

Mattot - Massei
“Tribes” & “Stages”

Torah: **Numbers 30:2 – 36:13**
Haftarah: **Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:28 & 3:4**
Brit Chadasha: **Matthew 5:33-37, James 4:1-12**

All verses are from the Tree of Life Bible

TORAH:

Numbers 30:2

2 Whenever a man makes a vow to *Adonai* or swears an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he is not to violate his word but do everything coming out of his mouth.

3 “Suppose a woman in her youth vows to *Adonai* or obligates herself by a pledge in her father’s house.

4 If her father should hear her vow or her pledge with which she obligated herself and her father says nothing to her, all her vows and every pledge by which she has obligated herself will stand.

5 But if her father should forbid it on the day of his hearing it, none of her vows or pledges by which she has obligated herself will stand. *Adonai* will forgive her because her father has forbidden her.

6 “Suppose she should marry, after her vow or a rash promise of her lips by which she obligated herself.

7 Now if her husband hears about it but says nothing to her on the day he hears about it, her vows will stand and her pledges by which she has obligated herself will stand.

8 But if her husband should hear about it and on the day he hears it he forbids it, he thereby nullifies her vow and her rash promise by which her lips have obligated her, and *Adonai* will forgive her.

9 “Any vow or obligation of a widow or a divorced woman will be binding on her.

10 If in her husband’s house she vowed or obligated herself by pledge under oath,

11 and her husband should hear it and say nothing to her, not forbidding her, all her vows and every pledge by which she has obligated herself will stand.

12 But if her husband should nullify them on the day when he hears of them, nothing from her lips, whether vow or pledge, will stand. Her husband has nullified them and *Adonai* will forgive her.

13 Her husband may ratify or veto any vow or sworn oath to deny herself.

14 “But if her husband says nothing to her from day to day, then he is confirming all her vows and all her oaths that are on her. He confirms them by saying nothing to her on the day of his hearing about it.

15 But if he nullifies them after hearing about it, he will bear her guilt.”

16 These are the statutes that *Adonai* gave to Moses relevant to relationships between a man and his wife, as well as between a father and his young daughter still living in his house.

Numbers 31

Vengeance on Midian and Balaam

1 *Adonai* spoke to Moses saying,

2 “Take vengeance on the Midianites for *Bnei-Yisrael*. Afterward you will be gathered to your people.”

3 So Moses spoke to the people saying, “Mobilize some of your men for battle. They will go out against Midian to carry out *Adonai*’s vengeance on Midian.

4 Send into the battle 1,000 men from each of the tribes of Israel.”

5 So from the thousands of Israel 1,000 from each tribe were assigned, 12,000 in all.

6 Moses sent them into battle, 1,000 from each tribe, and with them Phinehas son of Eleazar the *kohen*, who took with him articles from the Sanctuary and trumpets for signaling.

7 They fought Midian just as *Adonai* had commanded Moses, and killed every male.

8 Among the slain they also killed the Midianite kings: Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba, the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword.

9 *Bnei-Yisrael* also captured women and sons of Midian, along with all their herds and flocks, and plundered all their goods.

10 They burned with fire all the Midianite cities, settlements, as well as all their camps.

11 They seized all the plunder and all the spoil, both people and animals.

12 They brought the captives, plunder and spoils to Moses, Eleazar the *kohen* and to the assembly of *Bnei-Yisrael* at their camp on the plains of Moab, by the Jordan at Jericho.

13 Moses, Eleazar the *kohen*, and all the princes of the community went to meet them outside the camp.

14 But Moses was angry with the officers of the army - the commanders of thousands, the commanders of hundreds, those returning from the campaign of the war.

15 Moses said to them, “You let all the women live?

16 Why, they are the ones—because of Balaam’s advice—who caused *Bnei-Yisrael* to be unfaithful to *Adonai* in the matter of Peor, so that the plague was on the community of *Adonai*!

