

Va'etchanan
"And I besought"

Torah: Deuteronomy 3:23 – 7:11
Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26
Brit Chadasha: Mark 12:28-34, Acts 13:13-43, Romans 3:27-31,
1 Timothy 2:4-6, James 2:14-26

All verses are from the Tree of Life Bible

TORAH:

Deuteronomy 3:23

Moses Pleads to Enter

23 "I pleaded with *Adonai* at that time, saying,

24' O Lord *Adonai*, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand—for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do deeds and mighty acts like Yours?

25 Please! Let me cross over and see the good land across the Jordan—that good hill country and the Lebanon.'

26 "But *Adonai* was angry with me because of you, so He would not listen to me. 'Enough!' *Adonai* said to me, 'Do not speak to Me anymore about this matter.

27 Go up to the top of Pisgah, look around to the west and the north and the south and the east, and see with your eyes—for you will not cross over this Jordan.

28 But commission Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he will cross over before this people, and he will enable them to inherit the land that you will see.'

29 So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth-peor.

Deuteronomy 4

Bnei-Yisrael Must Listen and Obey

1 “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to do, so that you may live and go in and possess the land that *Adonai* the God of your fathers is giving you.

2 You must not add to the word that I am commanding you or take away from it—in order to keep the *mitzvot* of *Adonai* your God that I am commanding you.

3 Your eyes have seen what *Adonai* did at Baal Peor, for *Adonai* your God has destroyed from among you everyone who followed Baal Peor.

4 But you who held tight to *Adonai* your God are alive today—all of you.

5 “See, just as *Adonai* my God commanded me, I have taught you statutes and ordinances to do in the land that you are about to enter to possess.

6 You must keep and do them, for it is your wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the peoples, who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’

7 For what great nation is there that has gods so near to them, as *Adonai* our God is whenever we call on Him?

8 What great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances that are righteous—like all of this *Torah* that I am setting before you today?

9 “Only be watchful and watch over your soul closely, so you do not forget the things your eyes have seen and they slip from your heart all the days of your life. You are to make them known to your children and your children’s children.

10 The day that you stood before *Adonai* your God in Horeb, *Adonai* said to me, ‘Gather the people to Me and I will make them hear My words, so that they learn to fear Me all the days that they live on the earth, and so that they teach their children.’

Words from the Fiery Mountain

11 “You came near and stood at the bottom of the mountain while the mountain was blazing with fire up to the heart of the heavens—darkness, cloud, and fog.

12 *Adonai* spoke to you from the midst of the fire. The sound of words you heard, but a form you did not see—only a voice.

13 He declared to you His covenant, which He commanded you to do—the Ten Words—and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

14 *Adonai* commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and ordinances, so that you might do them in the land you are crossing over to possess.

15 “So be very watchful over your souls since you saw no form on the day that *Adonai* spoke to you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire,

16 so that you do not act corruptly and make for yourselves a graven image in the likeness of any figure—the form of a male or female,

17 the form of any animal that is on the earth, the form of any winged bird that flies in the sky,

18 the form of anything that creeps on the ground, the form of any fish that is in the water under the earth—

19 and so that you do not lift up your eyes toward the heavens and see the sun and the moon and the stars—all the heavenly host—and are drawn away and bow down and worship them. *Adonai* your God has allotted them to all the peoples under all the heavens.

20 But you, *Adonai* has taken, and He brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt to be a people for His own inheritance, as you are this day.

21 “Furthermore *Adonai* was angry with me because of your words, and He swore that I would not cross over the Jordan or enter the good land that *Adonai* your God is giving you for an inheritance.

22 For I must die in this land; I am not crossing over the Jordan. But you will cross over and take possession of that good land.

23 Watch yourselves, so that you do not forget the covenant of *Adonai* your God, which He cut with you, and make for yourselves a graven image in the form of anything that *Adonai* your God has forbidden you.

24 For *Adonai* your God is a consuming fire —a jealous God.

25 “When you father children and children’s children and have been in the land a long time, and you act corruptly and make a graven image in the form of anything and do evil in the sight of *Adonai* your God, provoking Him to anger,

26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that you will certainly be carried off quickly from the land you are crossing over the Jordan to possess. You will not prolong your days on it, for you will certainly be destroyed.

