

1 May 28, 2022

28 Iyar, 5782

Shabbat Ba-Midbar

*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)*



Asher Yatzar: Beautiful and Broken

Music and English lyrics by Dan Nichols

I thank You for my life, body and soul
Help me realize I am beautiful and whole
I'm perfect the way I am, and a little broken too
I will live each day as a gift I give to You.

Baruch Atah Adonai, rofeih chol basar umaflia laasot.

ברוך אתה יי רופא כל בשר ומפליא לעשות.

Blessed are you, Adonai, who heals all flesh, working wondrously.

Numbers במדבר 1:44-54

מד אלה הפקדים אשר פקד משה ואהרן ונשיאי ישראל שנים עשר איש איש אחד לבית אבתיו היו: **44** Those are the enrollments recorded by Moses and Aaron and by the chieftains of Israel, who were twelve in number, one representative of each ancestral house.

מה ויהיו כל פקודי בני ישראל לבית אבתם מבן עשרים שנה ומעלה כליצא צבא בישראל: **45** All the Israelite males, aged twenty years and over, enrolled by ancestral houses, all those in Israel who were able to bear arms—

מו ויהיו כל הפקדים ששמאות אסף ושלשת אלפים וחמש מאות וחמשים: **46** all who were enrolled came to 603,550.

מז והלויים למטה אבתם לא התפקדו בתוכם: **47** The Levites, however, were not recorded among them by their ancestral tribe.

מח וידבר יהוה אל משה לאמר: **48** For the Eternal had spoken to Moses, saying:

מט אך את מטה לוי לא תפקד ואת ראשם לא תשא בתוך בני ישראל: **49** Do not on any account enroll the tribe of Levi or take a census of them with the Israelites.

נ וְאַתָּה הַפְּקֹד אֶת־הַלְוִיִּם
עַל־מִשְׁכַּן הָעֵדוּת וְעַל כָּל־כְּלָיו וְעַל
כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ הֵמָּה יִשְׂאוּ
אֶת־הַמִּשְׁכָּן וְאֶת־כָּל־כְּלָיו וְהֵם
יִשְׂרְתֻהוּ וְסָבִיב לַמִּשְׁכָּן יַחְנוּ:

50 You shall put the Levites in charge of the Tabernacle of the Pact, all its furnishings, and everything that pertains to it: they shall carry the Tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall tend it; and they shall camp around the Tabernacle.

נא וּבְנִסְעַ הַמִּשְׁכָּן יוֹרִידוּ אֹתוֹ
הַלְוִיִּם וּבְחֻנְתֵּי הַמִּשְׁכָּן יִקְיֵמוּ
אֹתוֹ הַלְוִיִּם וְהַזֶּר הַקָּרֵב יוּמָת:

51 When the Tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down, and when the Tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up; any outsider who encroaches shall be put to death.

נב וַחֲנוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אִישׁ
עַל־מַחֲנֵהוּ וְאִישׁ עַל־דִּגְלוֹ
לְצַבְאֹתָם:

52 The Israelites shall encamp troop by troop, each man with his division and each under his standard.

נג וְהַלְוִיִּם יַחְנוּ סָבִיב לַמִּשְׁכָּן
הָעֵדוּת וְלֹא־יְהִיָּה קֶזֶף עַל־עֵדוּת
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְשָׁמְרוּ הַלְוִיִּם אֶת־
מִשְׁמַרְתֵּי מִשְׁכַּן הָעֵדוּת:

53 The Levites, however, shall camp around the Tabernacle of the Pact, that wrath may not strike the Israelite community; the Levites shall stand guard around the Tabernacle of the Pact.

נד וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר
צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת־מֹשֶׁה בְּן עֶשְׂוֹ:

54 The Israelites did accordingly; just as the Eternal had commanded Moses, so they did.

Haftarah for Ba-Midbar: Ezekiel 47:6-12, 21-23

In Parashat Ba-Midbar, we read about the encampments of the Israelites around the tent of meeting. Specific roles relating to the priesthood are given, just as the twelve tribes are counted.

The Israelites find themselves in the desert, still not quite yet in the Promised Land. This Haftarah, from the book of Ezekiel, helps us imagine where the Israelites are going - to a land of abundance, and growth. Finally, there will be freedom. What does a free land look like to us today?

Before the 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.

ו וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי הֲרֵאִיתָ בְּרֹאדָם 6 “Do you see, O mortal?” he said to me; וַיּוֹלֶכְנִי וַיִּשְׁבְּנִי שְׁפַת הַנַּחַל: and he led me back to the bank of the stream.

ז בָּשׁוּבַנִי וְהִנֵּה אֶל־שְׁפַת הַנַּחַל עַץ 7 As I came back, I saw trees in great רַב מְאֹד מְזֵה וּמְזֵה: profusion on both banks of the stream.

