses. |
| 21. And if there be any blemish in it, whether it be lame, or blind, or any ill blemish, you shall not sacrifice it to the Lord, your God. | 21. But if there be any spot in it, if it be lame or blind, or have any blemish, you shall not sacrifice it before the Lord your God: |
| 22. You shall eat it within your cities, the unclean and the clean together, as the deer, and as the gazelle. | 22. you may eat it in your cities; he who is unclean, (so) that he may not approach to holy things, and he who being clean may approach the holy, may alike (eat), as the flesh of the antelope or hart. |
| 23. However, you shall not eat its blood; you shall pour it on the ground, as water. | 23. Only you will not eat the blood; you will pour it out upon the ground like water. |
|  |  |
| 1. **Keep the month of spring, and make the Passover offering to the Lord, your God, for in the month of spring, the Lord, your God, brought you out of Egypt at night.** | 1. **Be mindful to keep the times of the festivals, with the intercalations of the year, and to observe the rotation thereof: in the month of Abib to perform the Pascha before the LORD your God, because in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Mizraim; you will eat it therefore by night.** |
| 2. You shall slaughter the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, your God, [of the] flock, and [the Festival sacrifices of the] cattle, in the place which the Lord will choose to establish His Name therein. | 2. But you will sacrifice the Pascha before the LORD your God between the suns; and the sheep and the bullocks on the morrow, on that same day to rejoice in the feast at the place which the LORD will choose to make His Shekinah to dwell there. |
| 3. You shall not eat leaven with it; for seven days you shall eat with it matzoth, **the bread of affliction**, for in haste you went out of the land of Egypt, so that you shall remember the day when you went out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life. | 3. You will not eat leavened bread with the Pascha; seven days you will eat unleavened bread unto His Name, **the unleavened bread of humiliation**; for with haste, you went forth from the land of Mizraim; that you may remember the day of your outgoing from the land of Mizraim all the days of your life. |
| 4. **And no leaven shall be seen with you within all your border for seven days;** neither shall any of the flesh you slaughter on the preceding day in the afternoon, remain all night until the morning. | 4. **Take heed that in the beginning of the Pascha there be no leaven seen among you within all your borders for seven days;** and that none of the flesh which you sacrifice in the evening of the first day remain till the morning. |
| 5. You shall not sacrifice the Passover offering within any of your cities, which the Lord, your God, is giving you. | 5. It will not be allowed you to eat the Pascha in (any) one of your cities which the LORD your God gives to you; |
| 6. Except at the place which the Lord, your God, will choose to establish His Name-there you shall slaughter the Passover offering in the afternoon, as the sun sets, at the appointed time that you went out of Egypt. | 6. but in the place which the LORD your God will choose to make His Shekinah to dwell, there will you sacrifice the Pascha; and in the evening at the going down of the sun you may eat it until the middle of the night, the time when you began to go out of Mizraim. |
| 7. And you shall roast [it] and eat [it] in the place which the Lord, your God, will choose, and you shall turn away in the morning and go to your dwellings. | 7. And you will dress and eat it in the place which the LORD your God will choose, and in the early morn (if need be) you may return from the feast and go to your cities. |
| 8. For six days you shall eat matzoth, and on the seventh day there shall be a halt to the Lord, your God. You shall not do any work [on it]. | 8. On the first day you will offer the omer and eat unleavened cakes of the old corn; but in the six remaining days you may begin to eat unleavened cakes of the new corn, and on the seventh day you will assemble with thanksgiving before the LORD your God; no work will you perform. |
| 9. You shall count seven weeks for yourself; from[the time] the sickle is first put to the standing crop, you shall begin to count seven weeks. | 9. Seven weeks number to you; from the time when you begin to put the sickle to the harvest of the field after the reaping of the omer you will begin to number the seven weeks. |
| 10. And you shall perform the Festival of Weeks to the Lord, your God, **the donation you can afford to give, according to how the Lord, your God, shall bless you.** | 10. And you will keep with joy the Festival of Weeks before the LORD your God, **after the measure of the freewill offerings of your hands, according as the LORD your God will have blessed you.** |
| 11. And you shall rejoice before the Lord, your God, -you, and your son, and your daughter, and your manservant, and your maidservant, and the Levite who is within your cities, and the stranger, and the orphan, and the widow, who are among you, in the place which the Lord, your God, will choose to establish His Name therein. | 11. And you will rejoice with the joy of the feast before the LORD your God, you and your sons, your daughters, your servants and handmaids, the Levites who are in your cities, and the stranger, the orphan, and the widow who are among you, at the place which the LORD your God will choose where to make His Shekinah to dwell. |
| 12. And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall keep and perform these statutes. | 12. Remember that you were servants in Mizraim; so, will you observe and perform these statutes. |
| 13. You shall make yourself the Festival of Sukkoth for seven days, when you gather in [the produce] from your threshing floor and your vat. | 13. The Feast of Tabernacles you will make to you seven days, when you will have completed to gather in the corn from your threshing floors, and the wine from your presses. |
| 14. And you shall rejoice in your Festival-you, and your son, and your daughter, and your manservant, and your maidservant, and the Levite, and the stranger, and the orphan, and the widow, who are within your cities. | 14. And you will rejoice in the joy of your feasts with the clarinet and flute, you and your sons and daughters, your handmaids, the Levite, the stranger, the orphan, and the widow, who are in your cities. |
| 15. Seven days you shall celebrate the Festival to the Lord, your God, in the place which the Lord shall choose, because the Lord, your God, will bless you in all your produce, and in all the work of your hands, and you will only be happy. | 15. Seven days you will keep the feast before the LORD your God in the place which the LORD will choose, because the LORD your God will have blessed you in all your provision, and in all the work of your hands, and so will you be joyful in prosperity. |
| 16. **Three times in the year, every one of your males shall appear before the Lord, your God, in the place He will choose: on the Festival of Matzoth and on the Festival of Weeks, and on the Festival of Sukkoth, and he shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed.** | 16. **Three times in the year will all your males appear before the LORD your God in the place that He will choose; at the Feast of the Unleavened, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; nor must you appear before the LORD your God empty of any of the requirements;** |
| 17. **[Every] man [shall bring] as much as he can afford, according to the blessing of the Lord, your God, which He has given you.** | 17. **everyone after the measure of the gifts of his hands, according to the blessing which the LORD your God hath bestowed upon you.** |

**Rashi & Targum Pseudo Jonathan**

**for: B’Midbar (Num.) 28:18-25‎**

| **Rashi** | **Targum Pseudo Jonathan** |
| --- | --- |
| 18. On the first day is a holy convocation; you shall not perform any mundane work. | 18. On the first day of the festival a holy convocation; no servile work will you do; |
| 19. You shall offer up a fire offering, a burnt offering to the Lord: two young bulls, one ram, and seven lambs in the first year they shall be unblemished for you. | 19. but offer an oblation of a burnt sacrifice before the LORD, two young bullocks, one ram, and seven lambs of the year, unblemished, will you have. |
| 20. Their meal offerings [shall be] fine flour mixed with oil; three tenths for each bull and two tenths for the ram you shall offer up. | 20. And their minchas of wheat flour, mingled with olive oil, three tenths for each bullock, two tenths for the ram, |
| 21. And you shall offer up one tenth for each lamb, for all seven lambs. | 21. and for a single lamb a tenth, so for the seven; |
| 22. And one young male goat for a sin offering to atone for you. | 22. and one kid of the goats, to make an atonement for you: |
| 23. You shall offer these up besides the morning burnt offering which is offered as a continual burnt offering. | 23. beside the burnt sacrifice of the morning, the perpetual burnt sacrifice, you will make these offerings. |
| 24. Like these, you shall offer up daily for seven days, food of the fire offering, a spirit of satisfaction to the Lord; you shall offer up this in addition to the continual burnt offering and its libation. | 24. According to these oblations of the first day you will do daily through the seven days of the festival. It is the bread of the oblation which is received with favor before the LORD; it will be made beside the perpetual burnt offering, with its libation. |
| 25. The seventh day shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall not perform any mundane work. | 25. And on the seventh day you shall have a holy convocation; no servile work shall you do. |

**Welcome to the World of P’shat Exegesis**

In order to understand the finished work of the P’shat mode of interpretation of the Torah, one needs to take into account that the P’shat is intended to produce a catechetical output, whereby a question/s is/are raised and an answer/a is/are given using the seven Hermeneutic Laws of R. Hillel and as well as the laws of Hebrew Grammar and Hebrew expression.

The Seven Hermeneutic Laws of R. Hillel are as follows

[cf. <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=472&letter=R>]:

**1. Ḳal va-ḥomer:** "Argumentum a minori ad majus" or "a majori ad minus"; corresponding to the scholastic proof a fortiori.

**2. Gezerah shavah:** Argument from analogy. Biblical passages containing synonyms or homonyms are subject, however much they differ in other respects, to identical definitions and applications.

**3. Binyan ab mi-katub eḥad:** Application of a provision found in one passage only to passages which are related to the first in content but do not contain the provision in question.

**4. Binyan ab mi-shene ketubim:** The same as the preceding, except that the provision is generalized from two Biblical passages.

**5. Kelal u-Peraṭ and Peraṭ u-kelal:** Definition of the general by the particular, and of the particular by the general.

**6. Ka-yoẓe bo mi-maḳom aḥer:** Similarity in content to another Scriptural passage.

**7. Dabar ha-lamed me-'inyano:** Interpretation deduced from the context.

**Welcome to the World of Remes Exegesis**

Thirteen rules compiled by Rabbi Ishmael b. Elisha for the elucidation of the Torah and for making halakic deductions from it. They are, strictly speaking, mere amplifications of the seven Rules of Hillel, and are collected in the Baraita of R. Ishmael, forming the introduction to the Sifra and reading a follows:

**1. Ḳal wa-ḥomer**: Identical with the first rule of Hillel.

**2. Gezerah shawah**: Identical with the second rule of Hillel.

**3. Binyan ab**: Rules deduced from a single passage of Scripture and rules deduced from two passages. This rule is a combination of the third and fourth rules of Hillel.

**4. Kelal u-Peraṭ**: The general and the particular.

**5. u-Peraṭ u-kelal**: The particular and the general.

**6. Kelal u-Peraṭ u-kelal**: The general, the particular, and the general.

7. The general which requires elucidation by the particular, and the particular which requires elucidation by the general.

8. The particular implied in the general and excepted from it for pedagogic purposes elucidates the general as well as the particular.

9. The particular implied in the general and excepted from it on account of the special regulation which corresponds in concept to the general, is thus isolated to decrease rather than to increase the rigidity of its application.

10. The particular implied in the general and excepted from it on account of some other special regulation which does not correspond in concept to the general, is thus isolated either to decrease or to increase the rigidity of its application.

11. The particular implied in the general and excepted from it on account of a new and reversed decision can be referred to the general only in case the passage under consideration makes an explicit reference to it.

12. Deduction from the context.

13. When two Biblical passages contradict each other the contradiction in question must be solved by reference to a third passage.

Rules seven to eleven are formed by a subdivision of the fifth rule of Hillel; rule twelve corresponds to the seventh rule of Hillel, but is amplified in certain particulars; rule thirteen does not occur in Hillel, while, on the other hand, the sixth rule of Hillel is omitted by Ishmael. With regard to the rules and their application in general. These rules are found also on the morning prayers of any Jewish Orthodox Siddur.

