

Beshalach

Exodus 13:17 – 17:16

Judges 4:4 – 5:31

John 6:25 – 35 & 19:31 – 37, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13,

2 Corinthians 8:1 – 15, Rev. 15:1-4

Complete Jewish Bible

Exodus 13:17 – 13:22

17 After Pharaoh had let the people go, God did not guide them to the highway that goes through the land of the P'lishtim, because it was close by - God thought that the people, upon seeing war, might change their minds and return to Egypt. **18** Rather, God led the people by a roundabout route, through the desert by the Sea of Suf. The people of Isra'el went up from the land of Egypt fully armed. **19** Moshe took the bones of Yosef with him, for Yosef had made the people of Isra'el swear an oath when he said, "God will certainly remember you; and you are to carry my bones up with you, away from here." **20** They traveled from Sukkot and set up camp in Etam, at the edge of the desert. **21** ADONAI went ahead of them in a column of cloud during the daytime to lead them on their way, and at night in a column of fire to give them light; thus they could travel both by day and by night. **22** Neither the column of cloud by day nor the column of fire at night went away from in front of the people.

Exodus 14

1 ADONAI said to Moshe, **2** "Tell the people of Isra'el to turn around and set up camp in front of Pi-Hachiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Ba'al-Tz'fon; camp opposite it, by the sea. **3** Then Pharaoh will say that the people of Isra'el are wandering aimlessly in the countryside, the desert has closed in on them. **4** I will make Pharaoh so hardhearted that he will pursue them; thus I will win glory for myself at the expense of Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will realize at last that I am ADONAI." The people did as ordered. **5** When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people. They said, "What have we done, letting Isra'el stop being our slaves?" **6** So he prepared his chariots and took his people with him - **7** he took 600 first-quality chariots, as well as all the other chariots in Egypt, along with their commanders. **8** ADONAI made Pharaoh hardhearted, and he pursued the people of Isra'el, as they left boldly. **9** The Egyptians went after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, with his cavalry and army, and overtook them as they were encamped by the sea, by Pi-Hachiroth, in front of Ba'al-Tz'fon. **10** As Pharaoh approached, the people of Isra'el looked up and saw the Egyptians right there, coming after them. In great fear the people of Isra'el cried out to ADONAI **11** and said to Moshe, "Was it because there weren't enough graves in Egypt that you brought us out to die in the desert? Why have you done this to us, bringing us out of Egypt? **12** Didn't we tell you in Egypt to let us alone, we'll just go on being slaves for the Egyptians? It would be better for us to be the Egyptians' slaves than to die in the desert!" **13** Moshe answered the people, "Stop being so fearful! Remain steady, and you will see how ADONAI is going to save you. He will do it today - today you have seen the Egyptians, but you will never see them again! **14** ADONAI will do battle for you. Just calm yourselves down!" **15** ADONAI asked Moshe, "Why are you crying to me? Tell the people of Isra'el to go forward! **16** Lift your staff, reach out with your hand over the sea, and divide it in two. The people of Isra'el will advance into the sea on dry ground. **17** As for me, I will make the Egyptians hardhearted; and they will march in after them; thus I will win glory for myself at the expense of Pharaoh and all his army, chariots and cavalry. **18** Then the Egyptians will realize that I am ADONAI, when I have won myself glory at the expense of Pharaoh, his chariots and his cavalry." **19** Next,

the angel of God, who was going ahead of the camp of Isra'el, moved away and went behind them; and the column of cloud moved away from in front of them and stood behind them. **20** It stationed itself between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Isra'el - there was cloud and darkness here, but light by night there; so that the one did not come near the other all night long. **21** Moshe reached his hand out over the sea, and ADONAI caused the sea to go back before a strong east wind all night. He made the sea become dry land, and its water was divided in two. **22** Then the people of Isra'el went into the sea on the dry ground, with the water walled up for them on their right and on their left. **23** The Egyptians continued their pursuit, going after them into the sea - all Pharaoh's horses, chariots and cavalry. **24** Just before dawn, ADONAI looked out on the Egyptian army through the column of fire and cloud and threw them into a panic. **25** He caused the wheels of their chariots to break off, so that they could move only with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "ADONAI is fighting for Isra'el against the Egyptians! Let's get away from them!" **26** ADONAI said to Moshe, "Reach your hand out over the sea, and the water will return and cover the Egyptians with their chariots and cavalry." **27** Moshe reached his hand out over the sea, and by dawn the sea had returned to its former depth. The Egyptians tried to flee, but ADONAI swept them into the sea. **28** The water came back and covered all the chariots and cavalry of Pharaoh's army who had followed them into the sea -not even one of them was left. **29** But the people of Isra'el walked on dry ground in the sea, with the water walled up for them on their right and on their left. **30** On that day, ADONAI saved Isra'el from the Egyptians; Isra'el saw the Egyptians dead on the shore. **31** When Isra'el saw the mighty deed that ADONAI had performed against the Egyptians, the people feared ADONAI, and they believed in ADONAI and in his servant Moshe.