ח וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי הַמַּיִם הָאֵלֶּה 8 “This water,” he told me, “runs out to the יּוֹצְאִים אֶל־הַגְּלִילָה הַקְּדֻמוֹנָה eastern region, and flows into the Arabah; וַיִּרְדּוּ עַל־הָעֲרָבָה וּבָאוּ הַיִּמָּה אֶל־ of foul waters, the water will become הַיִּמָּה הַמוֹצְאִים וְנִרְפְּאוּ הַמַּיִם: wholesome.

ט וְהָיָה כָּל־נֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה | אֲשֶׁר־יִשְׂרָץ 9 Every living creature that swarms will be אֶל כָּל־אֲשֶׁר יָבוֹא שָׁם נַחְלִים able to live wherever this stream goes; the יַחֲיֶה וְהָיָה הַדָּגָה רַבָּה מְאֹד כִּי waters have reached there. It will be בָּאוּ שָׁמָּה הַמַּיִם הָאֵלֶּה וַיִּרְפְּאוּ wholesome, and everything will live וְחַי כֹּל אֲשֶׁר־יָבוֹא שָׁמָּה הַנַּחַל: wherever this stream goes.

י וְהָיָה עֹמְדוֹ עָלָיו דְּוָגִים מֵעַיִן 10 Fishermen shall stand beside it all the גְּדִיל וְעַד־עַיִן עֲגָלִים מְשֻׁטוּחַ way from En-gedi to En-eglam; it shall be לַחֲרָמִים יִהְיוּ לְמִינָהּ תַּהֲיֶה of a place for drying nets; and the fish will be דְּגָתָם כְּדָגַת הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל רַבָּה be of various kinds [and] most plentiful, like הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל רַבָּה the fish of the Great Sea. מְאֹד:

יא בְּצִאֲתוֹ וּגְבָאָיו וְלֹא יִרְפְּאוּ 11 But its swamps and marshes shall not לְמַלַּח נִתְּנוּ: become wholesome; they will serve to [supply] salt.

יב וְעַל־הַנַּחַל יַעֲלֶה עַל־שְׁפַתּוֹ 12 All kinds of trees for food will grow up מְזֵה | וּמְזֵה | כָּל־עֵץ־מֵאֲכָל on both banks of the stream. Their leaves will לא־יָבוֹל עָלֵהוּ וְלֹא־יִתֵּם פְּרִיּוֹ not wither nor their fruit fail; they will לַחֲדָשָׁיו יִבְכֹּר כִּי מִיָּמָיו yield new fruit every month, because the מִן־הַמִּקְדָּשׁ הַמָּה יּוֹצְאִים וְהָיָה Their fruit will serve for food and their פְּרִיּוֹ לְמֵאֲכָל וְעָלֵהוּ לְתִרְוָפָה: leaves for healing.”

כא וְחִלַּקְתֶּם אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת 21 This land you shall divide for לְכֶם לְשִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: yourselves among the tribes of Israel.

כב וְהָיָה תַּפְּלוֹ אוֹתָהּ בְּנַחְלָהּ 22 You shall allot it as a heritage for לְכֶם וְלַחֲגֵרִים הַגֵּרִים בְּתוֹכְכֶם yourselves and for the strangers who reside אֲשֶׁר־הוֹלְדוּ בְּנִים בְּתוֹכְכֶם וְהָיוּ among you, who have begotten children אִשְׂרָאֵלִיתִים; they shall receive

לְכֶם כְּאַזְרָח בְּבִנְיָ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲתָכֶם
יְפֹלוּ בְּנַחֲלָה בְּתוֹךְ שְׁבִיטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: allotments along with you among the tribes
of Israel.

כִּג וְהָיָה בְּשֵׁבֶט אֲשֶׁר יָגֵר הַגֵּר אִתּוֹ
שֵׁם תִּתְּנֶנּוּ נַחֲלָתוֹ נֶאֱמַר אֲדֹנָי
יְהוָה: 23 You shall give the stranger an allotment
within the tribe where he resides—declares
the Eternal God.

After the 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, Howard Berman, Michael Brenner, Ellen Buckley, Judith Chisholm, Barbara Cleveland, Netanel Felber, Chelo Fournier, Marlene Garnett, Barbara Gayler, Sandy Goldberg, Jeffrey Goodman, Richard Greenfield, Ezra Mac Grossman, David Hahn, Judy Hurvitz, Robin Kaplan, Deborah Kraut, Joan Kupferberg, Wasu Lawal, Lisa Lehman, Philip Levine, Stu Levine, Sam Levinson, Dan Lutenegger, Chris Mahle, Mildred Marin, Stephanie Mendez, Sophie Meyers, Bryant Monroe, Lynda Mulhauser, Jumuna Nathan, Robin Parry, Jack Paul, Rachel bat Chava, Lois Rosen, Eric Rosenberg, Sarah Golde bat Shifrah, David Scheever, Charles Schussheim, Cynthia Seymour, Annette Shaw, Sam Sinkler, Eve Sparberg, Victor Springer, Yolande Spinnato, Alan Thal, Betty Ustun, Heather Weisman, Mimi Wolf