**Rashi’s Commentary for: ‎** **D’barim (Deut.) ‎15:19 – 16:17‎‎**

**‎‎**

**19 Every firstborn male... you shall sanctify [to the Lord]** But elsewhere (Lev. 27:26) it says, “[But the firstborn which will be a firstborn for the Lord of the livestock,] no man shall sanctify it.” How is this [reconciled]? [The verse in Leviticus means that] one may not sanctify [the firstborn] to be another sacrifice [but only as a firstborn sacrifice]. And our verse here teaches us that it is a duty to proclaim [over the firstborn animal], “You are hereby sanctified as a firstborn.” Another explanation: It is impossible to say “sanctify [this firstborn animal],” because [Scripture] already says, “no man shall sanctify it” (Lev. 27:26). And yet it is impossible to say that we shall not sanctify it, for [here] it already says, “you shall sanctify.” So how [can these two verses be reconciled]? [The answer is that we are dealing with an indirect sanctification, namely:] One may sanctify the value of the privilege [i.e., the owner of the firstborn animal has the privilege of choosing to which kohen he will give it. This privilege has a market value, namely how much an Israelite will pay so that the owner of the firstborn will give it to his grandson who is a kohen. The verse, therefore, means:] one may dedicate the value of this privilege according to its benefit and give it to the Temple [treasury].-[Ar. 29a]

**You shall neither work with the firstborn of your ox, nor shear [the firstborn of your flock]** The Rabbis derived that also the converse [i.e., shearing your ox and working the flock] is prohibited. Scripture is merely speaking [here] of the usual manner [in which these animals are used].-[Bech. 25a]

**20 You shall eat it before the Lord, your God** [Scripture] is addressing the kohen, for we have already found [a statement to the effect] that it [the firstborn] is part of the dues given to kohanim, whether the animal is unblemished or whether it is blemished. For it is stated, “and their flesh [i.e., of the firstborn animals] shall be yours [i.e., the kohen 's]” (Num. 18:18). - [Bech. 28a] [In both cases, the kohen is entitled to eat the entire animal. The difference between the blemished and the unblemished animals is that the blemished animal is slaughtered outside the Temple, and its flesh may be eaten anywhere by anyone invited by the kohen. The unblemished animal, however, must be slaughtered in the Temple courtyard, its blood dashed on the altar, and its fat burned on the altar. The flesh must be eaten by the kohen and his household within the time allotted for eating it.]

**[You shall eat it before the Lord...] year by year** From here we derive the law that one should not delay it [i.e., from sacrificing it] beyond its first year (Bech. 28a). [If so, however,] one might think that it becomes unfit [as a sacrifice] when the first year has elapsed. [Therefore, the Torah tells us that] it [the firstborn animal] has already been compared to ma’aser [sheini], as it is said, “And you shall eat before the Lord, your God... the tithes of your grain, your wine, and your oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and of your sheep” (Deut. 14:23). Just as ma’aser sheini does not become unfit [when it is left over] from one year to the next, neither does the firstborn animal become unfit. However, [this verse means] that the proper way to fulfill this commandment [of the firstborn animal] is during its first year.

**year by year** If one slaughtered it at the end of its first year [on the last day], he may eat it on that day and one day of the next year. This teaches [us] that it [a firstborn animal] may be eaten for two days and one [intervening] night.-[Bech. 27b]

**21 [And if there be any] blemish [in it]** [This is] a כְּלָל , a general statement [not limiting itself to anything in particular].

**lame, or blind** [This is] a פְּרָט , particular things, [limiting the matter to these things].

**any ill blemish** [Once again the verse] reverts to כְּלָל , a general statement. [Now we have learned that when a verse expresses a כְּלָל , then a פְּרָט , and then a כְּלָל again, just as in this case, we apply the characteristics of the פְּרָט to the whole matter.] Just as the blemishes detailed [lame or blind] are externally visible blemishes that do not heal, so too, any externally visible blemish that does not heal [renders a firstborn animal unfit for sacrifice and may be eaten as ordinary flesh].-[Bech. 37a]

**23 However, you shall not eat its blood** [Although eating the blood of any animal is prohibited, this prohibition is mentioned here] so that you should not say: "Since this [blemished firstborn animal] is entirely permitted [to be eaten now after its blemish, even though] it started out from a forbidden status, since it was sanctified, [and now it is permitted] for it is slaughtered outside [the Temple] without having to be redeemed, and [it may be] eaten. I might [therefore] think that its blood is permitted as well!" Therefore, Scripture states, "However, you shall not eat its blood."

**Chapter 16**

**1 Keep the month of spring** Heb. אָבִיב . Before it [Nissan] arrives, watch that it should be fit for the אָבִיב , ripening [capable of producing ripe ears of barley by the sixteenth of the month], to offer up in it the omer meal offering. And if not, proclaim it a leap year [thereby enabling you to wait another month, until the barley ripens].-[San. 11b]

**[for in the month of spring the Lord, your God, brought you] out of Egypt at night** But did they not go out by day, as it is said, “on the morrow of the Passover the children of Israel went out...” (Num. 33:3)? However, since during the night Pharaoh gave them permission to leave, as it is said, “So he called for Moses and Aaron at night [and said, ‘Rise up, go out from among my people...]’ ” (Exod. 12:31), [therefore, here it says “at night”].-[Ber. 9a]

**2 You shall slaughter the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, your God**, **[of the] flock** As it is said, “You may take [it] either from the sheep or from the goats” (Exod. 12:5).

**and...cattle** These are slaughtered as the chagigah [Festival offering]. If a large group was formed for the Passover offering, they bring a Festival offering along with it, so that the Passover sacrifice will be eaten [after a sufficient meal, and therefore] after the required satiation. [Everyone had to designate himself to a particular company of people, which was then relevant to one particular Passover offering (Pes. 69a- 70b).] Our Rabbis also derived many other things from this verse.-[Sifrei ; Pes. 70a]

**3 the bread of affliction** [I.e.,] bread that brings to mind the affliction they suffered in Egypt.-[Sifrei]

**for in haste, you went out of the land of Egypt** And the dough [that you had prepared for eating] did not have time to become leavened, so this [matzah] will be for you as a reminder. And the haste [here] is not on your part, but on the part of the Egyptians, for so it says, “So the Egyptians took hold of the people [to hasten to send them out of the land]” (Exod. 12:33). -[Sifrei ; Ber. 9a]

**so that you shall remember** By eating the Passover sacrifice and the matzah, the day you went out [of the land of Egypt].

**4 neither shall any of the flesh you slaughter on the preceding day in the afternoon, remain all night until the morning** This is an admonition regarding leaving over the flesh of the Passover sacrifice, offered up by future generations, because [so far this prohibition] had been mentioned only with regard to the Passover sacrifice offered in Egypt (see Exod. 12:10). And יוֹם רִאשׁוֹן stated here is the fourteenth of Nissan [the preceding day, and not the fifteenth, which is the first day of Passover], just as it says: “but on the preceding day (בַּיוֹם הָרִאשׁוֹן) you shall clear away leaven from your houses” (Exod. 12:15). Now since Scripture digressed from the subject of the Passover sacrifice and began to speak of the rules pertaining to the seven days [of the Festival]-such as, “seven days you shall eat with it matzoth ” (verse 3); “And no leaven shall be seen with you within all your border for seven days” (verse 4)—it was necessary to specify to which slaughtering [Scripture] is admonishing. For had it written only “neither shall any of the flesh you slaughter in the afternoon, remain all night until the morning” [without saying “the preceding day”], I might have thought that the peace offerings slaughtered during all the seven days are also subject to [the prohibition of] “And you shall not leave any of it until the morning,” (Exod. 12:10), and may be eaten only for [one] day and a night. Therefore, it is written: “on the preceding day in the evening,” [thereby clarifying that the verse is referring to the Passover sacrifice]. Another explanation: Scripture is referring to the Festival offering brought on the fourteenth of Nissan [and not to the specific Passover sacrifice], and it teaches with reference to it that it may be eaten for two days [and the intervening night]. Now the רִאשׁוֹן mentioned here [according to this explanation], is the first day of the Festival [i.e., the fifteenth of Nissan, rather than the preceding day]. And this is the meaning of the verse: The flesh of the Festival offering, which you slaughtered in the afternoon, shall not remain overnight after the first day of the Festival until the morning of the second day [the sixteenth of Nissan], but rather, it is to be eaten on the fourteenth and the fifteenth [and the intervening night]. And thus, it is taught in tractate Pes. (71b).

**6 there you shall slaughter the Passover offering] in the afternoon,** 2) as the sun sets, at the appointed time that you went out of Egypt [In this verse,] three separate times are specified: 1)"in the afternoon," [i.e.,] from the sixth [seasonal] hour [not clock-hours, but rather the twelve equal divisions of the time between dawn and dusk, each one known as a שָׁעָה זְמַנִּית , a “seasonal hour”]. From this time onward [afternoon], you shall slaughter it (זְבָחֵהוּ) “as the sun sets,” you shall eat it (תּֽאכְלֵהוּ) ; and 3)"at the appointed time that you went out [of Egypt]," you must burn it (שוֹרְפֵהוּ) . I.e., [at the beginning of the morning of the first day of Passover, whatever is left over from the Passover sacrifice] becomes נוֹתָר , left over, and must be burned [on the next day].-[Sifrei ; see Ber. 9a]

**7 And you shall roast [it]** Heb. וּבִשַּׁלְתָּ . [Here] this term means “roasted in fire” (צְלִי אֵשׁ) (see Exod. 12:9), for roasting is also included in the general term of בִּשּׁוּל , “cooking.”

**and you shall turn away in the morning [and go to your dwellings]** [i.e.,] the morning of the second day [of Passover]. This teaches that [the pilgrim] is required to remain [in Jerusalem] the night when the Festival terminates.-[Sifrei ; Pes. 95b; Chag. 17a-b]

**8 For six days you shall eat matzoth** But elsewhere it says, “For seven days [you shall eat matzoth]!” (Exod. 12:15). [The solution is:] For seven days you shall eat matzoth from the old [produce] and six days [i.e., the last six days, after the omer has been offered] you may eat matzoth prepared from the new [crop]. Another explanation: It teaches that the eating of matzoh on the seventh day of Passover is not obligatory, and from here you learn [that the same law applies] to the other six days [of the Festival], For the seventh day was included in a general statement [in the verse “For seven days you shall eat matzoth,” but in the verse: “Six days you shall eat matzoth ”] it has been taken out of this general [statement], to teach us that eating matzoh [on the seventh day] is not obligatory, but optional. [Now we have already learned that if something is singled out of a general statement, we apply the relevant principle not only to itself but to everything included in the general category. Thus, the seventh day] is excluded here not to teach regarding itself, rather to teach regarding the entire generalization [i.e., the entire seven days of the Festival]. Just as on the seventh day the eating of matzah is optional, so too, on all the other days, the eating of matzah is optional. The only exception is the first night [of Passover], which Scripture has explicitly established as obligatory, as it is said, “in the evening, you shall eat matzoth ” (Exod. 12:18). -[Mechilta on Exod 12:18; Pes. 120a]

**[and on the seventh day there shall be] a halt to the Lord your God** - עֲצֶרֶת . Keep yourself back from work. Another explanation: [ עֲצֶרֶת means] a gathering for eating and drinking, as the expression, “Let us detain (נַעַצְרָה) you” (Judg. 13:15).

**9 from [the time] the sickle is first put to the standing crop, [you shall begin to count seven weeks]** [I.e.,] from the time the omer is harvested [on the sixteenth of Nissan], which is the beginning of the harvest.-[see Lev. 23:10, Sifrei; Men. 71a]

**10 the donation you can afford to give** [I.e.,] sufficient generous donation from you; according to the blessing [that God bestows upon you], bring peace offerings of happiness [these are extra peace offerings in addition to the Festival offerings] and invite guests to eat [with you].

**11 the Levite... the stranger, the orphan, and the widow** [God says:] **These are My four, corresponding to your four, [namely,] “Your son, and your daughter, and your manservant, and your maidservant.” If you shall gladden Mine, I will gladden yours**.-[Midrash Aggadah, Midrash Hagadol. Compare Tanchuma 18, Pesikta d’Rav Kahana p.100a. Note that in incunabula editions, this comment of Rashi is connected to the preceding one: and invite guests to eat [with you]: the Levite... the stranger, the orphan, and the widow. [God says:] These are My four...]

**12 And you shall remember that you were a slave [in Egypt]** On this condition did I redeem you [from Egypt], that you keep and perform these statutes.