17 So now, kill all the boys and kill every woman who has been intimate with a man.

18 But save for yourselves every girl who has not been intimate with a man.

19 “Any of you who has killed anyone or touched the body of anyone who has been killed must stay outside the camp for seven days. You must purify yourselves, on the third and seventh days—you and your captives.

20 Also purify every item of clothing as well as every item made of leather or wood.”

21 Eleazar said to the men of the army who had gone to war, “This is the regulation of the *Torah* *Adonai* gave to Moses:

22 The gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, lead,

23 and anything able to pass through fire is to be put through the fire and will then be clean. It is also to be purified with the water of cleansing. Anything that cannot stand the fire is to be put through the water.

24 You are to wash your clothes also on the seventh day. You will then be clean and may then come into the camp.”

25 *Adonai* said to Moses saying,

26 “Count the total spoil from the captive people and animals- you, Eleazar the *kohen* and the princes of the fathers of the community.

27 You are to divide the spoil between those fighting in the war, taking part in the battle, and the rest of the community.

28 You are also to set apart from the men of war going into battle tribute to *Adonai*, one item from every 500, whether persons, cattle, donkeys or flock.

29 From their half share, take and give it to Eleazar the *kohen* as *Adonai*'s part.

30 From the half of *Bnei-Yisrael*, you are to take one in 50, whether persons, cattle, donkeys, flock, or any other animals, and give them to the Levites, those charged with the care of *Adonai*'s Tabernacle.”

31 So Moses and Eleazar the *kohen* did just as *Adonai* commanded Moses.

32 The remaining plunder taken by the people of the army was 675,000 sheep,

33 72,000 cattle,

34 61,000 donkeys,

35 and from the human spoil were 32,000 women who had never been intimate with a man.

36 The half share of those going into battle was 337,500 sheep,

37 of which *Adonai's* tribute was 675,

38 36,000 cattle, of which *Adonai's* tribute was 72,

39 30,500 donkeys, of which *Adonai's* tribute was 61,

40 16,000 persons, of which the tribute to *Adonai* was 32.

41 Moses gave the tribute, *Adonai's* part, to Eleazar the *kohen* just as *Adonai* had commanded Moses.

42 From the half belonging to *Bnei-Yisrael*, which Moses had set apart from that of the fighting men,

43 half belonging to the community was: 337,500 of the sheep,

44 36,000 cattle,

45 30,500 donkeys,

4 616,000 persons.

47 From this half, Moses took one out of every 50 persons and animals, as *Adonai* had commanded him, and gave them to the Levites, those charged with the care of the Tabernacle of *Adonai*, just as *Adonai* had commanded Moses.

48 Then the officers over the units of the army, the commanders over thousands and hundreds, came to Moses.

49 They said to him, “Your servants have counted the heads of the men of war under our command, and not one is missing.

50 So we have brought as an offering to *Adonai* the gold items each of us acquired—armlets, bracelets, signet rings, earrings and necklaces to atone for ourselves before *Adonai*.”

51 Moses and Eleazar the *kohen* received the gold from them, all the crafted items.

52 All of the gold presented as a gift to *Adonai* came to 16,750 shekels from the commanders of thousands and hundreds.

53 Each of the men of the army had taken plunder for himself.

54 Moses and Eleazar the *kohen* received the gold from the commanders of thousands and of hundreds and brought it into the Tent of Meeting as a memorial for *Bnei-Yisrael* before *Adonai*.

Numbers 32

Settling the East Side

1 The sons of Reuben and Gad had very large herds and flocks, and, they saw that the territory of Jazer and Gilead were ideal for livestock.

2 So the sons of Reuben and Gad came and said to Moses, Eleazar the *kohen*, and the princes of the community saying,

3 “Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo and Beon—

4 the territory *Adonai* conquered before the community of Israel—are suitable for livestock, and your servants have livestock.”

5 Then they said, “If we have found favor in your eyes, let this territory be given to your servants as a possession. Don’t make us cross the Jordan.”