Exodus 15

1 Then Moshe and the people of Isra'el sang this song to ADONAI: "I will sing to ADONAI, for he is highly exalted: the horse and its rider he threw in the sea. **2** Yah is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. This is my God: I will glorify him; my father's God: I will exalt him. **3** ADONAI is a warrior; ADONAI is his name. **4** Pharaoh's chariots and his army he hurled into the sea. His elite commanders were drowned in the Sea of Suf. **5** The deep waters covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone. **6** Your right hand, ADONAI, is sublimely powerful; your right hand, ADONAI, shatters the foe. **7** By your great majesty you bring down your enemies; you send out your wrath to consume them like stubble. **8** With a blast from your nostrils the waters piled up -the waters stood up like a wall, the depths of the sea became firm ground. **9** The enemy said, 'I will pursue and overtake, divide the spoil and gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword; my hand will destroy them.' **10** You blew with your wind, the sea covered them, they sank like lead in the mighty waters. **11** Who is like you, ADONAI, among the mighty? Who is like you, sublime in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders? **12** You reached out with your right hand: the earth swallowed them. **13** In your love, you led the people you redeemed; in your strength, you guided them to your holy abode. **14** The peoples have heard, and they tremble; anguish takes hold of those living in P'leshet; **15** then the chiefs of Edom are dismayed; trepidation seizes the heads of Mo'av; all those living in Kena'an are melted away. **16** Terror and dread fall on them; by the might of your arm they are still as stone until your people pass over, ADONAI, till the people you purchased pass over. **17** You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain which is your heritage, the place, ADONAI, that you made your abode, the sanctuary, Adonai, which your hands established. **18** ADONAI will reign forever and ever. **19** For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and with his cavalry into the sea, but ADONAI brought the sea waters back upon them, while the people of Isra'el walked on dry land in the midst of the sea!" **20** Also Miryam the prophet, sister of Aharon, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines, dancing, **21** as Miryam sang to them: "Sing to ADONAI, for he is highly exalted! The horse and its rider he threw in the sea!"

22 Moshe led Isra'el onward from the Sea of Suf. They went out into the Shur Desert; but after traveling three days in the desert, they had found no water. **23** They arrived at Marah but couldn't drink the water there, because it was bitter. This is why they called it Marah [bitterness]. **24** The people grumbled against Moshe and asked, "What are we to drink?" **25** Moshe cried to ADONAI; and ADONAI showed him a certain piece of wood, which, when he threw it into the water, made the water taste good. There ADONAI made laws and rules of life for them, and there he tested them. **26** He said, "If you will listen intently to the voice of ADONAI your God, do what he considers right, pay attention to his mitzvot and observe his laws, I will not afflict you with any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians; because I am ADONAI your healer." **27** They came to Eilim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and camped there by the water.