**13 You shall make yourself the Festival of Sukkoth...] when you gather in [the produce]-** [i.e.,] at the time of the ingathering, when you bring the summer fruits into the house. Another explanation: “when you gather in [the produce] from your threshing floor and your vat” וּמִיִּקְבֶךָ) (בְּאָסְפּ;ְךָ מִגָּרְנְךָ teaches that we should cover the sukkah [only] with the waste products that come from the threshing floor and the vat [i.e., with things that have grown from the ground, have become detached, and are not susceptible to ritual uncleanness. Since they are not foods and are not vessels, they are not susceptible to spiritual uncleanness. - R.H. 13a; Suk. 12a]

**15 and you will only be happy** According to its simple meaning, this is not an expression denoting a command, but rather an expression of an assurance [i.e., I promise you that you will be happy]. But according to its oral interpretation, [our Rabbis] learned from this to include the night before the last day of the Festival for the obligation of rejoicing.-[see Suk. 48a; Sifrei]

**16 and he shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed** But bring burnt-offerings of appearance (עוֹלוֹת רְאִיָּה) [which are obligatory when appearing before the Lord in Jerusalem on the Festivals] and Festival peace-offerings. -[Chag. 8b]

**17 [Every] man [shall bring] as much as he can afford** One who has many eaters [i.e., a large family] and many possessions should bring many burnt-offerings and many peace- offerings.-[Sifrei ; Chag. 8b]

**Ashlamatah: Isaiah 10:32 – 12:6‎‎**

| **RASHI** | **TARGUM** |
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| 24. ¶ Therefore, so said the Lord God of Hosts, "Fear not, my people who dwell in Zion, Assyria; with a rod may he smite you, and his staff may he bear over you in the way of Egypt." | 24. ¶ Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts: “O My people who dwell in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrian when he strikes you with his ruler's staff and throws his mastery against you as in the manner of Egypt. |
| 25. For [in] yet a very little [while] the fury shall be over, and My wrath, because of their blasphemy. | 25. For in a very little while the curses will come to an end for you that are of the house of Jacob, and My anger will be upon the peoples who ‎commit the abomination of their destruction." |
| 26. And the Lord of Hosts shall stir up a scourge against him, like the smiting of Midian at the Rock of Oreb, and His staff on the sea, and He shall carry him off after the manner of Egypt. | 26. And the LORD of hosts will bring upon him a stroke, as when he struck Midian at the ‎cleft of Oreb; and his stroke will pass from you as the mastery of Pharaoh passed from you at the sea, for prodigies are done for you as ‎in the manner of Egypt. |
| 27. And it shall come to pass on that day, that his burden shall be removed from upon your shoulder, and his yoke from upon your neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of oil. | 27. And it will come to pass in that time that his stroke will pass from you, and his yoke from your neck, **and the‎Gentiles will be shattered before the Messiah.** |
| 28. He came upon Aiath; he passed through Migron; at Michmas he deposits his luggage. | 28. He has come to Aiath; he has passed through Migron, at Michmash he will appoint the ‎masters of his armies; |
| 29. They crossed the ford; at Geba they lodged; Ramah quaked; Gib'ath Saul fled. | 29. they cut through, cross over the Jordan, at Geba they lodge themselves; the inhabitants of Ramah are ‎shattered, the men of Gibeah of Saul have fled. |
| 30. Raise your voice, Bath-gallim; hearken, Laishah, Aniah Anathoth. | 30. Lift up your voice, O men of the daughter of Gallim! Hearken, O you who dwell in ‎Laish, who reside in poor Anathoth! |
| 31. Madmenah wandered; the inhabitants of Gebim gathered. | 31. The men of Madmenah are shattered, the inhabitants of Gebim go into exile. |
| 32. Still today, [he intends] to stand in Nob; he waves his hand toward the mount of the daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem. **{P}** | 32. While the ‎day was still young and he had much time to enter, behold Sennacherib the king of Assyria came and stood at Nob, the city of the priests, ‎opposite the wall of Jerusalem, He answered and said to his forces, "Is not this Jerusalem, against which I stirred up all my armies? ‎Behold it is fainter than all the fortresses of the peoples which I have suppressed with the strength of my hands." He stood over it ‎shaking his head, waving back and forth with his hand against the mount of the sanctuary, which is in Zion, and against the courts which ‎are in Jerusalem. **{P}** |
| 33. ¶ Behold the Master, the Lord of Hosts lops off the branches with a saw, and those of lofty height are hewn down, and the tall one shall be humbled. | 33. ¶ Behold, the master of the world, the LORD of hosts casts slaughter among his armies as grapes trodden in the ‎press; and the great in stature will be hewn down and the strong will be humbled. |
| 34. And the thickets of the forests shall be cut off with iron, and the Lebanon shall fall through a mighty one. **{S}** | 34. And he will slay the mighty men of his armies who ‎make themselves mighty with iron, and his warriors will be cast on the land of Israel.‎ **{S}** |
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| 1. **And a shoot shall spring forth from the stem of Jesse, and a twig shall sprout from his roots.** | 1. **And a king will come forth from the sons of Jesse, and the Messiah will be exalted from the sons of his sons.** |
| 2. **And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and heroism, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.** | 2. **And a spirit before the ‎LORD will rest upon him (Messiah), a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and might, a spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.** |
| 3. **And he shall be animated by the fear of the Lord, and neither with the sight of his eyes shall he judge, nor with the hearing of his ears shall he chastise.** | 3. **And the LORD will bring him (Messiah) near to his fear. And he (Messiah) will not judge by the sight of his eyes, and he will not reprove by the hearing ‎of his ears;** |
| 4. **And he shall judge the poor justly, and he shall chastise with equity the humble of the earth, and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth and with the breath of his lips he shall put the wicked to death.** | 4. **but in truth he (Messiah) will judge the poor, and reprove with faithfulness for the needy of the people; and he (Messiah) will strike the sinners ‎of the land with the command of his mouth, and with the speaking of his lips the wicked will die.** |
| 5. **And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faith the girdle of his loins.** | 5. **And the righteous/generous will be all around ‎him (Messiah), and the faithful will be brought near him (Messiah).** |
| 6. **And a wolf shall live with a lamb, and a leopard shall lie with a kid; and a calf and a lion cub and a fatling [shall lie] together, and a small child shall lead them.** | 6. **In the days of the Messiah of Israel will peace increase in the land, and the wolf ‎will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little suckling ‎child will lead them.** |

**Note:**

**As you read the following Midrash, please remember that they are composed in the Drash style, and therefore their content is metaphorical – i.e., a parable that is teaching something about the government/governance of Heaven. It is up to you to read each paragraph and discern what the parable is and what it teaches about the kingdom of G-d here on earth. After that, look at the whole Pisqa and see how the parts join to form a whole new parable which you need to identify and interpret. Remember we are at the Parable/metaphorical level, and we should not interpret these statements literally – it says what it means, otherwise we miss the whole point that the author/s had in mind as well as their objectives.**

**Midrash PESIQTA deRAB KAHANA**

**Pisqa Ten**

‎***[Year by year] you will set aside a tithe [of all the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the land. You will eat it in the presence ‎of the LORD your God in the place which he will choose as a dwelling for his name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, and the ‎firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]*** ‎(Deut. 14:22). ‎

**X:I ‎**

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*The miser is in a hurry to grow rich, never dreaming that want will overtake him* (Prov. 28:22): ‎R. Haninah interpreted the verse to speak of Ephron. [The reference is to the following verse: "*No, my lord, hear me, I give you the field, and I give you ‎the cave that is in it; in the presence of the sons of my people I give it to you; bury your dead. Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. ‎And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, 'But if you will, hear me; I will give the price of the field; accept it from me, that I may bury ‎my dead there.' Ephron answered Abraham, 'My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? ‎Bury your dead.' Abraham agreed with Ephron; and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver which he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four ‎hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants"* (Gen. 23:11-16)]: ‎Said R. Haninah, "All references to shekels in the Torah speak of selas, in the Prophetic books speak of litras, and in the Writings, speak of a centenarium ‎‎." ‎Said R. Judah b. R. Pazzi, "Except for the shekels paid out to Ephron, which were centenarii, as it is written, *I will give the price of the field; accept it from ‎me*(Gen. 23:9) ‎ Because he was jealous of the wealth of Abraham, Scripture removed a vav, in line with the following verse: '*My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth ‎four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me?* If you want to pay me four hundred centenarii of silver out of the mere horse manure of your household, you can pay me [since that means nothing to a rich ‎man like you].' Because he was jealous of the wealth of Abraham, Scripture removed a yay, in line with the following verse: *Abraham agreed with Ephron; and Abraham ‎weighed out for Ephron...* The second reference to Ephron is written without the O [i.e., the vav]." ‎

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R. Ammi interpreted the verse [*The miser is in a hurry to grow rich, never dreaming that want will overtake him* (Prov. 28:22)] to speak of a ‎ borrower who was too much of a miser to rent two oxen [at one and the same time] but would borrow one and rent one. But he did not realize that want will overtake him. For it is written, If the master is not with him, he will surely pay [damages for any loss done to the borrowed oxen. So, in saving money by borrowing, ‎he placed himself at risk.]" ‎

R. Isaac interpreted the verse [*The miser is in a hurry to grow rich, never dreaming that want will overtake him* (Prov. 28:22)] to speak of one who lent money ‎to Israelites at usurious terms, who was too much of a miser to lend money not on usury. In lending money at usurious terms, he did not realize that want will overtake him. For it is written, *He who augments his wealth by interest and increase gathers it for him who is kind to the poor* (Prov. 28:8). ‎ Now who is the one who is kind to the poor? It is the wicked Esau. But is it not the case that the wicked Esau oppresses the poor, as in the case of the bureaucrats who go out into the villages and plunder sharecroppers ‎and then go into the city and announce, 'Bring together the poor for we want to carry out a religious duty with them.' The saying refers to such as these: ‘She screws for apples and hands them out to the poor.''' ‎

R. Levi interpreted the cited verse [*The miser is in a hurry to grow rich, never dreaming that want will overtake him* (Prov. 28:22)] to speak of those who do not ‎set aside the required tithes as is proper. For R. Levi said, "There is the case of one who would set aside his required tithes as was proper. Now the man had one field, which produced a thousand measures of grain. He would separate from it a hundred measures for tithe. From the field he ‎would derive his livelihood all his days, and from it he would nourish himself all his life. When he was dying, he called his son and said to him, 'My son, ‎pay attention to this field. Such and so has it produced, such and so I would separate from the crop for tithe, and from that field I derived my livelihood ‎all my days, and from it I nourished myself all my days.' In the first year [following the father's death], the son sowed the field, and it produced a thousand measures of grain, from which the son set aside a ‎hundred measures for tithe. In the second year the son became niggardly and deducted ten measures, and the field produced a hundred measures less, ‎and so he deducted ten and it produced a hundred less, until the field yielded only the amount that had originally been set aside as tithe. When the man's relatives realized it, [as a sign of rejoicing] they put on white garments and cloaked themselves in white and assembled at his house. He ‎said to them, 'Why have you come to rejoice over that man who has been afflicted?' They said to him, 'God forbid! We have come only to rejoice with you. In the past you were the householder, and the Holy One, blessed be He, was the priest [collecting the tithes as his share of the crop]. Now you have been turned into ‎the priest, and the Holy One, blessed be He, has become the householder [keeping back the larger share of the crop, nine ‎tenths of the former yield, for himself]. [So, we are rejoicing at your rise in caste status!], ‎ Said R. Levi, "After he had deducted [the priests' share] year by year, yearly the field reduced its yield.” Therefore, Moses admonished Israel, saying to them, *[Year by year] you will set aside a tithe [of all the produce of your seed, of everything that grows ‎on the land. You will eat it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and ‎new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22). ‎