6 Moses replied to the sons of Gad and Reuben, “Should your countrymen go to war while you dwell here?”

7 Why do you dishearten *Bnei-Yisrael* from going across to the land that *Adonai* has given to them?

8 Your fathers did this when I sent them from Kadesh Barnea to look over the land.

9 They went up to the Valley of Eshcol and viewed the land, but they discouraged the hearts of *Bnei-Yisrael* not to enter the land which *Adonai* had given them.

10 The anger of *Adonai* was aroused that day, and He swore an oath saying:

11 ‘The men who came out of Egypt, from 20 years old and upward, will not see the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, for they have not followed after Me with a whole heart—

12 except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they were wholehearted after *Adonai*.’

13 The anger of *Adonai* burned against Israel and He caused them to wander in the wilderness 40 years until all the generation doing that evil in *Adonai*’s sight was gone.

14 “Now look, here you stand in the place of your fathers as a brood of sinful men to add more to *Adonai*’s great wrath against Israel!

15 If you turn away from Him, He will repeat again leaving this people in the wilderness, you being the cause of this people’s destruction.”

16 Then they came up to him and said, “We will build sheepfolds for our livestock and cities for our children.

17 But we are prepared to arm ourselves and go ahead of *Bnei-Yisrael* until we have brought them to their place. Our children will live in the cities fortified against the inhabitants of the land.

18 We will not return to our homes until each one of *Bnei-Yisrael* has received his inheritance.

19 Yet we will not inherit with them on the side beyond the Jordan, since our inheritance has come on the east side of the Jordan.”

20 Moses said to them, “If you will do this—if you will arm yourselves for battle for *Adonai*,

21 and if all of you cross the Jordan until *Adonai* has driven His enemies from before Him

22 and the land is subdued before *Adonai*—then afterward you may return and be free before *Adonai* and Israel. Then this territory will be your possession before *Adonai*.

23 “But if you don’t do this, behold, you sin against *Adonai*! Be assured! Your sin will find you out!

24 Build for yourselves cities for your children and pens for your flocks. Then do what has come out of your mouth.”

25 The sons of Gad and Reuben said to Moses saying, “Your servants will do just as my lord is commanding.

26 Our children, our wives, our flocks, and all of our herds will remain here in the cities of Gilead.

27 But your servants, every one armed for battle, will cross over for the war before *Adonai*, just as my lord says.”

28 Moses then gave orders about them to Eleazar the *kohen*, Joshua son of Nun, and to the chiefs of the fathers of the tribes of *Bnei-Yisrael*.

29 Moses said to them, “If the sons of Gad and Reuben cross over the Jordan with you, everyone armed for battle before *Adonai*, when the land is subdued before you, then give them the territory of Gilead as a possession.

30 However, if they do not cross over fully armed, they are to possess the land of Canaan with you.”

31 The sons of Gad and Reuben answered saying, “What *Adonai* has said to your servants, so we will do.

32 We will cross fully armed before *Adonai* into Canaan, but our inheritance will be on this side of the Jordan.”

33 Moses then gave to them—the sons of Gad, Reuben, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, son of Joseph—the kingdom of Sihon, king of the Amorites, and the kingdom of Og, king of Bashan—the land with its cities and the territory around the cities.

34 The sons of Gad built up Dibon, Ataroth and Aroer,

35 as well as Atroh-shopan, Jazer and Jogbehah,

36 Beth-nimrah and Beth-haran as fortified cities, as well as sheep pens.

37 The sons of Reuben built Heshbon, Elealeh, Kiriathaim,

38 Nebo, Baal Meon, (cities whose names were changed) and Sibmah. They gave other names to the rebuilt cities.

39 The sons of Machir son of Manasseh went up to Gilead, captured it, and drove out the Amorites who were there.

40 So Moses gave Gilead to Machir son of Manasseh, and he lived there.

41 Jair, a son of Manasseh, went and captured their settlements and named them Jair’s Villages.

42 Nobah went and conquered Kenath and its settlements and named them Nobah after his own name.

Numbers 33

Israel’s Journeys Reviewed

1 These are the journeys of *Bnei-Yisrael* when they came out of Egypt by their divisions under the hand of Moses and Aaron.