27 *Adonai* will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where *Adonai* will drive you.

28 There you will serve man-made gods of wood and stone, which do not see or hear or eat or smell.

29 But from there you will seek *Adonai* your God and you will find Him, when you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

30 “When you are in distress and all these things have come on you, in the latter days you will return to *Adonai* your God and listen to His voice.

31 For *Adonai* your God is a merciful God. He will not abandon you or destroy you, or forget the covenant with your fathers that He swore to them.

32 “Indeed, ask now about the former days that were before you, from the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of the sky to the other. Has there ever been such a great thing as this, or has anything like it been heard?

33 Has a people ever heard the voice of God speaking from the midst of the fire, as you have heard—and lived?

34 Or has any god ever tried to come to take for himself a nation from within a nation—by trials, by signs and wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand and an

outstretched arm, and by great terrors—like all that *Adonai* your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

35 You were shown, so that you might know that *Adonai* is God—there is no other besides Him.

36 From the heavens He made you hear His voice to instruct you, and on earth He caused you to see His great fire—you heard His words from the midst of the fire.

37 Because He loved your fathers, He chose their descendants after them. Then He brought you out from Egypt with His presence, by His great power—

38 to drive out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day.

39 “So you will know today and take to heart that *Adonai*, He is God, in the heavens above and on the earth below—there is no other.

40 You must keep His statutes and His *mitzvot*, which I am commanding you today, so that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and so that you may prolong your days in the land that *Adonai* your God is giving you for all time.”

41 Then Moses set apart three cities beyond the Jordan, toward the east.

42 There the manslayer might flee, who kills his neighbor unintentionally and did not hate him previously. He may flee to one of these cities and live:

43 Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau for the Reubenites, Ramot in the Gilead for the Gadites, and Golan in the Bashan for the Manassites.

44 This is the *Torah*, which Moses set before *Bnei-Yisrael*.

45 These are the testimonies and the statutes and the ordinances, which Moses spoke to *Bnei-Yisrael* when they came out from Egypt—

46 beyond the Jordan, in the valley opposite Beth-peor, in the land of Sihon king of the Amorites who lived at Heshbon, whom Moses and *Bnei-Yisrael* struck down when they came out from Egypt.

47 They took possession of his land and the land of Og king of the Bashan, the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan toward the east—

48 from Aroer, which is on the edge of the wadi Arnon, as far as Mount Sion (that is, Hermon),

49 and all the Arabah beyond the Jordan eastward, as far as the sea of the Arabah, under the slopes of Pisgah.

Deuteronomy 5

The Ten Words

1 Moses called to all Israel and said to them, “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances that I am speaking in your hearing today, learn them and make sure to do them.

2 *Adonai* our God cut a covenant with us in Horeb.

3 Not with our fathers has *Adonai* cut this covenant but with us—all of us alive here today.

4 *Adonai* spoke with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire.

5 (I was standing between *Adonai* and you at that time, to tell you the word of *Adonai*, because you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.) ‘He said:

6 ‘I am *Adonai* your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

7 ‘You shall not have other gods beside Me.

8 ‘Do not make for yourself a graven image—no image of what is in the heavens above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

9 Do not bow down to them or worship them. For I, *Adonai* your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and on the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me,

10 but showing lovingkindness to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My *mitzvot*.

11 'You must not take the Name of *Adonai* your God in vain, for *Adonai* will not leave unpunished anyone who takes His Name in vain.

12 'Observe *Yom Shabbat* to keep it holy, as *Adonai* your God commanded you.

13 Six days you are to labor and do all your work,

14 but the seventh day is a *Shabbat* to *Adonai* your God. In it you are not to do any work—not you or your son or your daughter, or your slave or your maid, or your ox, your donkey or any of your livestock or the outsider within your gates, so that your slave and your maid may rest as you do.

15 You must remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and *Adonai* your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore *Adonai* your God commanded you to keep *Yom Shabbat*.