**X:II ‎**

‎

*Trust in the LORD and do good, so you will dwell in the land and enjoy faithfulness* (Ps. 37:3): ‎R. Haggai in the name of R. Isaac transposed the clements of this verse, as follows: Do good and trust in the LORD. The matter may be compared to the case of a market inspector, who went forth to inspect the weights and measures. Someone saw him and began to avoid him. ‎He said to him, 'Why are you avoiding me? Inspect your measures and do not fear.' That is in line with the verse, *Do good and trust in the LORD*." ‎

... *so you will dwell in the land*: [Mandelbaum:] Make [the land] suitable as a dwelling, by sowing and planting it. *‎ ‎... and enjoy faithfulness*: enjoy the faithfulness of the patriarchs: ‎*My eyes are on the faithful of the land* (Ps. 101:6). ‎

R. Joshua of Sikhnin in the name of R. Levi: "It is on account of the merit of two matters that the Israelites are purified before the Omnipresent. It is on account of the merit attained by keeping the Sabbath. and it is on account of the merit attained by setting aside the required tithes. ‎How on the basis of Scripture do we know that it is on account of the merit of keeping the Sabbath? ‎ *If you turn back your foot from the sabbath, from doing your business on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, and the holy day of the ‎LORD honorable* (Is. 58: 13). What is written immediately following? *Then you will take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth* ‎‎(Is. 58:14).' ‎How on the basis of Scripture do we know that it is on account of the merit attained by setting aside the required tithes? ‎"*And you will rejoice in all the good which the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you and the Levite and the sojourner who is among you* (Deut. ‎‎26:11). What is written immediately following? *When you have finished paying all the tithe of your produce in the third year, which is the year of tithing ...* ‎‎(Deut. 26: 14)." ‎Therefore Moses admonishes Israel, saying to them, *[Year by year] you will set aside a tithe [of all the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the ‎land. You will eat it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for his name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and ‎oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22). ‎

**X:III ‎**

***Honor the Lord with your substance [and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine]*** ‎‎(Prov. 3:9-10): For if you are good-looking, do not chase skirts, so that people should not say, "Mr. So-and-so is good-looking and does not restrain himself." This is in line with ‎the verse: *Honor the LORD with your substance*, [Mandelbaum: reading the letters of the word for substance as though the indicated the word for charm]. ‎

*Another matter: Honor the Lord with your substance [and with the first fruits of all your produce then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting ‎with wine*] (Prov. 3:9-10): ‎For if you have a lovely voice, recite the Shema and go before the ark [to sing the prayers for the congregation]. *This is in line with the verse: Honor the LORD with your substance*, [reading the letters of the word for substance as though the indicated the word for charm]. ‎

R. Hiyya bar Addah, son of the sister of Bar Qappara, had a nice voice. Bar Qappara would say to him, "Now, my son, recite the Shema and go before the ark.” This is in line with the verse: *Honor the LORD with your substance*, meaning, honor the LORD with that with which he has favoured you."

Another matter: *Honor the ‎Lord with your substance, [and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine* (Prov. ‎‎3:9-10): Do [what you should] by your own will and intention, before you have to do things not in accord with your own will and intention [when you have become senile] [Mandelbaum, p. 165]. ‎

[Illustrating the foregoing:] there is the case of one who would collect his wine and oil, without appropriately setting aside the tithes that he owed. ‎What did the Holy One, blessed be He, do? He put into the man a wandering spirit, and he took his staff and began to break the jugs. His household ‎member rebuked him. What did he do to him? He took the staff and broke his skull. ‎He said to the dependent, "Instead of helping me, you rebuke me." He said to him, "Then give me a staff, and I'll break jugs too." ‎ He gave him a staff, and he went around breaking jugs, one by one, while the other broke them two by two. ‎ What made this happen? It was because [he collected his wine and oil,] without appropriately setting aside the tithes that he owed. ‎

For R. Levi said, "There was the case of one who would appropriately set aside the tithes that he owed. ‎He had a field, and the Holy One gave him the thought of turning half of it into a sown field, leaving the other half as an area for reservoirs of water. In a year of want, people set the price, announcing, "A seah of wheat is going for a sela, a seah of water is going for three selas." He went and announced, "Who wants a seah of water?" And it yielded for him the same return as three seahs of wheat. ‎Now what caused this [good fortune] for him? It was because he who would appropriately set aside the tithes that he owed. ‎Therefore Moses admonishes Israel, saying to them, *[Year by year] you will set aside a tithe [of all the produce of your seed, of everything that ‎grows on the land. You will eat it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which he will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and new ‎wine and oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22). ‎

**X:IV ‎**

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***She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet*** (Prov, 31:21): ‎Hezekiah said, "The judgment meted out to the wicked is to spend twelve months in Gehenna. For six months it is in the heat, and for six months in the ‎cold. In the beginning the Holy One, blessed be He, puts an itch on them, and brings them into the hot part of Gehenna. [Getting relief from the itch through ‎the heat,] they say, That is the Gehenna of the Holy One, blessed be He.' So, then he brings them into the cold, and they say, ‘This is the cold of the Holy One, blessed be He.' ‎To begin with they say 'Ah,' but in the end, 'Oh.' And that is what David says: *He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, [and set my feet upon a rock making my steps secure]* (Ps. 40:2). ‎What is the meaning of the words, *miry bog*? It is from a place in which [using the letters that occur in the cited words] people say, 'Ah, Oh.' And where do they finish out [the torment to] their souls? Judah b. Rabbi says, "In snow." That is in line with this verse of Scripture: *When the Almighty scattered kings there, snow fell on Zalmon* (Ps. 68:14). The snow is their place of darkness [a play on the word, see Mandelbaum, ad loc.]. But can one suppose that that is how it is for Israel? Scripture says, *She is not afraid of snow for her household, [for all her household are clothed in scarlet]* (Prov, 31:21). *‎.. for all her household are clothed in scarlet* (Prov. 31:21): that is in the rite of circumcision, including the rite of the cutting off of the ‎foreskin, the rite of wearing show-fringes on the garments, and the rite of wearing phylacteries."

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‎*[If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, he will serve you six years, and in the seventh year you will let him go free from you. And ‎when you let him go free from you, you will not let him go empty-handed;] you will furnish him liberally [out of your flock, out of your threshing floor, and out of ‎your wine press, as the LORD your God has blessed you, you will give to him]* (Deut. 14:12-14). *You will give to him freely [and your heart will not be grudging when you give to him]* (Deut. 14:10). *You will open wide your hand.[to your brother, to the needy and to the poor in the land]* (Deut. 14:11). *Tithing, you will tithe* (Deut. 14:22). ‎ Therefore Moses admonishes Israel, saying to them, *[Year by year] you will set aside a tithe [of all the produce of your seed, of everything that grows ‎on the land. You will eat it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and ‎new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22). ‎

**X:V ‎**

‎***The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants, [for they have transgressed the Torahs, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant]*** (Is. 24:5): ‎Said R. Isaac, "If you imagine polluting it, it will pollute you. It will give you the spectacle of standing grain, but it will not then show you grain in sheaves. ‎It will show you grain in sheaves, but it will not show you a threshing floor. It will show you the threshing floor, but it will not show you a pile of ‎winnowed grain. Why so? Because *for they have transgressed the Torahs. ‎*That is, two Torahs, the Torah in writing, and the Torah in memory.  *... violated the statutes*: they have violated the statute governing the requirement to set aside tithes. *‎... broken the everlasting covenant*: they have violated the covenant made by the patriarchs." ‎Therefore Moses admonishes Israel, saying to them, *[Year by year] you will set aside a tithe [of all the produce of your seed, of everything that grows ‎on the land. You will eat it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and ‎new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22). ‎

**X:VI ‎**

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***My son, keep your father's commandment, and do not forsake your mother's teaching*** (Prov, 6:20): ‎Said R. Hunah, "The original patriarchs set aside both the priestly ration ["heave-offering"] and tithes. Abraham set aside the principal priestly ration ["great heave-offering"]: *I have raised my hands to God, the LORD* (Gen. 14:22). The word raising up refers only to the priestly ration ["heave-offering"] as it is said, *And you will raise up ‎from it the priestly ration that belongs to the LORD* (Num. 18:26). Isaac set aside second tithe: *And Isaac sowed in that land and found in that same year a hundredfold* (Gen. 26:12)." ‎‎[Explaining how the cited verse proves the matter,] said R. Abbah bar Kahana, "Is it not the case that a blessing falls not on a crop that is measured or ‎weighed or countered? Why then did he measure the yield at all? It was so as to tithe the crop. That is in line with the statement of Scripture: *And the LORD blessed him* (Gen. 26:12)." Jacob set aside first tithe, in line with this verse of Scripture: *And of everything that You will give me, tithing, I will tithe it to You* (Gen. 28:22). A Samaritan asked R. Meir, saying to him, "Do you not maintain that Jacob was a truthteller?" He said to him, "Indeed so, for it is written, *You give truthfulness to Jacob* (Micah 7:20)." ‎He said to him, "And did he not say this: *And of all that You give me I will give the tenth to You?*" ‎He said to him, "[Yes.] He separated the tribe of Levi as one of the ten." He said to him, "Then should he not have separated a tenth of the other two tribes?" ‎He said to him, "You maintain that they were twelve tribes, but I say that they were fourteen, as it is said, *Ephraim and Manasseh even as Reuben and Simeon shall ‎be Mine* (Gen. 48:5)." ‎He said to him, "All the more so. You support my case. You add more flour, so I'll add more water." ‎He said to him, "Do you not concede that there were four matriarchs?" He said to him, "Yes." ‎He said to him, "Deduct the four firstborn of each of the patriarchs from the fourteen, for the firstborn is not tithed. Why? Because he is already holy, and what is already consecrated cannot serve to exempt what is consecrated [and that leaves ten, hence Levi was enough]." He said to him, "Happy is your nation on account of what is within it." [*My son, keep your father's commandment.] and do not forsake your mother's teaching* (Prov. ‎‎6:20): ‎‎[Reading the consonants for mother with vowels that yield the word nation, we interpret.] [do not forsake] your nation's teaching.

That is in line with what David says: *My desire is to do Your will, O God, and Your Torah is in my intestines [in the great assembly I have proclaimed what is right]* ‎‎(Ps. 40:8-9). ‎Said R. Aha bar Ulla, "Is there such a thing as a Torah in the intestines? Is it not written, *I will write it on their heart* (Jer. 31 :32)? ‎But this is the sense of what David said, 'May a curse come upon me if anything will descend into my intestines before I have tithed it!' That is in line with this verse of Scripture [indicating the authorities responsible for tithing]: *Asmoth son of Diel was in charge of the king's ‎stores; Jonathan son of Uzziah was in charge of the stores in the country, in the cities, in the villages, and in the fore tresses* (I Chr. 27:25)." ‎Therefore Moses admonishes Israel, saying to them, *[Year by year] you will set aside a tithe [of all the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the ‎land. You will eat it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and ‎oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22).