2 Moses recorded the stages of their journeys at *Adonai’s* command. These then are their journeys by stages.

3 *Bnei-Yisrael* set out from Rameses on the fifteenth day of the first month, the first day after Passover. They went out with a high hand in the sight of all Egypt.

4 Now the Egyptians were burying those whom *Adonai* had struck down among them. *Adonai* had brought judgments on all their first-born and their gods.

5 *Bnei-Yisrael* left Rameses and encamped at Succoth.

6 They departed from Succoth and camped at Etham on the edge of the wilderness.

7 They left from Etham and turned back toward Pi-Hahiroth, east of Baal-Zephon, and camped before Migdol.

8 They left from before Pi-Hahiroth and passed through the sea into the wilderness. They traveled three days journey into the wilderness of Etham and camped at Marah.

9 They departed from Marah and went to Elim. There were twelve water springs and 70 palm trees in Elim, so they camped there.

10 They left Elim and camped by the Sea of Reeds.

11 They set out from the Sea of Reeds and camped in the wilderness of Sin.

12 They left from the wilderness of Sin and camped in Dophkah.

13 They then left Dophkah and camped at Alush.

14 They left from Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink.

15 They set out from Rephidim and encamped in the Sinai wilderness.

16 They departed from the Sinai wilderness and camped at Kibroth-hattaavah.

17 They left from Kibroth-hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth.

18 Departing Hazeroth, they camped at Rithmah.

- 19 Leaving Rithmah, they camped at Rimmon-perez.
- 20 They left from Rimmon-perez and camped at Libnah.
- 21 They departed Libnah and camped at Rissah.
- 22 They left Rissah and camped at Kehelah.
- 23 They left Kehelah and camped at Mount Shepher.
- 24 They departed Mount Shepher and camped at Haradah.
- 25 They departed from Haradah and camped at Makheloth.
- 26 They left Makheloth and camped in Tahath.
- 27 They left from Tahath and camped in Terah.
- 28 They left Terah and camped in Mithkah.
- 29 They departed Mithkah and camped at Hashmonah.
- 30 They left Hashmonah and camped at Moseroth.
- 31 They left Moseroth and camped at Bene-jaakan.
- 32 Departing Bene-jaakan, they camped at Hor-haggidgad.
- 33 Leaving Hor-haggidgad, they camped at Jotbah.
- 34 They left Jotbah and camped at Abronah.
- 35 They departed from Abronah and camped at Ezion-geber.
- 36 They left Ezion-geber and encamped at Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.
- 37 Leaving Kadesh, they camped at Mount Hor on the border of the land of Edom.

38 Aaron the *kohen* went up Mount Hor at *Adonai's* command and died there, in the fortieth year since the departure of *Bnei-Yisrael* from the land of Egypt, on the first day of the fifth month.

39 Aaron was 123 years old when he died on Mount Hor.

40 The Canaanite king of Arad, who was living in the Negev in the territory of Canaan, heard of the coming of *Bnei-Yisrael*.

41 They departed from Mount Hor and camped at Zalmonah.

42 They left Zalmonah and encamped at Punon.

43 Departing Punon, they camped at Oboth.

44 Leaving Oboth, they camped at Ije-abarim on the border of Moab.

45 They moved on from Ijim and camped at Dibon-gad.

46 They moved on from Dibon-gad and camped at Almon-diblathaim.

47 They departed from Almon-diblathaim and camped at the mountains of Abarim, before Nebo.

48 They moved on from the mountains of Abarim and camped in the plains of Moab, by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

49 They camped along the Jordan, from Beth-jeshimoth to Abel-shittim.

50 *Adonai* spoke to Moses along the Jordan in the plains of Moab across from Jericho saying,

51 "Speak to *Bnei-Yisrael* and say to them: When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

52 You must drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you. You must destroy all their idols and cast images, and demolish their high places.