16 'Honor your father and your mother just as *Adonai* your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and it may go well with you in the land *Adonai* your God is giving you.

17 'Do not murder. 'Do not commit adultery. 'Do not steal. 'Do not bear false witness against your neighbor.

18 'Do not covet your neighbor's wife, nor desire your neighbor's house, his field, his manservant, his maidservant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.'

19 "These words *Adonai* spoke to all your assembly on the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud and the fog, with a great voice. He added no more. He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.

Live and Prolong Your Days

20 “As soon as you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was blazing with fire, you came near to me—all the heads of your tribes and your elders.

21 Then you said, ‘*Adonai* our God has just shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. This day we have seen that God speaks with man, and yet he keeps on living.

22 Now then, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us! If we hear the voice of *Adonai* our God any more, then we will die.

23 For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?

24 You go near and hear all that *Adonai* our God says. Then you tell us all what *Adonai* our God tells you, and we will hear it and do it.’

25 “*Adonai* heard the tone of your words when you spoke to me, and *Adonai* said to me, ‘I have heard the tone of the words that this people has spoken to you—they have done well in all they have spoken.

26 If only there were such a heart in them to fear Me and keep all My *mitzvot* always, so that it might go well with them and with their children forever!

27 Go say to them, “Return to your tents.”

28 But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will tell you the whole commandment—both the statutes and the ordinances that you are to teach them. And they will do them in the land I am giving them to possess.’

29 “So you must take care to do as *Adonai* your God has commanded you—do not turn aside to the right or to the left.

30 You are to walk in all the way that *Adonai* your God has commanded you, so that you may live and it may be well with you and you may prolong your days in the land that you will possess.

Deuteronomy 6

1 “Now this is the commandment, the statutes and ordinances that *Adonai* your God commanded to teach you to do in the land you are crossing over to possess—

2 so that you might fear *Adonai* your God, to keep all His statutes and *mitzvot* that I am commanding you and your son and your son’s son all the days of your life, and so that you may prolong your days.

3 Hear, therefore, O Israel, and take care to do this, so that it may go well with you and you may increase mightily, as *Adonai* the God of your fathers has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

Shema Israel, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai Echad

4 “Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one .

5 Love *Adonai* your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

6 These words, which I am commanding you today, are to be on your heart.

7 You are to teach them diligently to your children, and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up.

8 Bind them as a sign on your hand, they are to be as frontlets between your eyes,

9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

When You Prosper, Do not Forget

10 “Now when *Adonai* your God brings you into the land that He swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—to give you great and good cities that you did not build,

11 and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns dug that you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant, and you eat and are full,

12 then watch yourself so that you do not forget *Adonai*, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

13 You must fear *Adonai* your God and serve Him, and swear by His Name.

14 You must not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples around you;

15 for *Adonai* your God in the midst of you is a jealous God. Otherwise the anger of *Adonai* your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you from the face of the earth.

16 “You are not to test *Adonai* your God, as you tested Him at Massah.

17 Diligently keep the *mitzvot* of *Adonai* your God, and His testimonies and His statutes that He has commanded you.

18 You are to do what is right and good in the sight of *Adonai*, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and possess the good land that *Adonai* swore to your fathers—

19 to drive out all your enemies from before you, as *Adonai* has spoken.

When Your Son Asks

20 “When your son asks you in time to come, saying ‘What are the testimonies and the statutes and the ordinances that *Adonai* our God commanded you?’

21 then you are to tell your son, ‘We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and *Adonai* brought us out from Egypt with a mighty hand.

22 Before our eyes *Adonai* showed signs and wonders, great and terrible—on Egypt, on Pharaoh, and on all his house.

23 Then He brought us out from there so that He might bring us in, to give us the land that He swore to our fathers.

24 *Adonai* commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear *Adonai* our God—for our good always, to keep us alive, as is the case this day.

25 It will be righteousness to us, if we take care to do all this commandment before *Adonai* our God, just as He has commanded us.'

Deuteronomy 7

No Mixing With Idolaters

1 "When *Adonai* your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out many nations before you—the Hittite and the Girgashite and the Amorite, the Canaanite and the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you—

2 and *Adonai* your God gives them over to you and you strike them down, then you are to utterly destroy them. You are to make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.

