July 8, 2023
19 Tammuz, 5783
Shabbat Pinchas

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)

Our sanctuary is a sanctuary. Please keep your mobile phone turned off.

Numbers בְּמִדְבַּר 27: 15-23

טו וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהוָה לֵאמֹר׃

15 Moses spoke to the Eternal, saying,

טז יִפְקֹד יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הָרוּחֹת לְכָל־בָּשָׂר אִישׁ עַל־הָעֵדָה׃

16 "Let the Eternal One, Source of the breath of all flesh, appoint an envoy to the community

יז אֲשֶׁר־יֵצֵא לִפְנֵיהֶם וַאֲשֶׁר יָבֹא לִפְנֵיהֶם וַאֲשֶׁר יוֹצִיאֵם וַאֲשֶׁר יְבִיאֵם וְלֹא תִהְיֶה עֲדַת יְהוָה כַּצֹּאן אֲשֶׁר אֵין־לָהֶם רֹעֶה׃

17 who shall go out before them and come in before them, and who shall take them out and bring them in, so that the Eternal's community may not be like sheep that have no shepherd."

יח וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה קַח־לְךָ אֶת־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ בִּן־נוּן אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־רוּחַ בּוֹ וְסָמַכְתָּ אֶת־יָדְךָ עָלָיו׃

18 And the Eternal One answered Moses, "Single out Joshua son of Nun, an inspired deputy, and lay your hand upon him.

יט וְהַעֲמַדְתָּ אֹתוֹ לִפְנֵי אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן וְלִפְנֵי כָּל־הָעֵדָה וְצִוִּיתָה אֹתוֹ לְעֵינֵיהֶם׃

19 Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before the whole community, and commission him in their sight.

כ וְנָתַתָּה מֵהוֹדְךָ עָלָיו לְמַעַן יִשְׁמְעוּ כָּל־עֲדַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל׃

20 Invest him with some of your authority, so that the whole Israelite community may obey.

כא וְלִפְנֵי אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן יַעֲמֹד וְשָׁאַל לוֹ בְּמִשְׁפַּט הָאוּרִים לִפְנֵי יְהוָה עַל־פִּיו יֵצְאוּ וְעַל־פִּיו יָבֹאוּ הוּא וְכָל־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אִתּוֹ וְכָל־הָעֵדָה׃

21 But he shall present himself to Eleazar the priest, who shall on his behalf seek the decision of the Urim before the Eternal. By such instruction they shall go out and by such instruction they shall come in, he and all the Israelite [militia], and the whole community."

כב וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֹתוֹ וַיִּקַּח אֶת־יְהוֹשֻׁעַ וַיַּעֲמִדֵהוּ לִפְנֵי אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן וְלִפְנֵי כָּל־הָעֵדָה׃

22 Moses did as the Eternal commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and before the whole community.

כג וַיִּסְמֹךְ אֶת־יָדָיו עָלָיו וַיְצַוֵּהוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה׃

23 He laid his hands upon him and commissioned him—as the Eternal had spoken through Moses.

Haftarah for Pinchas: Judges 1:12-15

יב וַיֹּאמֶר כָּלֵב אֲשֶׁר־יַכֶּה אֶת־קִרְיַת־סֵפֶר
וּלְכָדָהּ וְנָתַתִּי לוֹ אֶת־עַכְסָה בִתִּי לְאִשָּׁה׃

12 And Caleb announced, "I will give my daughter Achsah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath-sepher."

יג וַיִּלְכְּדָהּ עָתְנִיאֵל בֶּן־קְנַז אֲחִי כָלֵב הַקָּטֹן
מִמֶּנּוּ וַיִּתֶּן־לוֹ אֶת־עַכְסָה בִתּוֹ לְאִשָּׁה׃

13 His younger kinsman, Othniel the Kenizzite, captured it; and Caleb gave him his daughter Achsah in marriage.

יד וַיְהִי בְּבוֹאָהּ וַתְּסִיתֵהוּ לִשְׁאָל
מֵאֵת־אָבִיהָ הַשָּׂדֶה וַתִּצְנַח מֵעַל הַחֲמוֹר
וַיֹּאמֶר־לָהּ כָּלֵב מַה־לָּךְ׃

14 When she came [to him], she induced him to ask her father for some property. She dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb asked her, "What is the matter?"