53 You will take possession of the land, so you will settle in it, because I have given it to you to possess.

54. “You are to divide the land by lot according to your families. To the large, make their inheritance larger, and to the small, make their inheritance smaller. Whatever comes out of the lot will be theirs. You are to distribute the inheritance according to your ancestral tribes.

55 “But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, whoever you allow to remain will become to you barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will give you trouble in the land in which you will be living.

56T hen what I had intended to do to them, I will do to you.”

Numbers 34

Borders of Israel

1 *Adonai* spoke to Moses saying,

2 “Command *Bnei-Yisrael* and say to them: When you enter the land of Canaan, these are the boundaries of the land being allotted to you as an inheritance.

3 Your southern side will run from the wilderness of Zin along the border of Edom to the southern end of the Dead Sea on the east.

4 Your border will cross south of the Scorpion Pass and continue to Zin and south of Kadesh-barnea, then go on to Hazar-addar and on to Azmon.

5Then the border will turn from Azmon to the Wadi of Egypt and end at the sea.

6 “Your western boundary will be the coast of the Great Sea. This will be your western border.

7 “Your northern boundary will be by running a line from the Great Sea to Mount Hor,

8 then from Mount Hor to Levo-Hamath , then the boundary will go to Zedad.

9 The border will continue on to Ziphron, ending at Hazar-Enan. This will be your northern border.

10 “For your eastern border, run a line from Hazar-Enan to Shepham.

11 From Shepham, the boundary will descend to Riblah on the east side of Ain, continuing along the eastern slopes of *Kinneret*.

12 From there the border will go down along the Jordan, ending at the Dead Sea. This will be your territory with its surrounding borders.”

13 Moses commanded *Bnei-Yisrael*, saying, “This is the land which *Adonai* has commanded that you are to assign by lot to the nine and a half tribes.

14 For the tribe of the sons of Reuben by their ancestral houses, the tribe of the sons of Gad by their ancestral houses, and the half-tribe of Manasseh have already received their inheritance.

15 These two and a half tribes have received their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan at Jericho, toward the sunrise.”

16 *Adonai* spoke to Moses saying,

17 “These are the names of the men who will allot the land to you: Eleazar the *kohen* and Joshua son of Nun.

18 Also you are to select one prince from each tribe to allot the land.

19 These are their names: from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh.

20 From the tribe of the sons of Simeon, Shemuel son of Ammihud.

21 From the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad son of Chislon.

22 From the tribe of the sons of Dan, the prince is Bukki son of Jogli.

23 From the sons of Joseph, from the tribe of the sons of Manasseh, the prince is to be Hanniel son of Ephod.

24 The prince from the tribe of the sons of Ephraim is to be Kemuel son of Shiphtan.

25 “The prince from the tribe of the sons of Zebulun is Elizaphan son of Parnach.

26 The prince from the tribe of the sons of Issachar is Paltiel son of Azzan.

27 The prince from the tribe of the sons of Asher is Ahihud son of Shelomi.

28 The prince from the tribe of the sons of Naphtali is Pedahel son of Ammihud.”

29 These were those *Adonai* commanded to apportion to *Bnei-Yisrael* the land of Canaan.

Numbers 35

Cities for the Levites

1 *Adonai* spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho saying,

2 “Command *Bnei-Yisrael* to give to the Levites from the inheritance of their possessions cities in which to live. They are also to give the Levites pasturelands around the cities.

3 Thus they will have cities to live in and pastures for their cattle, flocks and all their livestock.

4 The pastures you give the Levites will extend out from the walls around the cities for 1,000 cubits.

5 You are to measure outside the cities 2,000 cubits on the east side, 2,000 cubits on the south side, on the west side 2,000 cubits, and on the north side 2,000 cubits. These are to be pasturelands for the cities.

6 “Six of the cities you give the Levites are to be cities of refuge, to which anyone who kills anyone may flee. Besides these, you are to give the Levites 42 more cities.

