



*It has been told to you, what is good, and what Adonai requires of you
Only to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)*

Genesis בְּרֵאשִׁית 18

כז 27 Again Abraham spoke: “Look now—let me undertake to speak up to my lord, though I am but dust and ashes:

כח 28 What if the fifty innocent are five short; will you destroy the whole city because of five?” [God] answered, “If I find forty-five there, I will not destroy it.”

כט 29 Once more Abraham spoke up: “What if forty are found there?” And [God] answered, “For the sake of the forty, I will not do it.”

ל 30 Then he said, “Do not be angry, my lord, and let me speak: What if thirty are found there?” “If I find thirty there,” said [God], “I will not do it.”

לא 31 And Abraham said, “Look now—let me undertake to speak up before my lord: What if twenty are found there?” And [God] said, “For the sake of the twenty, I will not destroy it.”

לב 32 Then Abraham said, “Let not my lord be angry, and let me speak up one last time: What if ten are found there?” And [God] said, “For the sake of the ten, I will not destroy it.”

לג 33 Then, done speaking to Abraham, the Eternal departed; and Abraham returned to his place.

DANIEL G. ZEMEL, Rabbi
JOSHUA BERAHA, Associate Rabbi | STEPHANIE CRAWLEY, Associate Rabbi
BETH WERLIN, Executive Director | DEBRA WINTER, Director of Spiritual Arts
SHARON TASH, Education Director
2829 Wisconsin Ave., NW Washington, DC 20007 | (202) 342-9175 | www.templemicah.org

Haftarah for Vayera: Ezekiel 22:23-30, 24:24-27

In parashat Vayera, God wonders about destroying the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. God confides in Abraham, and Abraham argues with God on behalf of the righteous people. We see that the men of Sodom and Gomorrah reject the people who visit their towns, and act with terrible violence. Lot also acts shamefully. We consider: what are our sacred obligations to one another? Does a community ever warrant total destruction?

In these selections from the book of Ezekiel, the prophet explains that the Israelites have ignored God and all that is sacred. They have thought only of their own advancement and financial gain, rather than caring for the poor and needy in society. Yet chapter 24 promises a day of truth and repentance: this need not be our entire existence and self-definition. We are called to be the repairers of the breach.

Blessing before the Haftarah Reading:

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, whose spirit inspired our prophets, and whose spirit inspires us to thoughtfully discern their words. Each generation that has come before has taught and made our prophets words their own. Thank you for *binah*, understanding, and *deah*, knowledge: for the opportunity to choose the holy words that we pass on to the next generation.

Ezekiel 22:23-30

(23) The word of the Eternal came to me: (24) "O mortal, say to her: You are an uncleansed land, not to be washed with rain on the day of indignation. (25) Her gang of prophets are like roaring lions in her midst, rending prey. They devour human beings; they seize treasure and wealth; they have widowed many women in her midst. (26) Her priests have violated my Torah: they have profaned what is sacred to me, they have not distinguished between the sacred and the profane, they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean, and they have closed their eyes to my sabbaths. I am profaned in their midst. (27) Her officials are like wolves rending prey in her midst; they shed blood and destroy lives to win ill-gotten gain. (28) Her prophets, too, daub the wall for them with plaster: They prophesy falsely and divine deceitfully for them; they say, "Thus said the Eternal GOD," when the Eternal has not spoken. (29) And the people of the land have practiced fraud and committed robbery; they have wronged the poor and needy, have defrauded the stranger without redress. (30) **And I sought a person among them to repair the wall or to stand in the breach before me in behalf of this land, that I might not destroy it; but I found none....**

יחזקאל כ"ב:כ"ג-ל'

(כג) ויהי דבר־יהוה אלי לאמר:
(כד) בְּרֹאֲדָם אִמְרֵהָ אֶת אֶרֶץ לֹא מְטֹהֶרָה
היא לא גִשְׁמָהּ בְּיוֹם זָעַם: (כה) קָשָׁר
נְבִיאֶיהָ בְּתוֹכָהּ כְּאֵרֵי שׂוֹאֵג טָרֵף טָרֵף נִפְשׁ
אָכְלוּ חֶסֶן וַיִּקְרַר יִקְחוּ אֶל־מְנוֹתֶיהָ הַרְבֵּוּ
בְּתוֹכָהּ: (כו) כְּהֵנִיָּה חֲמָסוֹ תוֹרְתִי וַיִּחַלְלוּ
קֹדֶשִׁי בְּיַד־קֹדֶשׁ לְחַל לֹא הִבְדִּילוּ וַיְבִירֵה־טַמְאָה
לְטָהוֹר לֹא הוֹדִיעוּ וּמִשְׁבֹּתוֹתַי הֶעֱלִימוּ
עֵינֵיהֶם וְאֶחָל בְּתוֹכֶם: (כז) שָׁרִיָּה בְּקִרְבָּהּ
כְּזֹאֲבִים טָרְפֵי טָרֵף לְשִׁפְדוֹתָם לְאֲבָד נִפְשׁוֹת
לְמַעַן בָּצַע בָּצַע: (כח) וַנְּבִיאֶיהָ טָחוּ לָהֶם
תִּפְלֵ חֲזִים שְׂוֹא וְקִסְמִים לָהֶם כְּזֹב אִמְרִים
כִּי אָמַר אֲדַנִּי יְהוָה וַיְהוָה לֹא דָבָר: (כט) עַם
הָאָרֶץ עֲשָׂקוּ עֲשָׂקוּ וַיִּזְלוּ גִזְלֵ וַעֲנִי וַאֲבִיוֹן הוֹנוּ
וְאֶת־הַגֵּר עֲשָׂקוּ בְּלֹא מִשְׁפָּט: (ל) וַאֲבִקֶשׁ
מֵהֶם אִישׁ גֹּדֵר־גֹּדֵר וְעִלְמָד בַּפֶּרֶץ לְפָנַי בְּעַד
הָאָרֶץ לְבַלְתִּי שְׁחַתָּה וְלֹא מְצָאתִי:

Ezekiel 24:24-27

(24) ⁽²³⁾ and your turbans shall remain on your heads, and your sandals upon your feet. You shall not lament or weep, but you shall be heartsick because of your iniquities and shall moan to one another.” (25) You, O mortal, take note: On the day that I take their stronghold from them, their pride and joy, the delight of their eyes and the longing of their hearts—their sons and daughters— (26) on that day a fugitive will come to you, to let you hear it with your own ears. (27) On that day your mouth shall be opened to the fugitive, and you shall speak and no longer be dumb. So you shall be a portent for them, and they shall know that I am the Eternal.

יחזקאל כ"ד:כ"ד-כ"ז

(כד) והיה יחזקאל לכם למופת ככל אשר עשה תעשו בבאה וידעתם כי אני אדני יהוה:
(כה) ואתה בראדם הלוא ביום קחתי מהם את מעונם משוש תפארתם את מחמד עיניהם ואת משא נפשם בניהם ובנותיהם: (כו) ביום ההוא יבוא הפליט אליך להשמעות אזנים: (כז) ביום ההוא יפתח פיך את הפליט ותדבר ולא תאלם עוד והיית להם למופת וידעו כי אני יהוה:

Blessing after the Haftarah Reading:

Thank you, O God, whose spirit inspired the prophets of old, and whose spirit inspires us to live with intention. God, you call to us to be our best. You call us to justice and mercy and to care for the oppressed. Blessed are you, Adonai our God, who gives us the ability to discern, to live, to inspire and to do your work.

Refuah Shleimah

Emily Alpern-Fisch, Alan Appel, Ronni Behar, Ira Berlin, Janice Berlin, Ellen Buckley, Barbara Cleveland, Netanel Felber, Chelo Fournier, Golda bat Yaakova uVelvel, Richard Greenfield, David Hahn, Andrea Hamos, Judy Hurvitz, Joan Kupferberg, Philip Levine, Stu Levine, Sam Levinson, Sharonette Leonard, Dan Lutenegger, Mildred Marin, Barbara McConagha, Stephanie Mendez, Sophie Meyers, Robin Parry, Rachel bat Chava, Lois Rosen, Eric Rosenberg, Rabbi Steve Sager, Saguee Saraf, Shevach Saraf, Zipora Saraf, Sarah Golde bat Shifrah, David Scheever, Charles Schussheim, Cynthia Seymour, Harry Silver, Betty Ustun, Heather Weisman

We Remember a Few of Far Too Many Lives Lost to COVID-19

Patrick Tighe, 45, known for his humor, dedicated care worker, Shropshire, United Kingdom
Breanna Kertai, 30, foster parent and teacher, Bremen, Indiana
Howard Franklin Jr., 51, jazz drummer who got his start drumming on buckets, Washington, DC

We Remember the Victims of the 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting

Joyce Fienberg, Richard Gottfried, Rose Mallinger, Jerry Rabinowitz, Cecil Rosenthal,
David Rosenthal, Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Daniel Stein, Melvin Wax, Irving Younger

We Remember Those Lost to Violence in Washington, DC

Dabney Graham, 48, no fixed address; Noel Prince Nicol, 18, Silver Spring, MD;
Devante Waters, 27, Capitol Heights, MD

Shloshim

Charles Davisson, Nick Fletcher, Michael Taphouse, David Wilson

Yahrzeit

Sophie Fox Altschul, Helen Arthur, Mildred S. Atkins, Peter Benda, Frank Burstin,
William Cloyd, Louis Cohen, Augustus deGrazia, Geraldine Feldman, Everett Gordon Gruber,
David M. Heiman, Marcus Hirsch, Robert Yale Kamin, Harry Kraut, Helen Taradash Levin,
James Levinson, Jane Morningstar, Sidney George Piness, Ida Rolfe, Marvin Rubin,
Perl Samuels, Ida Weinstein Schotz, Beatrice Schuman, Elise Shapira, Dorothy Simon,
Martin Slater, Harry Soffer, Maurice Weiner, Meyer Wiesberg, Mollie Yett