Exodus 16

1 They traveled on from Eilim, and the whole community of the people of Isra'el arrived at the Seen Desert, between Eilim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after leaving the land of Egypt. **2** There in the desert the whole community of the people of Isra'el grumbled against Moshe and Aharon. **3** The people of Isra'el said to them, "We wish ADONAI had used his own hand to kill us off in Egypt! There we used to sit around the pots with the meat boiling, and we had as much food as we wanted. But you have taken us out into this desert to let this whole assembly starve to death!" **4** ADONAI said to Moshe, "Here, I will cause bread to rain down from heaven for you. The people are to go out and gather a day's ration every day. By this I will test whether they will observe my Torah or not. **5** On the sixth day, when they prepare what they have brought in, it will turn out to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." **6** Moshe and Aharon said to all the people of Isra'el, "This evening, you will realize that it has been ADONAI who brought you out of Egypt; **7** and in the morning, you will see ADONAI's glory. For he has listened to your grumbings against ADONAI - what are we that you should grumble against us?" **8** Moshe added, "What I have said will happen when ADONAI gives you meat to eat this evening and your fill of bread tomorrow morning. ADONAI has listened to your complaints and grumbings against him - what are we? Your grumbings are not against us but against ADONAI." **9** Moshe said to Aharon, "Say to the whole community of Isra'el, 'Come close, into the presence of ADONAI, for he has heard your grumbings.'" **10** As Aharon spoke to the whole community of the people of Isra'el, they looked toward the desert; and there before them the glory of ADONAI appeared in the cloud; **11** and ADONAI said to Moshe, **12** "I have heard the grumbings of the people of Isra'el. Say to them: 'At dusk you will be eating meat, and in the morning you will have your fill of bread. Then you will realize that I am ADONAI your God.'" **13** That evening, quails came up and covered the camp; while in the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp. **14** When the dew had evaporated, there on the surface of the desert was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. **15** When the people of Isra'el saw it, they asked each other, "Man hu? [What is it?]" because they didn't know what it was. Moshe answered them, "It is the bread which ADONAI has given you to eat. **16** Here is what ADONAI has ordered: each man is to gather according to his appetite - each is to take an 'omer [two quarts] per person for everyone in his tent." **17** The people of Isra'el did this. Some gathered more, some less; **18** but when they put it in an 'omer-measure, whoever had gathered much had no excess; and whoever had gathered little had no shortage; nevertheless each person had gathered according to his appetite. **19** Moshe told them, "No one is to leave any of it till morning." **20** But they didn't pay attention to Moshe, and some kept the leftovers until morning. It bred worms and rotted, which made Moshe angry at them. **21** So they gathered it morning after morning, each person according to his appetite; but as the sun grew hot, it melted. **22** On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two 'omers per person; and all the community leaders came and reported to Moshe. **23** He told them, "This is what ADONAI has said: 'Tomorrow is a holy Shabbat for ADONAI. Bake what you want to bake; boil what you want to boil; and whatever is left over, set aside and

keep for the morning." **24** They set it aside till morning, as Moshe had ordered; and it didn't rot or have worms. **25** Moshe said, "Today, eat that; because today is a Shabbat for ADONAI - today you won't find it in the field. **26** Gather it six days, but the seventh day is the Shabbat - on that day there won't be any." **27** However, on the seventh day, some of the people went out to gather and found none. **28** ADONAI said to Moshe, "How long will you refuse to observe my mitzvot and teachings? **29** Look, ADONAI has given you the Shabbat. This is why he is providing bread for two days on the sixth day. Each of you, stay where you are; no one is to leave his place on the seventh day." **30** So the people rested on the seventh day. **31** The people called the food man. It was like coriander seed, white; and it tasted like honey cakes. **32** Moshe said, "Here is what ADONAI has ordered: 'Let two quarts of man be kept through all your generations, so that they will be able to see the bread which I fed you in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt.'" **33** Moshe said to Aharon, "Take a jar, put in it two quarts of man, and set it aside before ADONAI to be kept through all your generations." **34** Just as ADONAI ordered Moshe, Aharon set it aside before the testimony to be kept. **35** The people of Isra'el ate man for forty years, until they came to an inhabited land. They ate man until they arrived at the borders of the land of Kena'an. **36** (An 'omer is one-tenth of an eifah [which is a bushel dry-measure].)