7 In all, you are to give the Levites 48 cities with their pastures.

8 The cities that you are to give to the Levites from the possession of *Bnei-Yisrael* should be proportionate to the inheritance of each tribe—give many from the one who has many and few from the one who has few.”

9 *Adonai* spoke to Moses saying,

10 “Speak to *Bnei-Yisrael* saying: When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

11 You are to select cities which will be cities of refuge, to which one might flee if he has killed someone by accident.

12 They are to be cities for refuge from the avenger, so the manslayer may not die before standing trial before the assembly.

13 The six cities you designate are to be your cities of refuge.

14 Designate three cities on this side of the Jordan and three in the land of Canaan as cities of refuge.

15 “These six cities of refuge are to be for *Bnei-Yisrael* as well as for the outsider and the visitor in their midst, for anyone killing a person by accident.

16 Now if the manslayer strikes someone with an iron object so that he dies, he is a murderer and the murderer must die.

17 If anyone has a stone in his hand that could be deadly and strikes anyone with it so that he dies, he is a murderer and the murderer must die.

18 Or if someone has a wooden object that could kill and strikes anyone so that he dies, he is a murderer and the murderer must be put to death.

19 The blood avenger himself may put the murderer to death. When he finds him, he is to kill him.

20 “If anyone pushes someone maliciously, or throws anything at him with deadly intent,

21 or with hostility hits him with his fist so that he dies, the one hitting him is a murderer. The blood avenger may put the murderer to death when he finds him.

22 But if he pushes him suddenly or throws an object at him with no intent,

23 or without seeing him should drop a stone on him resulting in his death, but he was not his enemy and intended him no harm,

24 the assembly must judge between the manslayer and the avenger of blood according to these regulations.

25 The assembly must protect the manslayer from the avenger of blood. The assembly should send him back to the city of refuge to which he had fled and he is to remain there until the death of the *kohen gadol* who was anointed with the holy oil.

26 “But if the manslayer should go outside the city limit of his city of refuge to which he had fled,

27 and should the blood avenger find him outside the city limits of the refuge city, the blood avenger may put him to death without being guilty of his blood.

28 The manslayer must stay within the limits of his city of refuge until the *kohen gadol* dies, and after the death of the *kohen gadol*, the manslayer may return to his property.

29 “These are to be statutes of justice for your generations in all your dwelling places.

30 Everyone killing anyone shall be put to death as a murderer only on the testimony of more than one witness. No one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

31 “You are not to accept ransom for the life of a murderer. He deserves to die and he is to die.

32 Do not receive a ransom for one who has fled to his city of refuge, allowing him to return to his land before the *kohen gadol*’s death.

33 You are not to pollute the land in which you are. Blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for land polluted by bloodshed except by the blood of the one who sheds it.

34 You are not to defile the land where you live, where I dwell, for I dwell among *Bnei-Yisrael*.”

Numbers 36

Further Ruling About Daughters' Inheritance

1 The heads of the ancestral family of the children of Gilead son of Machir son of Manasseh, from the sons of Joseph, came and spoke before Moses and before the princes of the chiefs of the fathers of *Bnei-Yisrael*.

2 They said, "My lord, *Adonai* commanded to give the land by lot as an inheritance to *Bnei-Yisrael*. My lord was also commanded by *Adonai* to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters.

3 "If they become wives of men from other tribes of Israel, their inheritance will be taken from our ancestral inheritance and added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry. So it will be deducted from the allotment of our inheritance.

4 When the Jubilee year comes, their inheritance will be added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry and deducted from the inheritance of our ancestral tribe."

5 Then Moses commanded *Bnei-Yisrael* at the mouth of *Adonai*, "What the tribe of the descendants of Joseph is saying is correct.

6 This is the word that *Adonai* commands for the daughters of Zelophehad saying: They may become wives to whomever they please, as long as they marry within the family of the tribe of their father.