טו וַתֹּאמֶר לוֹ הָבָה־לִּי בְרָכָה כִּי אֶרֶץ הַנֶּגֶב
נְתַתָּנִי וְנָתַתָּה לִי גֻּלֹּת מָיִם וַיִּתֶּן־לָהּ כָּלֵב
אֵת גֻּלֹּת עִלִּית וְאֵת גֻּלֹּת תַּחְתִּית׃

15 She replied, "Give me a present, for you have given me away as Negeb-land; give me springs of water." And Caleb gave her Upper and Lower Gulloth.

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Numbers 25

While Israel was staying at Shittim, the men profaned themselves by whoring with the Moabite women, who invited the menfolk to the sacrifices for their god. The men partook of them and worshiped that god. Thus Israel attached itself to Baal-peor, and יהוה was incensed with Israel. יהוה said to Moses, "Take all the ringleaders and have them publicly impaled before יהוה, so that יהוה's wrath may turn away from Israel." So Moses said to Israel's officials, "Each of you slay those of his men who attached themselves to Baal-peor." Just then a certain Israelite man came and brought a Midianite woman over to his companions, in the sight of Moses and of the whole Israelite community who were weeping at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. When Phinehas, son of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, saw this, he left the assembly and, taking a spear in his hand, he followed the Israelite man into the chamber and stabbed both of them, the Israelite man and the woman, through the belly. Then the plague against the Israelites was checked.

Those who died of the plague numbered twenty-four thousand.

Pinchas יהוה spoke to Moses, saying, “Phinehas, son of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the Israelites by displaying among them his passion for Me, so that I did not wipe out the Israelite people in My passion. Say, therefore, ‘I grant him My pact of friendship. It shall be for him and his descendants after him a pact of priesthood for all time, because he took impassioned action for his God, thus making expiation for the Israelites.’” The name of the Israelite man who was killed, the one who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri son of Salu, chieftain of a Simeonite ancestral house. The name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi daughter of Zur; he was the tribal head of an ancestral house in Midian. יהוה spoke to Moses, saying, “Assail the Midianites and defeat them— for they assailed you by the trickery they practiced against you—because of the affair of Peor and because of the affair of their kinswoman Cozbi, daughter of the Midianite chieftain, who was killed at the time of the plague on account of Peor.”

SUMMARY

1. Israelites “take” Midianite women and pursue idolatry.
2. God orders their execution
3. Pinchas executes (murders) Israelite man (Zimri) and Midianite woman (Cozbi)
4. Plague breaks out (no clear connection between plague and the order of execution—sources go both ways on this)
5. Pinchas’s act meets God’s approval—(“Phinehas, son of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the Israelites by displaying among them his passion for Me, so that I did not wipe out the Israelite people in My passion. Say, therefore, ‘I grant him My pact of friendship.”)

Census and land apportionment
Zelopahad

Numbers 27:15

Moses spoke to יהוה, saying, “Let יהוה, Source of the breath of all flesh, appoint someone over the community who shall go out before them and come in before them, and who shall take them out and bring them in, so that יהוה’s community may not be like sheep that have no shepherd.”
And יהוה answered Moses, “Single out Joshua son of Nun, an inspired man, and lay your hand upon him. Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and before the whole community, and commission him in their sight. Invest him with some of your authority, so that the whole

Israelite community may obey. But he shall present himself to Eleazar the priest, who shall on his behalf seek the decision of the Urim before יהוה. By such instruction they shall go out and by such instruction they shall come in, he and all the Israelite [militia], and the whole community."
Moses did as יהוה commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and before the whole community. He laid his hands upon him and commissioned him—as יהוה had spoken through Moses.
Moses speaks!

Joshua is made the next leader—Not Pinchas! Moses knows what is needed.

Moses on Sinai Exodus 32:7-12

"Hurry down, for your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt, have acted basely. They have been quick to turn aside from the way that I enjoined upon them. They have made themselves a molten calf and bowed low to it and sacrificed to it, saying: 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt!'"
יהוה further said to Moses, "I see that this is a stiffnecked people.
Now, let Me be, that My anger may blaze forth against them and that I may destroy them, and make of you a great nation."
But Moses implored his God יהוה, saying, "Let not Your anger, יהוה, blaze forth against Your people, whom You delivered from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand. Let not the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he delivered them, only to kill them off in the mountains and annihilate them from the face of the earth.' Turn from Your blazing anger, and renounce the plan to punish Your people.