Exodus 17

1 The whole community of the people of Isra'el left the Seen Desert, traveling in stages, as ADONAI had ordered, and camped at Refidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** The people quarreled with Moshe, demanding, "Give us water to drink!" But Moshe replied, "Why pick a fight with me? Why are you testing ADONAI?" **3** However, the people were thirsty for water there and grumbled against Moshe, "For what did you bring us up from Egypt? To kill us, our children and our livestock with thirst?" **4** Moshe cried out to ADONAI, "What am I to do with these people? They're ready to stone me!" **5** ADONAI answered Moshe, "Go on ahead of the people, and bring with you the leaders of Isra'el. Take your staff in your hand, the one you used to strike the river; and go. **6** I will stand in front of you there on the rock in Horev. You are to strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so the people can drink." Moshe did this in the sight of the leaders of Isra'el. **7** The place was named Massah [testing] and M'rivah [quarreling] because of the quarreling of the people of Isra'el and because they tested ADONAI by asking, "Is ADONAI with us or not?" **8** Then 'Amalek came and fought with Isra'el at Refidim. **9** Moshe said to Y'hoshua, "Choose men for us, go out, and fight with 'Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with God's staff in my hand." **10** Y'hoshua did as Moshe had told him and fought with 'Amalek. Then Moshe, Aharon and Hur went up to the top of the hill. **11** When Moshe raised his hand, Isra'el prevailed; but when he let it down, 'Amalek prevailed. **12** However, Moshe's hands grew heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aharon and Hur held up his hands, the one on the one side and the other on the other; so that his hands stayed steady until sunset. **13** Thus Y'hoshua defeated 'Amalek, putting their people to the sword. **14** ADONAI said to Moshe, "Write this in a book to be remembered, and tell it to Y'hoshua: I will completely blot out any memory of 'Amalek from under heaven." **15** Moshe built an altar, called it ADONAINissi [ADONAI is my banner/miracle], **16** and said, "Because their hand was against the throne of Yah, ADONAI will fight 'Amalek generation after generation."

Judges 4:4 – 24

4 Now D'vorah, a woman and a prophet, the wife of Lapidot, was judging Isra'el at that time. **5** She used to sit under D'vorah's Palm between Ramah and Beit-El, in the hills of Efrayim; and the people of Isra'el would come to her for judgment. **6** She sent for Barak the son of Avino'am, from Kedesh in Naftali, and said to him: "ADONAI has given you this order: 'Go, march to Mount Tavor, and take with you 10,000 men from the people of Naftali and Z'vulun. **7** I will cause Sisra, the commander of Yavin's army, to encounter

you at the Kishon River with his chariots and troops; and I will hand him over to you." **8** Barak answered her: "If you go with me, I'll go; but if you won't go with me, I won't go." **9** She replied, "Yes, I will gladly go with you; but the way you are doing it will bring you no glory; because ADONAI will hand Sisra over to a woman." Then D'vorah set out and went with Barak to Kedesh. **10** Barak summoned Z'vulun and Naftali to come to Kedesh. Ten thousand men followed him, and D'vorah went up with him. **11** Now Hever the Keini had cut himself off from the rest of Kayin, the descendants of Hovav Moshe's father-in-law; he had pitched his tent near the oak at Tza'ananim, which is close to Kedesh. **12** Sisra was informed that Barak the son of Avino'am had gone up to Mount Tavor. **13** So Sisra rallied his chariots, all 900 iron chariots, and all the troops he had with him, from Haroshet-HaGoyim to the Kishon River. **14** D'vorah said to Barak: "Get going! This is the day when ADONAI will hand Sisra over to you! ADONAI has gone out ahead of you!" So Barak went down from Mount Tavor with 10,000 men following him; **15** and ADONAI threw Sisra, all his chariots and his entire army into a panic before Barak's sword; so that Sisra got down from his chariot and fled on foot. **16** But Barak pursued the chariots and the army all the way to Haroshet-HaGoyim. Sisra's entire army was put to the sword; not one man was left. **17** However, Sisra ran on foot to the tent of Ya'el the wife of Hever the Keini, because there was peace between Yavin the king of Hatzor and the family of Hever the Keini. **18** Ya'el went out to meet Sisra and said to him, "Come in, my lord; stay here with me; and don't be afraid." So he went into her tent, and she covered him with a blanket. **19** He said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink - I'm thirsty." She opened a goatskin of milk, gave him some to drink, and covered him up again. **20** He said to her, "Stand at the entrance to the tent; and if anyone asks you if somebody is here, say, 'No.'" **21** But when he was deeply asleep, Ya'el the wife of Hever took a tent peg and a hammer in her hand, crept in to him quietly and drove the tent peg into his temple, right through to the ground; so that he died without waking up. **22** So here is Barak pursuing Sisra, and Ya'el steps out to meet him and says, "Come, I will show you the man you are looking for." He goes into her tent; and there is Sisra, lying dead with the tent peg through his temple. **23** Thus God on that day defeated Yavin the king of Kena'an in the presence of the people of Isra'el. **24** The hand of the people of Isra'el came down more and more heavily against Yavin the king of Kena'an, until they had completely destroyed Yavin the king of Kena'an.