**X:VII ‎**

***If my land has cried out against me, and its furrows have wept together; [if I have eaten its yield without payment, and caused the death of its owners, let thorns ‎grow instead of wheat, and foul weeds instead of barley]*** (Job 31:38-40). ‎ They said to Job, "Do you have any right to the land more than three cubits [of burial ground] when you die, that you say, *If my land has cried out against ‎me*? Is it then yours?" ‎R. Hiyyah the Elder said, "The matter may be compared to the case of someone who was selling a cloak in the market. Someone came by and saw it and ‎said, 'It's mine.' ‎He said to him, 'Put it on. If it fits, it's yours, and if not, it's not yours.' ‎So said the Holy One, blessed be He, to Job, 'Am I not He concerning whom it is written, "*Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?*" (Jer. 23:24) And yet ‎you say, "*If my land has cried out against me, and its furrows have wept together; if I have eaten its yield without payment, and caused the death of its ‎owners, let thorns grow instead of wheat, and foul weeds instead of barley:*" Is it then yours? [Is it your property"]" ‎And R. Simeon b. Halputa said, "The matter may be compared to the case of someone who was selling a slave-girl in the market. Someone came by and ‎saw her and said, 'She's mine.' ‎He said, to him, 'Rebuke her. If she pays attention to you, she's yours, and if not, she's not yours.' ‎ So said the Holy One, blessed be He, to Job, 'Am I not He concerning whom it is written, ",*.. who looks at the land and it trembles, touches the mountains ‎and they smoke*" (Ps. 104:33)? And yet you say, "*If my land has cried out against me, and its furrows have wept together; if I have eaten its yield without ‎payment, and caused the death of its owners, let thorns grow instead of wheat, and foul weeds instead of barley*" Is it then yours? [Is it your property"]" ‎At that moment said Job before the Holy One, blessed be He, "LORD of the ages, I have not made that statement before you. But this is the language in which ‎I made that statement: '*If my land has cried out against me, [and its furrows have wept together; if I have eaten its yield without payment, and caused the ‎death of its owners, let thorns grow instead of wheat, and foul weeds instead of barley]*.' ‎[May I be cursed] if I have not appropriately removed the tithes owing from it. *.. and its furrows have wept together:* [May I be cursed] if I have planted it with mixed seeds. *‎.. if I have eaten its yield without payment*: this refers to second tithe, as it is written, *And you will hand over money and bind up the coins ‎[and take the coins, instead of the produce set aside as second tithe, for use in Jerusalem]* (Deut. 14:25). ‎*... and caused the death of its owners*: this refers to the tithe set aside for the poor. ‎*And if I have not done so, then let thorns grow instead of wheat, and foul weeds instead of barley.* *Here end the words of Job.*" ‎‎[Reverting to the verse *let thorns grow instead of wheat, and foul weeds instead of barley*,] R. Hoshaiah taught, "The Torah has here taught you appropriate procedure. ‎A field which produces thorns is good for sowing wheat, one that produces foul weeds is good for growing barley. ‎ What verse of Scripture indicates it? *let thorns grow instead of wheat, and foul weeds instead of barley.*" ‎‎[ *.. .Here end the words of Job*:] ‎From this point forward [in the book of Job] he goes on and prophesies a number of times, and yet you say, *Here end the words of Job*? ‎But this is what Job said, "If I have not done [what I have said I did,] then let it be the case that *Here end the words [of Job]*. ‎ And let me not have an opening to say before you, *I have removed what is holy from the household* (Deut., 26:13). Therefore, Moses admonishes Israel, saying to them, *[Year by year] you will set aside a tithe [of all the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the land. ‎You will eat it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, and ‎the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22). ‎

**X:VIII ‎**

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***To You, O Lord, belongs righteousness/generosity, but to us confusion of face, as at this day [to the men of Judah to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to all Israel, those ‎that are near and those that are far away, in all the lands to which You have driven them, because of the treachery which they have committed against You]*** (Daniel ‎‎9:7): Said R. Judah bar Ilai, "An idol passed through the sea with the Israelites. What verse of Scripture indicates it? *They will pass through the sea of distress [and the waves of the sea will be smitten, and all the depths of the Nile ‎dried up]* (Zech. 10:11). ‎ The word for *distress* refers only to an idol, for it is written, *The molten thing was a distress in the gathering [of waters as in a heap]* (Is. 28:20).”

Said R. Yudan, "It is written, *And the house of Joseph, they too, went up to Beth EI, and the LORD was with them* (Judges 1:22). They were going to serve an idol, and yet you say, *And the LORD was with them*! [Now with reference to the verse, *To You, O LORD, belongs righteousness/generosity, but to us confusion of face]*, can there be a greater act of 'righteousness/generosity' than that? ‎One has therefore to say that *To You, O LORD, belongs righteousness/generosity, but to us confusion of face.*"

Said R. Judah bar Simon, "It is written, *Thus they carried off the things Micah had made and the priest he had acquired and attacked Laish, whose people were quiet ‎and carefree* (Judges 18:27). ‎*.. .the things Micah had made* refers to an idol. ‎ *the priest he had acquired* refers to a priest who served idolatry. ‎*and attacked Laish* that is Paneas [Mendelbaum]. ‎ *Whose people were quiet and carefree*: they were contented ‎worshipping an idol, which brought them success. ‎And yet you say, *... were quiet and carefree*? Can there be a greater act of 'righteousness/generosity' than that? ‎One has therefore to say that *To You, O LORD, belongs righteousness/generosity, but to us confusion of face.*" ‎

Said R. Samuel bar Nahman , "You find that on the day on which Haman attacked Israel, on that day the Israelites worshipped idols. And not only so, but they took [an offering] from him and offered it up to their idol. That is in line with this verse: *You took the food I had given you, the flour, the oil, and the honey, with which I had fed you, and set it before them as an offering ‎of soothing odor and so it was* (Ez. 16:19)." What is the meaning of the word, *and so it was*? ‎Said R. Judah, "It is in line with the expression, 'And so it was for the morrow.' ‎ [Reverting to Samuel's statement,] "And nonetheless you did not hold back your mana from them! Can there be a greater act of 'righteousness/generosity than that? One has therefore to say that *To You, O LORD, belongs righteousness/generosity, but to us confusion of face*." ‎

Said R. Eleazar, "When Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah came up out of the fiery furnace, they proclaimed this verse *[To You, O LORD, belongs righteousness/generosity, but to us confusion of face, as at this day to the men of Judah to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to all Israel, those that are near and those that are ‎far away, in all the lands to which You have driven them, because of the treachery which they have committed against You* (Daniel 9:7)]. ‎You find that when Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah came up out of the fiery furnace, all the kinds of the nations of the world gathered against them. This is ‎in line with this verse: *The satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's ministers gathered together, seeing that these men, that the fire had no power over ‎their bodies* (Dan. 3:27). ‎And all the nations of the world said to them, 'You knew that your God had power to do all these miracles for you, and yet you caused Him to destroy His house ‎and to send His children into exile. And all the nations of the world spit in their faces until they had made them a block of spit. And Hananiah, Mishal, and Azariah raised their faces upward and said, *To You, O LORD, belongs righteousness/generosity, but to us confusion of face, as at ‎this day to the men of Judah to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to all Israel. those that are near and those that are far away. in all the lands to which You have driven ‎them. because of the treachery which they have committed against You* (Daniel 9:7)." ‎

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Said R. Joshua bar Nehemiah, "*To You. O LORD. belongs righteousness/generosity* refers to the acceptance of God's judgment [stated by the three]: ‎For we have angered you so much, but you have been patient with us .”

It was taught on Tannaite authority in the name of R. Nehemiah, "Under ordinary conditions if someone has a field. he gives it out for sharecropping ‎on terms of half. or a third. or a fourth of the crop. But the Holy One, blessed be He, is not that way. The Holy One, who brings the winds and produces clouds and brings down rain and makes dew fructify ‎the field and nurtures the seeds and fattens the produce has asked us to separate only one out of ten portions of the crop. Therefore, Moses admonishes Israel, saying to them, *[Year by year] you will set aside a tithe [of all the produce of your seed. of everything that grows ‎on the land. You will eat it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and ‎new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22). ‎

**X:IX ‎**

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***What is written just prior to this matter [that is, before the base-verse, [Year by year] you will set aside a tithe [of all the produce of your seed. of everything ‎that grows on the land. You will eat it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and ‎new wine and oil. and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep. so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]*** (Deut. 14:22)]? ‎*You will not eat anything that dies of itself; you may give it to the alien who is within your towns, that he may eat it. or you may sell it to a foreigner; for ‎you are a people holy to the LORD your God. You will not boil a kid in its mother's milk* (Deut. 14:21): ‎R. Azariah and R. Jonathan b. Haggai and R. Isaac bar Merion in the name of R. Yose bar Haninah said, "[The juxtaposition of the two topics indicates ‎that] one who eats his produce prior to their being properly tithed is like one who eats meat that has died of itself or that has been torn. What scriptural evidence supports that statement? *You will not eat anything that dies of itself*.” R. Abba bar Huna in the name of Rab: "He who eats his produce prior to their being properly tithed as to the removal of the tithe that is owing to the poor ‎is liable to the death penalty." ‎

‎Said R. Isaac, "In three passages in scripture it is written, *You will not boil a kid in its mother's milk*. ‎One statement serves to state the rule on its own, the second states the rule for purposes of Torah-study, and the third states it for the purposes of joining ‎it to the issue of tithing. ‎As to the original statement, what is written in that context? *You will bring the choicest first fruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God. You will ‎not boil a kid in its mother's milk* (Ex. 23: 19). And thereafter: *And now I send an angel before you to guard you on your way and to bring you to the place ‎I have prepared* (Ex. 23:20). ‎ As to the matter of Torah-study: *You will bring the choicest first fruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God. You will not boil a kid in its mother's ‎milk* (Ex. 34:26). Thereafter: *The LORD said to Moses, Write these words down, because the covenant I make with you and with Israel is in these words* (Ex. ‎‎34:27). ‎Said the Holy One, blessed be He, to him, 'Moses, when the sandal is on your foot, crush the thorn’ [so Mandelbaum]. [A further version has it that the ‎angels wanted to receive the Torah for themselves. God told them that they were not fit to receive the Torah, because they ate milk and meat when they ‎visited Abraham. Therefore, the verse about not seething the kid in its mother's milk is juxtaposed to the verse about writing down the words of the Torah ‎‎(Mandelbaum, ad loc.)]. After writing down the verse, *You will not boil a kid in its mother's milk* (Ex. 34:26), write the verse, *The Lord said to Moses, Write these words down, ‎because the covenant I make with you and with Israel is in these words* (Ex. 34:27). ‎As to the matter of tithing, *[Year by year] you will set aside a tithe of all the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the land. You will eat ‎it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, and the ‎firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22)], and then it is written, *You will not eat ‎anything that dies of itself; you may give it to the alien who is within your towns, that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner; for you are a people ‎holy to the LORD your God. You will not boil a kid in its mother's milk* (Deut. 14:21): ‎ Said the Holy One, blessed be He, 'Do not cause Me to make the kernels ripen while they are still in their pods [Hebrew: their mother's wombs]. For if ‎you do not properly produce your tithes, I will send a certain east wind, which will blight them.’ That is in line with this verse: *The grain will thus be blasted before it is ripe* (2 Kgs. 19:26)." ‎

**X:X ‎**

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***[Year by year] you will set aside a tithe [of all the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the land. You will eat it in the presence of the LORD ‎your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so ‎that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]*** (Deut. 14:22): [the duplication of the verb, yielding tithing, you will tithe] allows for the play on ‎words utilizing the same letters, for one instance, *tithing, you will tithe* - so that you will not lose out. .. *tithing, you will tithe* - so that you will get rich. ‎Said the Holy One, blessed be He, "Give a tithe of what is mine, and I will enrich what is yours."

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‎*[Year by year you will set aside a tithe] of all [the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the land. You will eat it in the presence of the LORD ‎your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so ‎that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut, 14:22): ‎ Said R. Abba bar Kahana, **"Scripture thereby gives an indication that people in trade and in commerce overseas should set aside a tenth of their gain ‎for those who labor in the Torah." ‎**.

*[Year by year you will set aside a tithe of all] the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the land. [You will eat it in the presence of the LORD ‎your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so ‎that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22): ‎If [by tithing] you attain merit, in the end you will go forth to sow seed in your field, and if not, the one who goes forth into the field will make war ‎on you. And who is that? It is the wicked Esau, concerning whom it is written, *A hunter, a man of the field* (Gen. 25:27). ‎

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Another interpretation of the clause, *[Year by year you will set aside a tithe of all] the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the land. [You ‎will eat it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, and ‎the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut., 14:22): ‎If [by tithing] you attain merit, in the end you will go forth to your field and see that the world needs rain and pray and be answered. But if not, in the ‎end the (enemies of) Israel will go forth to bury their children in the field.

