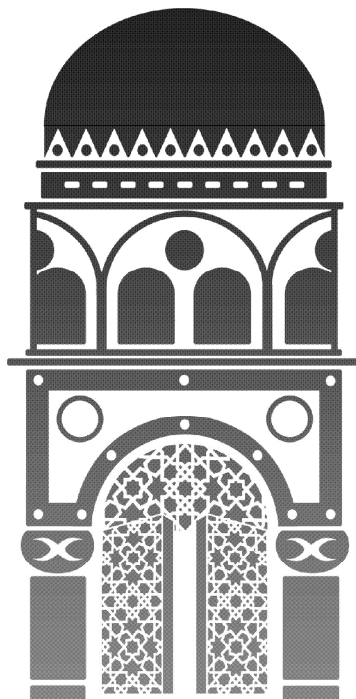


# WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

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SHABBAT SHALOM

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31 July/1 August 2020

11 Av 5780

## SHABBAT VA-ETCHANNAN

Parashat Va'etchannan continues Moses' speeches to the Israelites just before his death. He pleads with God to allow him to enter the Land of Israel, but he is refused. He warns the people against falling into idolatry; reminds them to observe all the commandments give to them; and recalls their awesome experience at Mount Horeb, where they received the Ten Commandments. Finally Moses informs the Israelites that they are not to spare the people who occupy their land nor intermarry with them. The Israelites are God's chosen and treasured people who will be loved by God if they remain loyal to God's covenant and commandments.