Judges 5

1 On that day D'vorah and Barak the son of Avino'am sang this song: **2** "When leaders in Isra'el dedicate themselves, and the people volunteer, you should all bless ADONAI. **3** Hear, kings; listen, princes; I will sing to ADONAI! I will sing praise to ADONAI the God of Isra'el. **4** "ADONAI, when you went out from Se'ir, when you marched out from the field of Edom; the earth quaked, and the sky shook; yes, the clouds poured down torrents. **5** The mountains melted at the presence of ADONAI, at Sinai, before ADONAI the God of Isra'el. **6** "In the days of Shamgar the son of 'Anat, in the days of Ya'el, the main roads were deserted; travelers walked the byways. **7** The rulers ceased in Isra'el, they ceased, until you arose, D'vorah, arose a mother in Isra'el. **8** "They chose new gods when war was at the gates. Was there a shield or spear to be seen among Isra'el's forty thousand men? **9** My heart goes out to Isra'el's leaders and to those among the people who volunteer. All of you, bless ADONAI. **10** "You who ride white donkeys, sitting on soft saddle-blankets, and you walking on the road, talk about it! **11** Louder than the sound of archers at the watering-holes will they sound as they retell the righteous acts of ADONAI, the righteous acts of his rulers in Isra'el. "Then ADONAI's people marched down to the gates. **12** "Awake, awake, D'vorah! Awake, awake, break into song! Arise, Barak! Lead away your captives, son of Avino'am! **13** "Then a remnant of the nobles marched down; the people of ADONAI marched down to me like warriors. **14** From Efrayim came those rooted in 'Amalek. Behind you, Binyamin is with your peoples. From Makhir the commanders marched down, and from Z'vulun those holding the musterer's staff. **15** The princes of Yissakhar were with D'vorah, Yissakhar, along with Barak; into the valley they rushed forth behind him. Among the divisions of Re'uven they made great resolutions in their hearts. **16** But why did

you stay at the pens for the sheep, and listen to the shepherd's flute playing for the flocks? Concerning the divisions of Re'uven there were great searchings of heart. **17** Gil'ad lives beyond the Yarden. Dan - why does he stay by the ships? Asher stayed by the shore of the sea, remaining near its bays. **18** The people of Z'vulun risked their lives, Naftali too, on the open heights. **19** "Kings came; they fought. Yes, the kings of Kena'an fought at Ta'anakh, by the waters of Megiddo; but they took no spoil of silver. **20** They fought from heaven, the stars in their courses; yes, they fought against Sisra. **21** The Kishon River swept them away, that ancient river, the Kishon River. O my soul, march on with strength! **22** Then the horses' hoofs pounded the ground, their mighty steeds galloping at full speed. **23** "'Curse Meroz!' said the angel of ADONAI, 'Curse the people living there with a bitter punishment for not coming to help ADONAI, to help ADONAI against the mighty warriors.' **24** "Ya'el will be blessed more than all women. The wife of Hever the Keini will be blessed more than any woman in the tent. **25** He asked for water, and she gave him milk; In an elegant bowl she brought him curds. **26** Then she took a tent peg in her left hand and a workman's hammer in her right; with the hammer she struck Sisra, pierced his skull, yes, she shattered and crushed his temple. **27** He sank down at her feet, he fell and lay there; he sank at her feet, he fell - where he sank down, there he fell dead. **28** "Sisra's mother looks out the window; peering out through the lattice she wonders, 'Why is his chariot so long in coming? Why are his horses so slow to return?' **29** The wisest of her ladies answer her, and she repeats it to herself, **30** 'Of course! They're collecting and dividing the spoil a girl, two girls for every warrior, for Sisra booty of dyed clothing, a plunder of colorfully embroidered garments, two embroidered scarves for every soldier's neck.' **31** "May all your enemies perish like this, ADONAI; but may those who love him be like the sun going forth in its glory!" Then the land had rest for forty years.

John 6:25 – 35

25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" **26** Yeshua answered, "Yes, indeed! I tell you, you're not looking for me because you saw miraculous signs, but because you ate the bread and had all you wanted! **27** Don't work for the food which passes away but for the food that stays on into eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For this is the one on whom God the Father has put his seal." **28** So they said to him, "What should we do in order to perform the works of God?" **29** Yeshua answered, "Here's what the work of God is: to trust in the one he sent!" **30** They said to him, "Nu, what miracle will you do for us, so that we may see it and trust you? What work can you perform? **31** Our fathers ate man in the desert -- as it says in the Tanakh, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' **32** Yeshua said to them, "Yes, indeed! I tell you it wasn't Moshe who gave you the bread from heaven. But my Father is giving you the genuine bread from heaven; **33** for God's bread is the one who comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world." **34** They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread from now on." **35** Yeshua answered, "I am the bread which is life! Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever trusts in me will never be thirsty.