3 You are not to intermarry with them—you are not to give your daughter to his son, or take his daughter for your son.

4 For he will turn your son away from following Me to serve other gods. Then the anger of *Adonai* will be kindled against you, and He will swiftly destroy you.

5 Instead, you are to deal with them like this: tear down their altars, smash their pillars, cut down their Asherah poles, and burn their carved images with fire.

6 For you are a holy people to *Adonai* your God—from all the peoples on the face of the earth, *Adonai* your God has chosen you to be His treasured people.

7 "It is not because you are more numerous than all the peoples that *Adonai* set His love on you and chose you—for you are the least of all peoples.

8 Rather, because of His love for you and His keeping the oath He swore to your fathers, *Adonai* brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

9 “Know therefore that *Adonai* your God, He is God—the faithful God who keeps covenant kindness for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His *mitzvot*,

10 but repays those who hate Him to their face, to annihilate them. He will not hesitate with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.

11 Therefore you are to keep the commandment—both the statutes and the ordinances—that I am commanding you today, to do them.

HAFTARAH

Isaiah 40:1-26

Comfort, Proclaim Good News

1 “Comfort, comfort My people,” says your God.

2 Speak kindly to the heart of Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed. For she has received from *Adonai’s* hand double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of *Adonai*, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley will be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low, the rough ground will be a plain and the rugged terrain smooth.

5 The glory of *Adonai* will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together.” For the mouth of *Adonai* has spoken.

6 A voice is saying, “Cry out!” So I said, “What shall I cry out?” “All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades. For the breath of *Adonai* blows on it. Surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades. But the word of our God stands forever.”

9 Get yourself up on a high mountain, you who bring good news to Zion! Lift up your voice with strength, you who bring good news to Jerusalem! Lift it up! Do not fear! Say to the cities of Judah: “Behold your God!”

10 Look, *Adonai Elohim* comes with might, with His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.

11 Like a shepherd, He tends His flock. He gathers the lambs in His arms carries them in his bosom, and gently guides nursing ewes.

Who Is Like Him?

12 Who has measured the waters in the palm of His hand, or measured out heaven with a span, or calculated the dust of the earth in a measure, or weighed the mountains in scales, or the hills in a balance?

13 Who can fathom the *Ruach Adonai*? Or instruct Him as His counselor?

14 With whom did He consult, and who instructed Him? Who taught Him in the path of justice or taught Him knowledge? Who informed Him about the way of understanding?

15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and count as a speck of dust on the scales. Behold, the islands weigh as fine dust.

16 Lebanon is not enough to burn, or its animals enough for a burnt offering.

17 All the nations are as nothing before Him. By Him they are accounted null and void.

18 To whom then will you liken God? To what likeness will you compare Him?

19 To an idol? A craftsman casts it, a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it.

20 One too poor for such an offering chooses wood that will not rot. He looks for a skilled craftsman to prepare him an idol that will not totter.

21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 He sits above the circle of the earth— its inhabitants are like grasshoppers— He stretches out the skies like a curtain, spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

23 He reduces princes to nothing. He makes the judges of the earth a confusion.

24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely are they sown, scarcely their stem takes root in the earth, when He blows on them and they wither, and a storm carries them off as stubble.

25 “To whom then will you liken Me? Or who is My equal?” says the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high, and see! Who created these? The One who brings out their host by number, the One who calls them all by name. Because of His great strength and vast power, not one is missing.

BRIT CHADASHA

Mark 12:28-34

Love Ends the Argument

28 One of the *Torah* scholars came and heard them debating. Seeing that *Yeshua* had answered them well, he asked Him, “Which commandment is first of all?”

29 *Yeshua* answered, “The first is, ‘*Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad.* Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.

30 And you shall love *Adonai* your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’

31 The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

32 “Well said, Teacher,” the *Torah* scholar said to Him. “You have spoken the truth, that He is *echad*, and besides Him there is no other!

33 And ‘to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love the neighbor as oneself,’ is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

34 When *Yeshua* saw that he had answered wisely, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And no one dared any longer to question Him.