God's Prayer Berachot 7a

The Gemara asks: What does God pray? Rav Zutra bar Tovia said that Rav said: God says: May it be My will that My mercy will overcome My anger …and may My mercy prevail over My other attributes … and may I conduct myself … with the attribute of mercy, and may I do so beyond the letter of the law.

GOD PRAYS AND SEEKS TO BE A MERCIFUL GOD.

Refuah Shleimah

Ronni Behar, Ira Berlin, Howard Berman, Chayim ben Miriam, Judith Chisholm, Don Elisburg, Netanel Felber, Phil Feld, Rabbi Stanley Funston, Pat Goldman, Ellie Goldberg, Hannah Goldberg, Ken Goldstein, Sean Grogan, Skylar Haas, David Hahn, Robin Kaplan, Joyce Kitcho, Stu Levine, Dan Lutenegger, Micah ben Nechama Evi, Mildred Marin, Stephanie Mendez, Sophie Meyers, Bryant Monroe, Bill Page, Jack Paul, Rachel bat Chava, David Reynolds, Lois Rosen, Eric Rosenberg, Sarah Golde bat Shifrah, David Scheever, Jo Schonewolf, Charles Schussheim, Diana Seasonwein, Cynthia Seymour, Paulette Shulman, Elsa Smith, Ellen Sommer, Alan Thal, Susan Turnbull, Betty Ustun, Bobbie Wendel, Mimi Wolf

We Remember Those Lost to Violence in Washington, DC

Jesse Benitez, 22, NW DC; Keith Bradley, 54, SE DC;
Alison Cienfuegos-Vasquez, 21, Temple Hills, MD; Maxwell Emerson, 25, Crestwood, KY;
Nathaniel Holmes, 28, SE DC; Frank Maddox, 27, Capitol Heights, MD;
Alonzo Marshall, 36, SE DC; Tymeer Roberts, 32, NW DC; Langston Sharps, 33, SE DC;
Charles Antonio Stanton, 44, SE DC; Nasrat Ahmad Yar, 31, Alexandria, VA

Shloshim

Marcia B. Bordman, partner of Marty Zatz;
Ellen O'Connor deGrazia, mother of Elizabeth Blumenfeld

Yahrzeit

Carla Berenbaum, Esther Dine, Ethel Fargotstein, Berenice Futterman, Florence Goldsmith, Samantha Goldsmith, Jane Goldstein, Edward I. Klein, Barbara J. Moss, Stephen I. Munzer, Murray D. Poller, Samuel Ransohoff, Evelyn Schlein, Bee Schwartz, Joseph Seiger, Elliott Stonehill

Kaddish Yatom

יִתְגַּדַּל וְיִתְקַדַּשׁ שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא.
בְּעָלְמָא דִּי בְרָא כִרְעוּתֵהּ וְיַמְלִיךְ מַלְכוּתֵהּ בְּחַיֵּיכוֹן
וּבְיוֹמֵיכוֹן וּבְחַיֵּי דְכָל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל בַּעֲגָלָא וּבִזְמַן
קָרִיב, וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁמֵהּ רַבָּא מְבָרַךְ לְעָלַם וּלְעָלְמֵי עָלְמַיָּא.
יִתְבָּרַךְ וְיִשְׁתַּבַּח וְיִתְפָּאַר וְיִתְרוֹמַם וְיִתְנַשֵּׂא
וְיִתְהַדַּר וְיִתְעַלֶּה וְיִתְהַלָּל שְׁמֵהּ דְּקֻדְשָׁא.
בְּרִיךְ הוּא.
לְעֵלָּא מִן כָּל בִּרְכָתָא וְשִׁירָתָא תֻּשְׁבְּחָתָא וְנֶחֱמָתָא
דַּאֲמִירָן בְּעָלְמָא. וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן.
יְהֵא שְׁלָמָא רַבָּא מִן שְׁמַיָּא וְחַיִּים עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל
יִשְׂרָאֵל. וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן.
עֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם בִּמְרוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל
כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל. וְאִמְרוּ אָמֵן.

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 almaya.
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.

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.

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