John 19:31 – 37

31 It was Preparation Day, and the Judeans did not want the bodies to remain on the stake on Shabbat, since it was an especially important Shabbat. So they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies removed. **32** The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been put on a stake beside Yeshua, then the legs of the other one; **33** but when they got to Yeshua and saw that he was already dead, they didn't break his legs. **34** However, one of the soldiers stabbed his side with a spear, and at once blood and water flowed out. **35** The man who saw it has testified about it, and his testimony is true. And he knows that he tells the truth, so you too can trust. **36** For these things happened in order

to fulfill this passage of the Tanakh: "Not one of his bones will be broken." **37** And again, another passage says, "They will look at him whom they have pierced."

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

For, brothers, I don't want you to miss the significance of what happened to our fathers. All of them were guided by the pillar of cloud, and they all passed through the sea, **2** and in connection with the cloud and with the sea they all immersed themselves into Moshe, **3** also they all ate the same food from the Spirit, **4** and they all drank the same drink from the Spirit - for they drank from a Spirit-sent Rock which followed them, and that Rock was the Messiah. **5** Yet with the majority of them God was not pleased, so their bodies were strewn across the desert. **6** Now these things took place as prefigurative historical events, warning us not to set our hearts on evil things as they did. **7** Don't be idolaters, as some of them were - as the Tanakh puts it, "The people sat down to eat and drink, then got up to indulge in revelry." **8** And let us not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, with the consequence that 23,000 died in a single day. **9** And let us not put the Messiah to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by snakes. **10** And don't grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the Destroying Angel. **11** These things happened to them as prefigurative historical events, and they were written down as a warning to us who are living in the acharit-hayamim. **12** Therefore, let anyone who thinks he is standing up be careful not to fall! **13** No temptation has seized you beyond what people normally experience, and God can be trusted not to allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. On the contrary, along with the temptation he will also provide the way out, so that you will be able to endure.

2 Corinthians 8:1 – 15

1 Now, brothers, we must tell you about the grace God has given the congregations in Macedonia. **2** Despite severe trials, and even though they are desperately poor, their joy has overflowed in a wealth of generosity. **3** I tell you they have not merely given according to their means, but of their own free will they have given beyond their means. **4** They begged and pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service for God's people. **5** Also, they didn't do this in the way we had expected, but first they gave themselves to the Lord, which means, by God's will, to us. **6** All this has led us to urge Titus to bring this same gracious gift to completion among you, since he has already made a beginning of it. **7** Just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in diligence of every kind, and in your love for us - see that you excel in this gift too. **8** I am not issuing an order; rather, I am testing the genuineness of your love against the diligence of others. **9** For you know how generous our Lord Yeshua the Messiah was - for your sakes he impoverished himself, even though he was rich, so that he might make you rich by means of his poverty. **10** As I say, in regard to this matter I am only giving an opinion. A year ago you were not only the first to take action but the first to want to do so. Now it would be to your advantage **11** to finish what you started, so that your eagerness in wanting to commence the project may be matched by your eagerness to complete it, as you contribute from what you have. **12** For if the eagerness to give is there, the acceptability of the gift will be measured by what you have, not by what you don't have. **13** It is not that relief for others should cause trouble for you, but that there should be a kind of reciprocity: **14** at present your abundance can help those in need; so that when you are in need, their abundance can help you - thus there is reciprocity. **15** It is as the Tanakh says, "He who gathered much had nothing extra, and he who gathered little had nothing lacking."

Revelation 15:1-4

1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, a great and wonderful one - seven angels with the seven plagues that are the final ones; because with them, God's fury is finished. **2** I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire. Those defeating the beast, its image and the number of its name were standing by the sea of glass, holding harps which God had given them. **3** They were singing the song of Moshe, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: "Great and wonderful are the things you have done, ADONAI, God of heaven's armies! Just and true are your ways, king of the nations! **4** ADONAI, who will not fear and glorify your name? because you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous deeds have been revealed."