7 So no inheritance may be passed from tribe to tribe among *Bnei-Yisrael*—each one of *Bnei-Yisrael* will each keep the inheritance of the tribe of his ancestors.

8 Every daughter receiving an inheritance in one of the tribes of *Bnei-Yisrael* should marry within the family of her father's tribe, so that *Bnei-Yisrael* will each possess the inheritance of his fathers.

9 No inheritance may pass from tribe to another tribe, for each tribe of *Bnei-Yisrael* is to keep its inheritance."

10 So Zelophehad's daughters did just as *Adonai* commanded Moses.

11 Zelophehad's daughters—Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah and Noah—married sons of their uncles.

12 They married within the families of the sons of Manasseh son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained within the tribe of their ancestral family.

13 These are the *mitzvot* and judgments that *Adonai* gave by Moses's hand to *Bnei-Yisrael*, on the plains of Moab at Jericho along the Jordan.

HAFTARAH

Jeremiah 1:1 – 2:28 & 3:4

The Call of Jeremiah

1 The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the *kohanim* who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin.

2 The word of *Adonai* came to him during the days of King Josiah of Judah, son of Amon, in the thirteenth year of his reign.

3 It continued during the days of King Jehoiakim of Judah, son of Josiah, until the end of the eleventh year of King Zedekiah of Judah, son of Josiah—until the exile from Jerusalem in the fifth month.

4 The word of *Adonai* came to me, saying:

5 “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I set you apart— I appointed you prophet to the nations.”

6 Then I said, “Alas, *Adonai Elohim!* Look, I don’t know how to speak! For I’m still a boy!”

7 But *Adonai* answered me, “Do not say ‘I’m only a boy!’ For to everyone I send you, you will go, and all I command you, you will speak.

8 Do not be afraid of them! For I am with you to deliver you.” It is a declaration of *Adonai*.

9 Then *Adonai* stretched out His hand and touched my mouth and *Adonai* said to me, “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

10 See, today I have appointed you over nations and over kingdoms: to uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

11 Moreover, the word of *Adonai* came to me, saying, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” I answered, “I see an almond branch.”

12 Then *Adonai* said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching over My word to perform it.”

13 The word of *Adonai* came to me a second time, saying, “What do you see?” I replied, “I see a boiling pot that is tilting away from the north.”

14 Then *Adonai* said to me: “From the north, disaster will be poured out on all the inhabitants of the land.

15 Behold! I am calling all the families of the kingdoms of the north.” It is a declaration of *Adonai*. “So they will come and each will set up his throne at the entry of the gates of Jerusalem, against all her surrounding walls and against all the cities of Judah.

16 I will pronounce My judgments on them for all their wickedness— they have forsaken Me, offering incense to other gods, worshipping the works of their hands.

17 Now, you, gird up your loins! Get up and tell them everything that I order you! Do not be terrified by them, or else I will terrify you before them.

18 Look, today I have set you up as a fortified city— an iron pillar and bronze walls— against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its princes against its *kohanim*, and against the people of the land.

19 Though they will fight against you, they will not win, for I am with you, to deliver you.” It is a declaration of *Adonai*.

Jeremiah 2:1-28

Judah Rebuked for Her Sins

1 Again the word of *Adonai* came to me, saying:

2 “Go, and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, thus says *Adonai*: I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, and the way you followed Me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.

3 Israel was *kadosh* to *Adonai*, the firstfruits of the harvest. All who devoured him were held guilty. Catastrophe overtook them.” It is a declaration of *Adonai*.

4 Hear the word of *Adonai*, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel.

5 Thus says *Adonai*: “What fault did your fathers find in Me that they strayed so far from Me? They walked after worthless things, becoming worthless themselves?

6 They did not ask ‘Where is *Adonai*, who brought us up from the land of Egypt and led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and rifts, through a land of drought and distress, through a land where no one travels, where no one lives?’

7 Yet I brought you into a fertile land, to eat of its fruit and goodness. When you came, you defiled My land. You made My heritage an abomination.