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*[Year by year [you will set aside a tithe of all] the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the land. [You will eat it in the presence of the LORD ‎your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so ‎that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22): ‎People may not set aside tithe from the produce of one year to cover that of another year," the words of R. Aqiba. *[Year by year [you will set aside a tithe of all] the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the land. [You will eat it in the presence of the LORD ‎your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so ‎that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22).If [by tithing] you attain merit, it is your grain, and if not, [the grain not having been tithed,] it is My grain. That is in line with this verse: *And I will take My grain in its due season* (Hos. 2:11). ‎*[Year by year [you will set aside a tithe of all] the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the land. [You will eat it in the presence of the LORD ‎your God in the place which He will choose as a dwelling for His name - the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your cattle and sheep, so ‎that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God]* (Deut. 14:22). If [by tithing] you attain merit, it is your new wine, and if not, it is Mine. That is in line with this verse: *And My new wine in its due time* (Hos. 2:11). ‎

Said R. Simeon b. Laqish, "Said the Holy One, blessed be He, 'I have instructed you to separate your tithes from the choicest of the harvest. How so? If a ‎son of a Levite comes to you, if you have given him from the choicest of the crop, so I have what to give you out of the choicest: *May the LORD open to you his good treasury* (Deut. 28:12). But if you have given to him out of the desiccated portions of the crop or from the inferior part, so 1 have what to give you out of the desiccated or ‎inferior parts of the crop: *The LORD will send the rain of your land as power and dust* (Deut. 28:24).

‎*[At the end of every third year you will bring out all the tithe of your produce for that year and leave it in your settlements] so that the Levites, who have no ‎holding or patrimony among you, and the aliens, [orphans, and widows in your settlements] may come [and eat their fill. If you do this, the LORD your God ‎will bless you in everything to which you set your hand]* (Deut. 14:28-29): ‎Said R. Luliani of Rome in the name of R. Judah bar Simon, "Said the Holy One, blessed be He, 'As for you, you are responsible for four categories of ‎dependents of your household, and as for Me, 1 am responsible for four such categories. You are responsible for four categories of household ‎dependents, your son, your daughter, your slave-boy, and your slave-girl, and I am responsible for four categories, the Levites, the stranger, the orphan, ‎and the widow, and all of them are included in a single verse of Scripture. ‎That verse is as follows: *You will rejoice in your festival [of Tabernacles], you, your son, your daughter, your slave-boy and your slave-girl, the Levite, the ‎stranger, the orphan, and the widow who are in your midst* (Deut. 16:14).' ‎Said the Holy One, blessed be He, 'I have instructed you to give joy to Mine and to yours on the festival days that 1 have assigned to you. If you do so, I ‎for my part will give joy to both yours as well as Mine. To both these and those I will give joy in the chosen house: *These I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer; their ‎burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My* ‎*altar, for My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples* (Isaiah 56:7).

**Nazarean Codicil:**

**‎Revelation 2:1-7**

**Rabbi Dr. Eliyahu ben Abraham & Hakham Dr. Yosef ben Haggai’s Rendition**

1And to the angel of the congregation in Ephesus, write, 'So says he who holds the seven stars in his hand, he who walks among the Menorot (seven branched candlesticks) of gold.

2 I know your works and your labor and your endurance and that you are not able to bear evil [ones]. And you have tested those who say about themselves that they are to be Sh’liachim (apostles) and are not and you have found them [to be] liars.

3 And you have endurance, and you bear a burden because of my name (or, authority) and you have not become weary.

4 **But I have [something] against you, because you have left your first love.**[[15]](#footnote-15)

5 Remember from where you came and do the former works, but if not, I will come to you and I will remove your Menora (candelabra – i.e., the seven ministers of the congregation), unless you repent.

6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaitans (i.e., Oppressors of the Laity), that I also hate.'

7 He who has ears should hear what the Spirit says to the congregations. And to him who overcomes, I will allow [him] to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of PaRDeS (paradise) of Ha-Shem."

**Abarbanel On**

**Pirqe Abot**

**Introductory Statement**

**All Israel has a share in the World to Come. As it is said: “And your people are all righteous (generous); they will inherit the land forever; they are the branch of My planting, My handiwork, in which to make pride.**

One can appreciate the true significance of Pirqe Abot in the eyes of the sages of the Talmud from the famous and oft-quoted adage, "He who wishes to be saintly should apply himself to Pirqe Abot."[[16]](#footnote-16) The Maharal of Prague posed two questions on this assessment:[[17]](#footnote-17) The traditional practice is to precede the study of Pirqe Abot with a mishnah which reads: "All Israel have a portion in the World to Come ... "[[18]](#footnote-18) If Pirke Avot is so singularly significant why add a preface to it? Secondly, it is also customary to conclude the study of each chapter with the statement, "Rabbi Hananya ben Akashya said: The Holy One, blessed be He, wanted to grant merit to Israel, therefore He multiplied for them Torah and mitzvot ... "[[19]](#footnote-19) Here, again, what need is there for an epilogue?

Maharal answers: An object is considered valuable when it has substance (homer), cosmetic appeal (tzurah), and a utilitarian purpose (takhlit). All these three criteria are necessary to determine whether something is marketable. They are also necessary to determine the collective and individual character of the Jew. The Jew's image is enhanced when he begins his study period with, "All Israel has a portion in the World to Come" (homer). As long as a Jew identifies himself as a Jew, he has a passport to the olam ha-ba; that is his hallmark of a precious substance.

He then proceeds to the actual study of the text, thus demonstrating our lifestyle of ethical values (tzurah). We conclude with God's gift of Torah and mitzvot to the Jew (takhlit) to underscore that we function best when we are Torah oriented.

Perhaps the most difficult statement in all Pirqe Abot is the prologue **"All Israel has a portion in the World to Come ... "** Nearly all the commentators are disturbed by the same difficulty: The prologue is a mishnah taken from Tractate Sanhedrin. What is it doing there? "All Israel..." is a sublime promise to the Jews, whereas Tractate Sanhedrin deals in the main with capital punishment, in particular, with the four methods of execution administered by the court. How do we correlate such a sublime promise with the cruel and brutal death warrants of criminals?

This enigma disturbed Rashi in his commentary on the mishnah.

He went even further: It would seem that when the Talmud discusses the ways and means of capital punishment it would have been logical for the sages to have formulated their views on the World to Come in a negative fashion: "These are the ones [i.e., the various criminals discussed) who have no share in the World to Come ... " For the sages to indicate who are entitled to the olam ha-ba seems to be out of place.

Rashi, therefore, suggests that the rabbis in Tractate Sanhedrin formulated their thought as they did in order to alleviate the fears and anxieties of the wayward criminal. He may think to himself that because he sinned once and was sentenced to death, there is no hope for the salvation of his soul. The sages, therefore, allayed his fears by teaching, **"All Israel have a portion in the World to Come."**

The Gaon of Vilna[[20]](#footnote-20) answered the same question by way of an analogy. When a person has a tree which is producing poor quality fruit, he grafts on to it a shoot from a strong, healthy tree and lops off the infected branches of the old one. However, people seeing him doing this may condemn him for cutting off what appear to be healthy branches. The truth is, of course, that he does not want the roots of the tree to expend themselves on nourishing diseased branches, but to nurture the new shoots.

So is it, continues the Gaon of Vilna, with man. The-x are those who question the humaneness of capital punishment. "Are there no other punishments available besides the death sentence? Is not capital punishment barbaric?" It is for this reason that **"All Israel have ... "** follows the chapter dealing with capital punishment in Tractate Sanhedrin. The criminal may be compared to the pruned branches. God's primary interest is to salvage the soul, the roots of man, and through his demise the wicked man's soul will survive in the World to Come.

The Gaon continues: In winter we are accustomed to stay indoors due to inclement weather; in the spring, we emerge and enjoy nature, the flowers, and the trees. It is then that a person is apt to become light-headed and frivolous, which may lead to transgression. **"All Israel have a portion ... "** is then part of our study program to teach us the lesson of the grafting of shoots on to a sickly tree, so that good fruit can grow.

The most disturbing aspect of the dictum is the question: Is every Jew really entitled to a place in the World to Come? Are there no wicked Jews who are not worthy of the olam ha-ba? A line of reasoning taken by one commentator would have us accept the indisputable assertion that a Jew always remains a Jew and, although he may have sinned grievously, he still has a number of mitzvot to his credit, albeit unbeknown to him.[[21]](#footnote-21)

Another opinion: Every Jew, no matter how much he has drifted from the straight and narrow path, makes a contribution (helek, a portion) to the realization of the Messianic age because that anticipated event will be a collective experience. This is the thrust of **"All Israel. .. "**

Another commentator tackles a different aspect of the question:[[22]](#footnote-22) **"All Israel..."** implies that only Jews will benefit of the olam ha-ba. How can this be so? It is contrary to the rabbinic maxim which clearly states that there are righteous gentiles who will enjoy a portion of the World to Come.[[23]](#footnote-23) Therefore, **"All Israel..."** comes to spell it out that although every God-fearing human being will be given a portion in the olam ha-ba, the Jew will find it much easier to present himself by virtue of the fact that he is committed to Torah and mitzvot.

Another explanation for the seeming injustice of including the wicked among those rewarded with the olam ha-ba is given by Rabbi Moshe Alsheikh.[[24]](#footnote-24) According to all the Kabbalists, there are three stages that the soul must pass through after death. First, it enters the world of souls (olam ha-nefashot). It then makes its way to olam ha-ba where it remains in limbo. Finally, it reaches the stage of tehiyat ha-metim (resurrection of the dead) when the body will be revived. When our text says olam ha-ba it is referring to the penultimate stage before the resurrection. Hence, in the opinion of Midrash Shemuel, while the wicked will pass through the early stages, they will be denied the last stage - they will not be resurrected.

Another interpretation is proposed by Rabbi Moshe Alsheikh.[[25]](#footnote-25) He muses that in view of the sages' assertion that when the Torah was delivered to the Children of Israel at Mt. Sinai every Jewish soul from then on and until the end of the world was present, it is natural that for that alone every Jew - even the sinner - is entitled to a portion in the olam ha-ba.

**Miscellaneous Interpretations**

**Rabbi Hirsch.** All *Israel has a share in the World to* Come. The term *Israel* refers to any individual who has not utterly divorced himself from the Jewish nation's lofty spiritual destiny. His portion in the World to Come will vary according to his merit, but as long as he remains part of "Israel,” he will never lose it entirely.

**Midrash Shmuel. (R. Moshe Almosnino).** This maxim, from the mishnah *(Sanhedrin* 90a), is read as an introduction to each chapter of Pirqe Abot because it increases our incentive to apply ourselves to the teachings we are about to read. Overwhelmed by the broad scope of ethical advice and moral instruction contained in *Pirqe Abot,* one might despair of achieving the level of such refinement needed to assure him a place in the World to Come, Therefore, we reiterate that *all* Israel has a share in the World to Come; our ultimate reward awaits us and is within reach - we should certainly pursue it!