א ויקרא משה אל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל ויאמר אֱלֹהִים שָׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הַחֻקִּים  
 וְאֶת־הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי דֹבֵר בְּאָזְנֵיכֶם הַיּוֹם וּלְמַדְתֶּם אֹתָם וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם לַעֲשׂוֹתָם:  
 ב יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ כָּרַת עִמָּנוּ בְרִית בְּחֹרֵב: ג לֹא אֶת־אֲבֹתֵינוּ כָּרַת יְהוָה אֶת־הַבְּרִית  
 הַזֹּאת כִּי אֲתָנוּ אֲנַחְנוּ אֵלֶּה פֶּה הַיּוֹם בְּלִנְיֹת חַיִּים: ד פָּנִים בְּפָנִים דִּבֶּר יְהוָה עִמָּכֶם  
 בְּהָר מִתּוֹךְ הָאֵשׁ: ה אָנֹכִי עֹמֵד בֵּין־יְהוָה וּבֵינֵיכֶם בְּעַת הַהוּא לְהַגִּיד לָכֶם אֶת־דִּבְרֵי  
 יְהוָה כִּי יֵרְאֲתֶם מִפְּנֵי הָאֵשׁ וְלֹא־עֲלִיתֶם בְּהָר לֵאמֹר: ו אָנֹכִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר  
 הוֹצֵאתִיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם מִבְּרִית עֲבָדִים: ז לֹא־יְהִיֶּה לְךָ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים עַל־פְּנֵי:  
 ח לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה לְךָ פֶסֶל כְּל־תְּמוּנָה אֲשֶׁר בְּשָׁמַיִם מִמַּעַל וְאֲשֶׁר בָּאָרֶץ מִתַּחַת וְאֲשֶׁר  
 בַּמַּיִם מִתַּחַת לָאָרֶץ: ט לֹא־תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם וְלֹא תַעֲבֹדֵם כִּי אָנֹכִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֵל  
 קָנָא פֶקֶד עֲוֹן אֲבוֹת עַל־בָּנִים וְעַל־שְׁלֵשִׁים וְעַל־דְּבָעִים לְשִׁנְאָי: י וַעֲשֵׂה חֶסֶד  
 לְאֵלֹפִים לְאֹהֲבֵי וּלְשִׁמְרֵי מִצְוֹתָו יֵא לֹא תִשָּׂא אֶת־שֵׁם־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשׂוֹא כִּי לֹא  
 יִנְקֶה יְהוָה אֶת־אֲשֶׁר־יִשָּׂא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ לְשׂוֹא: יב שָׁמֹר אֶת־יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר  
 צִוָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: יג שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד וְעֵשִׂיתָ כָּל־מְלֹאכְתֶּךָ: יד וַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שַׁבָּת  
 לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה כָּל־מְלֹאכָה אַתָּה וּבִנְךָ־וּבִתֶּךָ וְעַבְדְּךָ־וְאִמְתֶּךָ וְשׂוֹרְךָ  
 וְחִמְרֶךָ וְכָל־בְּהֵמַתֶּךָ וְגֵרְךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ לְמַעַן יָנוּחַ עַבְדְּךָ וְאִמְתֶּךָ כָּמוֹךָ: טו וְזָכַרְתָּ  
 כִּי עֲבַד הָיִיתָ בָּאָרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וַיִּצְאֶךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִשָּׁם בְּיַד חֲזָקָה וּבִזְרַע נְטוּיָה  
 עַל־כֵּן צִוָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת־יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת: טז כִּבֹּד אֶת־אֲבִיךָ וְאֶת־אִמְךָ  
 כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְמַעַן יֵאָרִיכוּ יָמֶיךָ וּלְמַעַן יֵיטֵב לְךָ עַל הַאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה  
 אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ: יז לֹא תִרְצַח וְלֹא תִנְאֹף וְלֹא תִגְנֹב וְלֹא־תַעֲנֶה בְרֵעֶךָ עַד שְׂוֹא:  
 יח וְלֹא תַחְמֹד אִשְׁתִּי רֵעֶךָ וְלֹא תִתְאֲוֶה בֵּית רֵעֶךָ שְׂדֵהוּ וְעַבְדּוֹ וְאִמְתּוֹ שׂוֹרוֹ וְחִמְרוֹ  
 וְכָל אֲשֶׁר לְרֵעֶךָ: יט אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה דִּבֶּר יְהוָה אֶל־כָּל־קְהָלְכֶם בְּהָר מִתּוֹךְ  
 הָאֵשׁ הָעֲנָן וְהַעַרְפֶּל קוֹל גְּדוֹל וְלֹא יִסָּף וַיִּכְתְּבֶם עַל־שְׁנֵי לַחַת אֲבָנִים וַיִּתֶּנֶם אֵלַי:  
 כ וַיְהִי כַשְּׂמַעְכֶּם אֶת־הַקוֹל מִתּוֹךְ הַחֹשֶׁךְ וְהָרָ בָּעַר בָּאֵשׁ וַתִּקְרְבוּ אֵלַי כְּל־דְּאִשִּׁי  
 שִׁבְטֵיכֶם וְזִקְנֵיכֶם: כא וַתֹּאמְרוּ הֵן הִרְאָנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֶת־כְּבוֹדוֹ וְאֶת־גְּדֻלוֹ  
 וְאֶת־קוֹלוֹ שָׁמַעְנוּ מִתּוֹךְ הָאֵשׁ הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה רָאִינוּ כִּי־יְדַבֵּר אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם וְחַי:  
 כב וַעֲתָה לְמָה נָמוֹת כִּי תֹאכְלֵנוּ הָאֵשׁ הַגְּדֹלָה הַזֹּאת אִם־יִסָּפִים | אֲנַחְנוּ לְשָׁמֹעַ  
 אֶת־קוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ עוֹד וּמָתָנוּ: כג כִּי מִי כָּל־בְּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַע קוֹל אֱלֹהִים חַיִּים  
 מִדְּבַר מִתּוֹךְ־הָאֵשׁ כָּמוֹנוּ וַיְחִי: כד קֹרֵב אַתָּה וְשָׁמַע אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר יֹאמַר יְהוָה  
 אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאַתָּה | תְּדַבֵּר אֵלֵינוּ אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ אֵלֶיךָ וְשָׁמַעְנוּ וְעָשִׂינוּ:

## DEUTERONOMY 5:1-24

**1** Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them: Hear, O Israel, the laws and rules that I proclaim to you this day! Study them and observe them faithfully!**2** Adonai our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. **3** It was not with our ancestors that Adonai made this covenant, but with us, the living, every one of us who is here today. **4** Face to face Adonai spoke to you on the mountain out of the fire— **5** I stood between Adonai and you at that time to convey Adonai's words to you, for you were afraid of the fire and did not go up the mountain—saying:**6** I Adonai, am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage: **7** You shall have no other gods beside Me.**8** You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image, any likeness of what is in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters below the earth. **9** You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I Adonai your God am an impassioned God, visiting the guilt of the parents upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generations of those who reject Me, **10** but showing kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love Me and keep My commandments.**11** You shall not swear falsely by the name of Adonai your God; for Adonai will not clear one who swears falsely by God's name.**12** Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as Adonai your God has commanded you. **13** Six days you shall labour and do all your work, **14** but the seventh day is a Sabbath of Adonai your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your ox or your ass, or any of your cattle, or the stranger in your settlements, so that your male and female slave may rest as you do. **15** Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt and Adonai your God freed you from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore Adonai your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.**16** Honour your father and your mother, as Adonai your God has commanded you, that you may long endure, and that you may fare well, in the land that Adonai your God is assigning to you.**17** You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.**18** You shall not covet your neighbour's wife. Likewise, none of you shall crave your neighbour's house, or his field, or his male or female slave, or his ox, or his ass, or anything that is your neighbour's.**19** Adonai spoke those words to your whole congregation at the mountain, with a mighty voice out of the fire and the dense clouds. God inscribed them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. **20** When you heard the voice out of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, you came up to me, all your tribal heads and elders, **21** and said, "Adonai our God has just shown us a majestic Presence, and we have heard God's voice out of the fire; we have seen this day that humankind may live though addressed by God. **22** Let us not die, then, for this fearsome fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of Adonai our God any longer, we shall die. **23** For what mortal ever heard the voice of the living God speak out of the fire, as we did, and lived? **24** You go closer and hear all that Adonai our God says, and then you tell us everything that Adonai our God tells you, and we will willingly do it."

## ISAIAH 40:1-26

Comfort, oh comfort My people, Says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, And declare to her That her term of service is over, That her iniquity is expiated; For she has received at the hand of Adonai Double for all her sins. A voice rings out: "Clear in the desert A road for Adonai! Level in the wilderness A highway for our God! Let every valley be raised, Every hill and mount made low. Let the rugged ground become level And the ridges become a plain. The Presence of Adonai shall appear, And all flesh, as one, shall behold—For Adonai has spoken." A voice rings out: "Proclaim!" Another asks, "What shall I proclaim?" "All flesh is grass, All its goodness like flowers of the field: Grass withers, flowers fade When the breath of Adonai blows on them. Indeed, a person is but grass: Grass withers, flowers fade—But the word of our God is always fulfilled!" Ascend a lofty mountain, O herald of joy to Zion; Raise your voice with power, O herald of joy to Jerusalem— Raise it, have no fear; Announce to the cities of Judah: Behold your God! Behold, Adonai comes in might, And God's arm wins triumph for God; See, God's reward is with God, God's recompense before God. Like a shepherd God pastures God's flock: God gathers the lambs in God's arms And carries them in God's bosom; Gently God drives the mother sheep. Who measured the waters with the hollow of God's hand, And gauged the skies with a span, And meted earth's dust with a measure, And weighed the mountains with a scale And the hills with a balance? Who has plumbed the mind of Adonai, What person could tell God God's plan? Whom did God consult, and who taught God, Guided God in the way of right? Who guided God in knowledge And showed God the path of wisdom? The nations are but a drop in a bucket, Reckoned as dust on a balance; The very coastlands God lifts like motes. Lebanon is not fuel enough, Nor its beasts enough for sacrifice. All nations are as naught in God's sight; God accounts them as less than nothing. To whom, then, can you liken God, What form compare to God? The idol? A woodworker shaped it, And a smith overlaid it with gold, Forging links of silver. As a gift, he chooses the mulberry A wood that does not rot— Then seeks a skillful woodworker To make a firm idol, That will not topple. Do you not know? Have you not heard? Have you not been told From the very first? Have you not discerned How the earth was founded? It is God who is enthroned above the vault of the earth, So that its inhabitants seem as grasshoppers; Who spread out the skies like gauze, Stretched them out like a tent to dwell in. God brings potentates to naught, Makes rulers of the earth as nothing. Hardly are they planted, Hardly are they sown, Hardly has their stem Taken root in earth,

When God blows upon them and they dry up, And the storm bears them off like straw. To whom, then, can you liken Me, To whom can I be compared? —says the Holy One. Lift high your eyes and see: Who created these? God who sends out their host by count, Who calls them each by name: Because of God's great might and vast power, Not one fails to appear.