8 The *kohanim* did not ask, ‘Where is *Adonai*?’ The *Torah* experts did not know Me. The shepherds rebelled against Me. The prophets prophesied by Baal and went after unprofitable things.

9 Therefore I will plead with you again!” It is a declaration of *Adonai*. “I will contend with your children’s children.

10 Cross to the coasts of Kittim and see! Send to Kedar, and observe carefully. See if there has been anything like this.

11 Has a nation changed its gods— even though they are not gods? Yet My people have exchanged their glory for worthless things.

12 Be appalled at this, O heavens! Be utterly horrified and dumbfounded.” It is a declaration of *Adonai*.

13 “My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me —the spring of living water— and they dug their own cisterns— cracked cisterns that hold no water.

14 Is Israel a servant—a slave by birth? Then why has he become plunder?

15 Young lions have roared at him they have roared loudly. They made his land a waste— his cities are in ruins and uninhabited.

16 Even the sons of Noph and Tahpanhes have grazed on the crown of your head.

17 Have you not brought this on yourself, when He led you in the way?

18 But now, what is on the road to Egypt? Drinking the waters of the Nile? Or what is on the road to Assyria? Drinking the waters of the Euphrates?

19 Your own wickedness will rebuke you and your backslidings will chide you. Know then and see how bad and bitter it is for you to forsake *Adonai* your God. Nor is fear of Me in you.” It is a declaration of the Lord *Adonai-Tzva’ot*.

20 “Indeed, long ago I broke your yoke and tore off your bonds. You said, ‘I will not serve!’ Instead, on every high hill and under every green tree you sprawled out as a prostitute.

21 Yet I had planted you as a choice vine from completely faithful seed. How then did you become to Me a wandering wild vine?

22 Even though you wash with lye and use an abundance of soap, the stain of your iniquity is before Me.” It is a declaration of the Lord *Adonai*.

23 “How can you say, ‘I am not defiled— I have not gone after the Baalim? Look at your behavior in the Valley! Recognize what you have done. You are a swift young camel galloping aimlessly,

24 a wild donkey used to the wilderness— sniffing the wind in her passion— in her heat, who can restrain her? All males that pursue her will not tire themselves. At mating time they will find her.

25 Do not run while your feet are bare and your throat is thirsty. But you said ‘There is no hope! No! For I have loved foreign gods and I will go after them.’

26 As a thief is shamed when caught, so the house of Israel is shamed— they, their kings, their princes, their *kohanim* and their prophets.

27 They say to wood, 'You are my father' and to a stone, 'You birthed me.' They have turned their back to Me and not their face. Yet when they are in trouble they say, 'Rise up and save us!'

28 Where are your gods that you made for yourself? Let them come—if they can save you when you are in trouble! For you have as many gods as you have cities, O Judah.

Jeremiah 3:4

4 Did you not just now call to Me: 'Avi! You are a friend of my youth.'

BRIT CHADASHA

Matthew 5:33-37

33 “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall carry out your oaths to *Adonai*.’

34 But I tell you, do not swear at all—not by heaven, for it is the throne of God;

35 or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.

36 And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black.

37 But let your word ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No’—anything more than this is from the evil one.”

James 4:1-12

Resist Pride and Evil

1 Where do quarrels and conflicts among you come from? Don’t they come from this, namely your passions that battle within your body parts?

2 You crave and have not. You murder and you envy, yet you cannot get it. You fight and you wage war. You do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives so you may spend it on your passions.

4 You adulteresses! Don’t you know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that in vain the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit which He made to dwell in us”?

6 But He gives greater grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

7 Therefore submit to God. But resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded!

9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy into gloom.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of *Adonai*, and He shall lift you up.

11 Do not speak evil against one another, brethren. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the *Torah* and judges the *Torah*. But if you judge the *Torah*, you are not a doer of the *Torah*, but a judge.

12 There is only one lawgiver and judge—the One who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you who judges your neighbor?