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

Jacob Desvarieux, 65, guitarist and singer, Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe
Jose Humberto Martinez, 62, “built the American dream for his family,” Central Islip, New York
Ricky Taylor, 59, essential worker at a grocery store, Annandale, Virginia

We Remember Those Lost to Violence in Washington, DC

Emmanuel Lys, 32, no fixed address; Shawn Minor, 33, Forestville, MD;
David Christian Spencer Jr., SE DC; Cedric Williams, 34, SE DC

We Remember the Victims of Gun Violence in Uvalde, Texas

Nevaeh Bravo, Jackie Cazares, Makenna Lee Elrod, Jose Flores, Ellie Garcia, Irma Garcia,
Uziah Garcia, Amerie Jo Garza, Xavier Lopez, Jayce Carmelo Luevanos, Tess Mata,
Miranda Mathis, Eva Mireles, Alithia Ramirez, Annabelle Guadalupe Rodriguez,
Maite Yuleana Rodriguez, Alexandria “Lexi” Aniyah Rubio, Layla Salazar,
Jailah Nicole Silguero, Eliahana Cruz Torres, Rogelio Torres

Shloshim

Rose Burstin, Arthur Murray Golden, Jon Goodman, Geneviève Kristensen, Pete Reiniger,
Melvin Saferstein

Yahrzeit

Ruth Miriam Braun Berger, Rick Black, Harold Blatt, Rita Blatt, Robert Blatt,
Milton Blechman, Suzanne Blotner, Lenore Kathleen Bodner, Sam Bordman, Belle Chernak,
Harry Fox, Barbara Goldberg, Bezalel Herschkovitz, Arnold Hollander, Fred Jacob,
Jack Kaplan, Manuel Kurzberg, helma Lilian Meyer Murer, Henry S. "Hank" Moss,
Murray Peltz, Edward Makowsky Petsonk, Robert Riggs, Jay Sterling Riskind, Deborah Sachse,
Maurice B. Sachse, Ruth Meyerson Schiff, David Schwartz, Jordan Silverman, Jeannette Vale,
Jerome Wald, Barbara Wertheimer, Richard Wolf

Kaddish Yatom

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba.

B'alma di v'ra chirutei, v'yamlich malchuteih,
b'chayeichon uv'yomeichon uv'chayei d'chol beit
Yisrael, ba'agala uvizman kariv. V'imru: Amen.

Y'hei sh'mei raba m'varach l'alam ul'almei almay.

Yitbarach v'yishtabach v'yitpaar v'yitromam
v'yitnasei, v'yit'hadar v'yit'aleh v'yit'halal sh'mei
d'kud'sha,
b'rich Hu.

L'eila min kol birchata v'shirata, tushb'chata
v'nechemata, daamiran b'alma. V'imru: Amen.

Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'maya, v'chayim aleinu v'al
kol Yisrael. V'imru: Amen.

Oseh shalom bimromav, Hu yaaseh shalom aleinu,
v'al kol Yisrael, v'al kol yoshvei tevel. V'imru: Amen.

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא.
בְּעֵלְמָא דִּי בְּרָא כְרַעוּתָהּ וְיִמְלִיךָ מַלְכוּתָהּ
בְּחַיִּיכוֹן וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל
בְּעֵגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קָרִיב, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלְמֵי
עֵלְמַיָּא.

יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאֵר וְיִתְרַומֵם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא
וְיִתְהַדָּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלַּל שְׁמֵהּ דְקַדְשָׁא.
בְּרִיךְ הוּא.

לְעֵלְמָא מִן כָּל בְּרַכְתָּא וְשִׁירְתָּא תְּשַׁבְּחָתָא
וְנִחַמְתָּא דְאָמִירוֹ בְּעֵלְמָא. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ
וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

עֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם
עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל.
וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.

Exalted and hallowed be God's great name. In the world which God created, according to plan. May God's majesty be revealed in the days of our lifetime. And the life of all Israel – speedily, imminently, to which we say Amen. Blessed be God's great name to all eternity. Blessed, praised, honored, exalted, extolled, glorified, adored, and lauded be the name of the Holy Blessed One, beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise, and comfort, to which we say Amen. May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life, for us and all Israel, to which we say Amen. May the One who creates harmony on high, bring peace to us and to all Israel, and to all who dwell on earth. To which we say Amen.

Temple Micah acknowledges our synagogue stands on the traditional territory of the Piscataway and Nacotchtank (Anacostan) peoples. We pay respect to their elders past and present and recognize their stewardship of this land and the vital contribution of indigenous peoples to this nation we share.

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

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