**Knesset Yisrael**adds: The lessons *of Pirqe Abot* are a prescription from God to help us nurse our souls back to spiritual health. A doctor who seeks to heal his patient first reassures him that his disease is conquerable and that he need not despair; similarly, one who is beginning spiritual therapy must be bolstered emotionally against despair, which is itself a spiritually fatal malady. Even one who senses that he is in critical spiritual condition must believe that he can be cured. This introductory mishnah lo each chapter of Pirqe Abot provides assurance that each member of the Jewish nation can survive and flourish - because *All Israel has a share in the World to Come.*

**Mikveh Yisrael***,* The purpose of this introduction is to explain to the Jewish people why they, more than all other nations, need the extensive ethical and moral instruction contained in *all of Pirqe Abot:* Since all Jews have a share in the World to Come, it is imperative that they not do anything to lose such a precious gift. Everything contained in *Pirqe Abot* is necessary to achieve that end. All *Israel* does not mean to exclude righteous gentiles (see Sanhedrin 105a and *Rambam, Hilchot Teshuvah* 3:5). Rather, it teaches that even those Jews who are considered wicked because of their numerous sins are assured a portion in the World to Come, unless they forfeit the title "Israel" by rejecting any of the basic tenets of Judaism as enumerated in *Sanhedrin* 90a and *Rosh Hashanah* 17a *(Rambam).*

**Blessing After Torah Study**

**Barúch Atáh Adonai, Elohénu Meléch HaOlám,**

**Ashér Natán Lánu Torát Emét, V'Chayéi Olám Natá B'Tochénu.**

**Barúch Atáh Adonái, Notén HaToráh. Amen!**

**Blessed is Ha-Shem our God, King of the universe,**

**Who has given us a teaching of truth, implanting within us eternal life.**

**Blessed is Ha-Shem, Giver of the Torah. Amen!**

**“Now unto Him who is able to preserve you faultless, and spotless, and to establish you without a blemish,**

**before His majesty, with joy, [namely,] the only one God, our Deliverer, by means of Yeshua the Messiah our Master, be praise, and dominion, and honor, and majesty, both now and in all ages. Amen!”**

**Yizkor Service**

**The Ten (3 + 7) Men of a Jewish Nazarean Congregation**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bench of Three Hakhamim (Local Bet Din)** | | | **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **HEAVENLIES**    **Or**    **HEAVENLY**    **PLACES**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|** |
|  | **Keter**  (Crown) – Colourless  Ministry: Invisible  Divine Will in the Messiah |  |
| **Binah**  (Understanding) - Gray  Virtue: Simchah (Joy)  Ministry: 2nd of the bench of three  APOSTLE |  | **Chochmah**  (Wisdom) - Black  Virtue: Emunah (Faithful Obedience)  Ministry: Chief Hakham 1st of the bench of three  APOSTLE |
|  | **Da'at**  (Knowledge) - White  Virtue: Yichud (Unity)  Ministry: 3rd of the bench of three  APOSTLE |  |
| **The Seven Paqidim (Servants at the Bench)** | | | |
| **Gevurah**  (Strength/Might) – Scarlet Red  Virtue: Yir’ah (Fear of G-d)  Ministry: Sheliach [Chazan/Bishop] |  | **G’dolah / Chessed**  (Greatness/Mercy) – Royal Blue  Virtue: Ahavah (love)  Ministry: Masoret [Catechist/Evangelist] | **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **EARTHLY**    **Or**    **EARTHLY**  **PLACES**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|**  **|** |
|  | **Tiferet**  (Beauty) - Yellow  Virtue: Rachamim (Compassion)  Ministry: Darshan or Magid [Prophet] |  |
| **Hod**  (Glory) - Orange  Virtue: Temimut (Sincerity)  Ministry: Parnas [Pastor] |  | **Netzach**  (Victory) – Emerald Green  Virtue: Bitahon (Confidence)  Ministry: Parnas [Pastor] |
|  | **Yesod**  (Foundation) - Violet  Virtue: Emet (Truth/Honesty)  Ministry: Parnas [Pastor]  (Female – hidden) |  |
|  | **Shekhinah / Malkhut**  (Presence) – Purple  Virtue: Humility  Ministry: Meturgeman/Moreh/  Zaqen [Teacher/Elder] |  |



**Thursday Evening April 13, 2023**

# Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 8

**Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 8**

**Barukh Atah ADONAI**

**Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam**

**Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu**

**Al S’firat HaO’omer.**

**Today is eight days of the Omer which is one week and one day.**

**The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!**

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| 8 | Chazan/Masoret | Nisan 23 | 2:1-3 | Justice coupled with loving-kindness |

**Ephesians 2.1-3** **And you** (Gentiles) **were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked[[26]](#footnote-26) according to the course of this worldly system, according to the ruler[[27]](#footnote-27) of the power[[28]](#footnote-28) of the air,[[29]](#footnote-29) the spirit that now works in the sons[[30]](#footnote-30) of disobedience; and we all behaved according to the passions of our Yetser HaRa, following the desires of the body and of the thoughts,[[31]](#footnote-31) and were by nature the children of wrath, like everyone else.[[32]](#footnote-32)**



**Friday Evening April 14, 2023**

# Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 9

**Barukh Atah ADONAI**

**Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam**

**Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu**

**Al S’firat HaO’omer.**

**Today is nine days of the Omer which is one week and two days.**

**The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!**

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| **9** | **Chazan** | **Nisan 24** | **2:4-7** | **Gevurah** (Strength/Might) – Scarlet Red  **Virtue**: Yir’ah (Fear of G-d)  **Ministry**: Sheliach [Chazan/Bishop] |

**But God, who is abounding in mercy[[33]](#footnote-33), because His great love, with which He loved us** (the Jewish people) **even when we were dead in sins has made us alive[[34]](#footnote-34) together with Messiah,** now **it is by God’s loving-kindness** that **you have been made whole** (saved), by becoming Jewish. **And has joined us together and made us capable of siting together in the heavenlies[[35]](#footnote-35) in union with Yeshua HaMashiach**. **He did this so that in the ages to come[[36]](#footnote-36) He might demonstrate the wealth of splendor of His loving-kindness, which He graciously expressed to us through Yeshua HaMashiach**.



**Saturday Evening April 15, 2023**

# Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 10

**Barukh Atah ADONAI**

**Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam**

**Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu**

**Al S’firat HaO’omer.**

**Today is ten days of the Omer which is one week and three days.**

**The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!**

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| 10 | Chazan/Darshan | Nisan 25 | 2:8-10 | Justice expressed in compassion |

**Ephesians 2:8-10 It is by God’s loving-kindness that you** (Gentiles) **are brought to wholeness by becoming faithfully obedient Jews, this is not by your own merit but a gift of God.[[37]](#footnote-37) You are not made whole by human attempts to please God,[[38]](#footnote-38) so that anyone can boast. For we** (Jews) **are His (God’s) workmanship, created in union with Yeshua HaMashiach for a life of good works,** according to the halakhot (Laws) of the Torah, **which God has prepared beforehand that we[[39]](#footnote-39)** (Jews and Gentiles) **should walk (halakha)[[40]](#footnote-40) in them.**



**Sunday Evening April 16, 2023**

# Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 11

**Barukh Atah ADONAI**

**Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam**

**Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu**

**Al S’firat HaO’omer.**

**Today is eleven days of the Omer which is one week and four days.**

**The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!**

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attribute** |
| 11 | Chazan/Parnas #1 | Nisan 26 | 2:11-12 | Justice expressed with confidence |

**Ephesians 2:11-12 Therefore remember, at that time you, were Gentiles by birth, who are called uncircumcision by those who are called circumcision, which refers to what Royal men do to their bodies;[[41]](#footnote-41) and that at one time you were without Messiah, being aliens[[42]](#footnote-42) from the legal administration of Jewish life,[[43]](#footnote-43) and strangers[[44]](#footnote-44) from the covenants of the promise,[[45]](#footnote-45) having no hope, and without God** and **in union with the worldly system.**



**Monday Evening April 17, 2023**

# Evening: Counting of the Omer Day 12

**Barukh Atah ADONAI**

**Elohenu Melekh Ha-Olam**

**Asher Qid’shanu B’Mitsvotav V’tsivanu**

**Al S’firat HaO’omer.**

**Today is twelve days of the Omer which are one week and five days.**

**The Merciful One, may He return the service of the Temple to its place, speedily in our days, Amen!**

**Then read the following:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day of the Omer** | **Ministry** | **Date** | **Ephesians** | **Attributes** |
| 12 | Chazan/Parnas #2 | Nisan 27 | 2:13-16 | Justice balanced by sincerity |

**Ephesians 2:13-16 But you** (Gentiles) **who were far away are now brought close by your union with Yeshua HaMashiach, his life of peace bringing us into unity by breaking down the middle wall of partition[[46]](#footnote-46) which stood between us. This was accomplished by abolishing the enactments contained** **in** (Shammaite) **ordinances** (dogma)**[[47]](#footnote-47), that he might establish one new body[[48]](#footnote-48) in himself, by the cross, having broken down conflict** between the Jewish people and the Gentiles**.**

**Blessing After Torah Study**

**Barúch Atáh Adonai, Elohénu Meléch HaOlám,**

**Ashér Natán Lánu Torát Emét, V'Chayéi Olám Natá B'Tochénu.**

**Barúch Atáh Adonái, Notén HaToráh. Amen!**

**Blessed is Ha-Shem our GOD, King of the universe,**

**Who has given us a teaching of truth, implanting within us eternal life.**

**Blessed is Ha-Shem, Giver of the Torah. Amen!**

**“Now unto Him who is able to preserve you faultless, and spotless, and to establish you without a blemish,**

**before His majesty, with joy, [namely,] the only one GOD, our Deliverer, by means of Yeshua the Messiah our Master, be praise, and dominion, and honor, and majesty, both now and in all ages. Amen!”**

**Next Shabbat:**

**Shabbat: “VaY’hi Ki Zaqen Yitschaq” – “And it was when Isaac was old”**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Shabbat** | **Torah Reading:** | **Weekday Torah Reading:** |
| **וַיְהִי כִּי-זָקֵן יִצְחָק** |  |  |
| **“VaY’hi Ki Zaqen Yitschaq”** | Reader 1 – B’resheet 27:1-4 | Reader 1 – B’resheet 27:28-30 |
| **“And it was when Isaac was old”** | Reader 2 – B’resheet 27:5-7 | Reader 2 – B’resheet 27:31-34 |
| **“Y fue cuando Isaac envejeció”** | Reader 3 – B’resheet 27:8-10 | Reader 3 – B’resheet 27:35-38 |
| **Torah**: B’resheet (Gen.) 27:1-27 | Reader 4 – B’resheet 27:11-13 |  |
| **Ashlamatah**: 1 Samuel 4:15 – 5:1 + 6:14 | Reader 5 – B’resheet 27:14-17 | Reader 1 – B’resheet 27:28-30 |
| Tehillim (Psalms) 22:23-32 | Reader 6 – B’resheet 27:18-23 | Reader 2 – B’resheet 27:31-34 |
| N.C.: Mk. 3:7-10; Luke 6:17-18 | Reader 7 – B’resheet 27:24-27 | Reader 3 – B’resheet 27:35-38 |
|  | Maftir – Bamidbar 28:9-15  1 Samuel 4:15 – 5:1 + 6:14 |  |

We earnestly pray that you and your loved ones had a most enjoyable and memorable Chag Pesach Sameach!

Hakham Dr. Yosef ben Haggai

Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David

Rabbi Dr. Eliyahu ben Abraham

**Some Questions to Ponder:**

1. From all the readings for this week, which particular verse or passage caught your attention and fired your heart and imagination?
2. In your opinion, and taking into consideration all of the above readings for this Sabbath, what is the prophetic message (the idea that encapsulates all the Scripture passages read) for this week

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Hakham Dr. Yosef ben Haggai

Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David

Rabbi Dr. Eliyahu ben Abraham

Edited by His Honor Paqid Adon Ezra ben Abraham

A special thank you to HH Giberet Giborah bat Sarah for her diligence in proof-reading every week