Acts 13:13-43

Paul’s Message in Diaspora Synagogues

13 Setting sail from Paphos, Paul’s company came to Perga in Pamphylia. John left them and returned to Jerusalem.

14 But they passed on from Perga and came to Antioch of Pisidia. Entering the synagogue on the Shabbat, they sat down.

15 After the reading of the *Torah* and the Prophets, the synagogue leaders sent to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, speak.”

16 So Paul, standing up and motioning with his hand, said, “Men of Israel and God-fearers, listen.

17 The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an outstretched arm He led them out of there.

18 For about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness.

19 And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He gave their land as an inheritance—

20 all of this took about 450 years. After that, he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.

21 Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul, son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

22 After removing him, He raised up David to be their king. He also testified about him and said, ‘I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do My will.’

23 “From this man’s seed, in keeping with His promise, God brought to Israel a Savior—*Yeshua*.

24 Before His coming, John had proclaimed an immersion of repentance to all the people of Israel.

25 As John was completing his service, he said, ‘What do you suppose me to be? I am not He. But behold, One is coming after me, whose sandal I’m not worthy to untie.’

26 “Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham and those among you who are God-fearers, it is to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

27 For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers—not recognizing Him or the sayings of the Prophets that are read every Shabbat—fulfilled these words by condemning Him.

28 Though they found no charge worthy of a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have Him executed.

29 When they had carried out all that had been written about Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb.

30 But God raised Him from the dead!

31 For many days He appeared to those who had come up from the Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now His witnesses to the people.

32 “And we proclaim to you Good News—the promise to the fathers has arrived!

33 For God has fulfilled this promise to the children—to us—by raising up *Yeshua*, as it is also written in the second psalm: ‘You are My Son. Today I have become Your Father.’

34 “But since He raised Him up from the dead, never to return to decay, He has spoken in this way, ‘I will give you the holy and sure mercies of David.’

35 Therefore He also says in another psalm, ‘You will not permit Your Holy One to see decay.’

36 For after David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he went to sleep and was laid with his fathers and saw decay.

37 But the One whom God raised up did not see decay.

38 “Therefore, let it be known to you, brothers, that through this One is proclaimed to you the removal of sins, including all those from which you could not be set right by the *Torah* of Moses.

39 Through this One everyone who keeps trusting is made righteous.

40 “Be careful, then, so that what is said in the Prophets may not come upon you:

41 ‘Look, you scoffers, be amazed and vanish away. For I am doing a work in your days— a work you will never believe, even if someone tells it to you in detail.’”

42 As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging them to speak these things to them the next Shabbat.

43 When the synagogue meeting broke up, many of the Jewish people and God-fearing inquirers followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking with them and trying to persuade them to continue in the grace of God.

Romans 3:27-31

27 Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. By what principle? Of works? No, but by the principle of faith.

28 For we consider a person to be set right apart from *Torah* observance.

29 Is God the God of the Jewish people only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also.

30 Since God is One, He will set right the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

31 Do we then nullify the *Torah* through faithfulness? May it never be! On the contrary, we uphold the *Torah*.

1 Timothy 2:4-6

4 He desires all men to be saved and come into the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God and there is one Mediator between God and men—a human, Messiah *Yeshua*,

6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all—the testimony at the proper time.

James 2:14-26

Show Faith with Works

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith, but does not have works? Can such faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, “Go in *shalom*, keep warm and well fed,” but you do not give them what the body needs, what good is that?

17 So also faith, if it does not have works, is dead by itself.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith without works and I will show you faith by my works.

19 You believe that God is one. You do well. The demons also believe—and shudder!

20 But do you want to know, you empty person, that faith without works is dead?

21 Wasn’t Abraham our father proved righteous by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

22 You see that faith worked together with his works, and by the works his faith was made complete.

23 The Scripture was fulfilled that says, “And Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness”—and he was called God’s friend.

24 You see that a man is proved righteous by works and not by faith alone.

25 And likewise, wasn’t Rahab the prostitute also proved righteous by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out another way?

26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.