1. Alluding to the Masoret. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Not having stopped” forms a double negative to offset the “double positive” “always giving thanks” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. We have translated **δόξης,** as “dignity” because the present officer is the Masoret in connection with Parnas #3 the feminine Pastor representing the hidden aspects of the Pastoral office. Parnas #3 is associated with Yesod (foundation) exemplifying the virtue of truth and honesty. Philo interprets the idea of **δόξης,** as philosophical tenant. **δόξης,** being feminine we see the relationship to the feminine Pastoral office. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. cf. Strong’s G4151 #3 “a spirit, i.e. a simple essence, devoid of all or at least all grosser matter, and possessed of the power of knowing, desiring, deciding, and acting.” Therefore, we see that the idea of “spirit” relates to nobility and the higher essence of man. That the “spirit” reveals the offices of the bench means that Hakham Shaul wants his audience to live in the refined noble way of Jewish Ishim – Royal Men. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. See above Rashi’s commentary on Shemot (Exodus) 12:39 for an explanation on the nature of this “first love.” See also the statement of Israel in Shemot (Exodus) 24:7 “Everything that the LORD has said we will do and we will hear.” That is, “we will obey and then hear the reason for the commandment.” This is full EMUNAH! See also Luke 7:6-9. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. “Understanding” Binah refers to the second Rabbi (Hakham) in the bench of three. Binah in our diagrams is on the right (lenient) side. Therefore, we see that Abot 1:1 “be lenient in judgment” is applicable. “The eyes of your understanding” is allegorical language, containing the idea of the mind opened to “see the light,” which we take here to mean the value of judging leniently. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. m. **Abot 1:1** – And as it is said: “Mosheh received the Torah from Sinai and gospelled it down to Yehoshua, and Yehoshua gospelled it down to the Elders, the Elders to the Prophets, and the Prophets gospelled it down to the Men of the Great Assembly. They (the Men of the Great Assembly) emphasized three things; **Be deliberate** (lenient) **in judgment**, make stand many disciples, and make a fence around the Torah.” [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. “opened to see the truth,” or to minimize that idea we might say “I ask that you may come to understand.” Opened to the place of being able to understand the Mysteries on the level of ChaBaD. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Relating to the office of the 1st Pastor – who possesses the virtue of confidence/hope. see “hope” 1:11 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The “inheritance” of the master/Yeshua is the Mesorah (Oral Torah). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. ἐν τοῖς ἁγίοις, being counted among the **Tsadiqim/**saints, or the righteous/generous who have gone before. This is not a reference to the “living” **Tsadiqim/**saints. It is a reference to the **Tsadiqim/**saints who have filled the pages of the Tanakh. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Here we have a “pars pro toto” for all the officers and authorities of the Esnoga. The remaining titles being, Sheliach, Darshan, Pastors and Morei’im [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. “**ὄνομα** – *onoma* ” needs to be translated as authority here. This is because the Hebrew idea of a name is associated with its authority. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. The language is allegorical; therefore, we understand that G-d placed all things under the authority of Messiah and his Mesorah. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. See above Rashi’s commentary on Shemot (Exodus) 12:39 for an explanation on the nature of this “first love.” See also the statement of Israel in Shemot (Exodus) 24:7 **“Everything that the LORD has said we will do and we will hear.”** That is, “we will obey and then hear the reason for the commandment.” This is full EMUNAH (faithful obedience) and AHAVAH (Love)! See also Luke 7:6-9. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Baba Kamma 30a. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Yehudah Liwa (16th century), ***Derekh Hayim***. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Sanhedrin 99a. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. M. Makkot 3:16; Abot 6:9. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Elijah ben Shlomo Zalman, 18th century. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Meir David Ha-Cohen, **Meor he-Avot ve-Toldoteihem, Introduction**. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Meir Lehman (Rabbi in Mainz), **Meir Netiv**. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Sanhedrin 105a. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. In the introduction to his **Yarim Moshe**. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. περιπατέω - *peripateō* means to walk about. This has the connotations of either keeping or violating halakhic mishpatim. The reference to Gentiles means that they were without any halakhic observance. The lack of halakhic observance renders one dead to G-d. It is not “sin” that renders on “dead to G-d.” The absence of positive, constructive Halakhot renders us “dead to G-d.”

    **B’resheet Rabbah VIII:4** R. Berekiah said: When the Holy One, blessed be He, came to create Adam, He saw righteous/generous and wicked arising from him. Said He: If I create him, wicked men will spring from him; if I do not create him, how are the righteous/generous to spring from him? 'What then did the Lord do? He removed the way of the wicked out of His sight and associated the quality of mercy with Himself and created him, as it is written, For the Lord regards the way of the righteous/generous, but the way of the wicked *tobed*- E.V. shall perish (Ps. I, 6): what does *tobed* mean? He destroyed it (*ibbedah*) from before His sight and associated the quality of mercy with Himself and created him. R. Hanina did not say this, but [he said that] when He came to create Adam He took counsel with the ministering angels, saying to them, LET US MAKE MAN. What shall his character be? asked they. Righteous/generous men will spring from him, He answered, as it is written, For the Lord knows (*yodea*) the way of the righteous, which means that the Lord made known (*hodia*) the way of the righteous/generous to the ministering angels; But the way of the wicked will perish: He destroyed [*hid*] it from them. He revealed to them that the righteous/generous would arise from him, but He did not reveal to them that the wicked would spring from him, for had He revealed to them that the wicked would spring from him; the quality of Justice would not have permitted him to be created [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. ἄρχοντα from ἄρχων – *archon* is the chief “ruler” of the “heavenlies.” The positive view of this personality is *árchōn* of the Jews as the Chief/Nasi/Prince of the Jewish Sanhedrin. Here we must also state that there are those positive forces which drive the Cosmos which are opposed to the present (2:1-3) fallen powers, which promote Torah observance and G-dly lifestyles. The subject of our pericope is a negative power operating in opposition to God and Torah observant Jewish Orthodoxy. These “powers” are those powers, which fell/rebelled because God created man with the capacity for good and evil. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. ἐξουσία – *exousia* is usually translated as authority. We have left the translation as “power” minimizing the aspect of authority and relating the idea more with the notion of jurisdiction. In other words, the power (authority) is a limited jurisdictional sphere. cf. Strong’s 1849 (4c1a) We need to further state that all power/authority operates by the principle of delegation. Therefore, the power available to the “power/authority of the “air” is only delegated by ourselves to that power. However, when we understand that the only true Authority is G-d and His agents we can quickly realize that the power of the air only operates by delegated power of authority. Hence, the temptation of Messiah, where the tempter said, “bow down before me/submit yourself to me” etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. **air –** thespace immediately above the surface of the earth. However, the idea of “air” is the realm or sphere of limited operation. This “spirit/wind/air” can only operate within a limited space or sphere. As such, that sphere is subordinate to the heavenly spheres dominating and governing the cosmos. Here we are speaking of the spheres, which insure Torah observance. Not only is the sphere of our pericope, i.e. satan limited he is extremely restricted. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Translations tend to translate **υἱός** – *huios* as “children” without intending gender. We have left the translation masculine in gender because the context relates to halakhic observance. This is not to say that women are sinless and not capable of sin. Our reason is to demonstrate that the “spirit of disobedience” working in sons is directly related to halakhah, the dominate portion of which relate to men. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. **διάνοια** – *dianoia* is used as the antithesis of Binah G-dly understanding. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. What is it that sets the Jewish people apart and frees them from the wrath of G-d? The Torah is the liberating force, which sets Jew and Gentile free from the bondage of sin and death. Therefore, Torah observance is the salvation of the Jewish and Gentile people. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. cf. Shemot (Ex) 34:6-7 [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Joining to the Mesorah of Messiah makes us alive. Contrary to Christian doctrine, the Oral Torah makes one alive. Joining Messiah is a conjoining of the Jewish people with the Oral Torah, which infuses life. In the same manner, when the Gentiles accept the Mesorah of Messiah he is infused with the Life of the Torah. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Cf. Brannon, M. J. (2011). *The Heavenlies in Ephesians, A Lexical, Exigetical and Conceptual Analysis.* New York, New York: T&T Clark International. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. αἰῶσιν plural “ages” implies the Y’mot HaMashiach, “the days of Messiah” and the Olam HaBa, the “world to come.” [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. The “gift” of G-d (המתת אלוהים - Mattat Elohim), which brings the Jew and Gentile is the Torah/Oral and Written. The Torah is referred to as the (תורה המתת) Mattan Torah – the gift of Torah. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. We have translated ἔργωνfrom ἔργον – *ergon* “works” as human attempts at pleasing G-d. These ἔργων are not qualified with either good or bad. However, the text clearly states that these ἔργων are not sufficient to please G-d. We will see that we must have ἔργοις ἀγαθοῖς “good works” before any ἔργων can be considered to be of value before G-d. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. We here should be understood as the Jewish people. However, when the Gentile becomes Jewish the “we” is extended to them. Therefore, “we” (collectively) live by the mandates of the Torah. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Halakhah, then, is the "way" a Jew is directed to behave in every aspect of life, encompassing civil, criminal, and religious law. In actual fact, Halakhah is used more as a synonym for the Oral Law *(Torah Shebal Peh).* Halakhah includes three subdivisions: Gezerah, Takkanah, and Minhag. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. The usual translation “made in the flesh by hands” seems to imply certain negativity. The translation “what **Royal men do to their bodies**” shows spiritual conduct. The allegorical meaning is that “circumcision” is a picture of control over the appetites of the “flesh.” This allegorical phrase also refers to the control of the sexual appetite bringing the sexual union into spiritual connection with G-d. “Circumcision” is also an allegorical phrase with the intended meaning of being “Torah Observant.” This allegorical thought shows that the Torah is the “*modus operandi*” for controlling the Yetser HaRa, the “evil inclination.” Therefore, we should not look at “circumcision” as a negative statement. Furthermore, we should now understand that circumcision is indicative of full conversion to Judaism, not some convoluted version of Christianity. Consequently, the notion of “uncircumcision” means those who do not have a covenantal relationship with G-d and secondly, those who have not turned to the Torah as a means of controlling the “flesh”/Yetser HaRa. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. It is noteworthy to mention that the “alien” mind is in direct opposition against the Torah, as a way of life. And this is the mission of two-thirds of the shedim / fallen angels. Therefore, the darkened mind refers to those Gentiles who are either simply ignorant of the Torah as a way of life. And those who are vehemently opposed to it because of their “**unyielding obstinacy of mind.**”

    To be “alien” is to be morally bereft of all sensible mores. The depth of this statement is only understood from a Hebraic mindset. To be **כָּרַת** “cut off” means completely estranged from G-d’s presence and protection. Those who were “cut off” while traveling through the wilderness were subjected to every evil influence, without G-d’s protection or chesed/grace. Therefore, this is a crime of excommunication by Divine Decree. cf. Eph. 4:18 below [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. cf. Strong’s G4174 #1 (TDNT 6:516) [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. ξένοι from ξένος means a stranger who is permitted within the country but has not rights except what he might have agreed to as a treaty, per se. Here we see that idea of the Ger HaSha’ar (Stranger of the Gate). It would appear that the School of Shammai allowed the Gentiles to become “strangers of the gate” but would not allow the Gentile full conversion. Yeshua, a representative from the House of Hillel rescinded these dogmas allowing the Gentile the ability to become a full proselyte. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. Many Christian authors stumble over this phrase trying to understand the plurality of “covenants.” They fail to realize that the “covenants” are plural because the Covenant is ever changing. While they have been established on firm foundations, we must realize that G-d has repeatedly updated the covenant on many occasions. However, the Gentile was never able to join in the benefits of the covenant/s because he was estranged from G-d “ἄθεοι” and subordinate to the worldly system. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. The middle wall is not the Soreg of the Temple. This “wall of partition” is the dogma of Shammai separating the Jewish people from the Gentile as noted above. The “Soreg” is a wall in the Temple courtyard, which marked the boundaries of the Court of the Gentiles. This is NOT Hakham Shaul’s reference. This breaking down of the “middle wall” is a reference to the Messianic title “Peretz.” The word ***paretz***, wherever used, signifies the breaching of a fence and passing through, just as: *I will break down* ***('p'rotz')*** *the fence ‎thereof*; (Isaiah 5:5) *Why have You broken down* ***('paratzta')*** *her fences*? (Psalms 80:13) And in the language of the Rabbis: ***“Pirtzah*** (a breach in a wall) calls ‎forth to the thief.” (Sotah 26a) Indeed, the Sacred Language (Hebrew is called “the sacred” language.) uses the term ***p'rotz*** when referring to anything that oversteps its boundary: *And you with break-forth ('upharatzta') to the west, and to the east;* *And the man broke forth* ***(‘vayiphrotz')*** *exceedingly*. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. These δόγμασιν are a reference to the eighteen edicts (middot) of Shammai which separated the Jewish people from the Gentiles by deeming the Gentile “unclean.” cf. Acts 10:28. See Falk, H. (2003). *Jesus the Pharisee, A new Look at the Jewishness of Jesus.* Wipf and Stock Publishers. [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. The “New Body” is a conjoining of Jews and Gentiles who have converted to Judaism under the authority of Yeshua HaMashiach. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)