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SHABBAT SHALOM

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SHABBAT EIKEV

Parashat Eikev continues the speeches of Moses to the Israelites. He tells them that, if they maintain their covenant with God by observing all the commandments, God will make them fruitful and victorious over their enemies. Reminding them of their forty years of wandering through the wilderness, Moses tells them: "God subjected you to the hardship of hunger...then gave you manna...in order to teach you that human beings do not live on bread alone.." He then warns them that after settling in their land and enjoying its fruits, they should not arrogantly assume: "My own power and the might of my own hand have won this wealth for me." Nor, continues Moses, should they conclude that it is for their virtue that God allows them to defeat their enemies and conquer their land. Rather, it is punishment of the inhabitants for idolatry, and it is God's fulfillment of the covenant made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses recalls the disloyalty of the people; how they built the golden calf when he was receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Horeb; how they rebelled at Kadesh-barnea; and how he intervened with God to save them, granting them another set of the tablets on which the Ten Commandments were engraved. Moses recounts the death and burial of Aaron. He also tells the people that God wants them to "cut away the thickening about their hearts," observe the commandments, and learn from their history how God freed them from Egyptian slavery and led them through the desert. If you keep the commandments, Moses promises, God will dislodge all nations before you. No one will stand before your power.

DEUTERONOMY 10:1-22

אֲבָעַת הִהוּא אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי פֶסֶל־לָךְ שְׁנֵי־לוּחוֹת אֲבָנִים כְּרֵאשֹׁנִים וְעַלֶּה אֱלֹהֵי הַהֲרָה וְעָשִׂיתָ לָךְ אֲרוֹן עֹץ: בּוֹאֲכֹתֵב עַל־הַלְּחוֹת אֶת־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ עַל־הַלְּחוֹת הַרְאשֹׁנִים אֲשֶׁר שִׁבַּרְתָּ וְשִׁמַּתָּם בְּאֲרוֹן: גּוֹאֲעֵשׂ אֲרוֹן עֹצֵי שֹׁטִים וְאֶפְסֵל שְׁנֵי־לְחוֹת אֲבָנִים כְּרֵאשֹׁנִים וְאָעַל הַהֲרָה וְשְׁנֵי הַלְּחוֹת בְּיָדֶי: דּוֹיִכְתֹּב עַל־הַלְּחוֹת כַּמְּכַתֵּב הַרְאשׁוֹן אֶת עֲשֶׂר־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה אֲלֵיכֶם בְּהָר מִתּוֹךְ הָאֵשׁ בַּיּוֹם הַהֵהָל וַיִּתְּנֶם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי הַוְאָפוֹ וְאֶרֶד מִן־הַהָר וְאָשַׁם אֶת־הַלְּחוֹת בְּאֲרוֹן אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי וַיְהִי שֵׁם כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוִּי יְהוָה: וּבִנְנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל נִסְעוּ מִבְּאֵרֶת בְּנֵי־יַעֲקֹב מוֹסְרָה שֵׁם מֵת אֹהֶרֶן וַיִּקְבֹּר שֵׁם וַיִּכְתְּוּ אֶלְעָזָר בְּנוֹ תַחְתָּיו: ז מִשֵּׁם נִסְעוּ הַגְּדָגְדָה וּמִן־הַגְּדָגְדָה יִטְבְּתָה אֶרֶץ נַחֲלֵי מַיִם: ח בָּעַת הִהוּא הַבְּדִיל יְהוָה אֶת־שִׁבְט הַלְּוִי לְשֵׂאת אֶת־אֲרוֹן בְּרִית־יְהוָה לְעַמֹּד לִפְנֵי יְהוָה לְשֶׁרְתוֹ וּלְבָרְךָ בְּשִׁמוֹ עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה: ט עַל־כֵּן לֹא־הָיָה לִלְוִי חֶלֶק וְנִחְלָה עִם־אֲחָיו יְהוָה הוּא נַחֲלָתוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ לּוֹ: י וְאֲנֹכִי עֹמְדָתִי בְּהָר כַּיְמִים הַרְאשֹׁנִים אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם וְאַרְבָּעִים לַיְלָה וַיִּשְׁמַע יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי גַם בַּפֶּעַם הִהוּא לֹא־אָבָה יְהוָה הַשְּׁחִיתָךְ: יא וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי קוֹם לָךְ לְמַסַּע לִפְנֵי הָעָם וַיִּבְאוּ וַיִּירָשׁוּ אֶת־הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְאַבְרָם לָתֵת לָהֶם: יב וְעַתָּה יִשְׂרָאֵל מָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ שָׂאל מֵעַמָּךְ כִּי אִם־לִירְאָה אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ לְלַכֵּת בְּכָל־דַּרְכָּיו וּלְאַהֲבָה אוֹתוֹ וּלְעַבֹד אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ בְּכָל־לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל־נַפְשֶׁךָ: יג לְשִׁמֹּר אֶת־מִצְוֹת יְהוָה וְאֶת־חֻקֹּתָיו אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצִוֶּה הַיּוֹם לְטוֹב לָךְ: יד הֵן לִיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְשָׁמַיִ הַשָּׁמַיִם הָאֶרֶץ וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּהּ: טו רַק בְּאַבְרָתִיךָ חָשַׁק יְהוָה לְאַהֲבָה אוֹתָם וַיִּבְאֵר בְּזָרְעָם אַחֲרֵיהֶם בְּכֶם מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים כַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה: טז וּמִלְתֶּם אֶת עַרְלַת לְבַבְכֶם וְעֲרַפְכֶם לֹא תִקְשׁוּ עוֹד: יז כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הוּא אֱלֹהֵי הָאֱלֹהִים וְאַדְנֵי הָאֲדָנִים הָאֵל הַגְּדֹל הַגְּבוּר וְהַנּוֹרָא אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִשָּׂא פָנִים וְלֹא יִקַּח שֹׁחַד: יח עֲשֵׂה מִשְׁפָּט יְתוֹם וְאַלְמָנָה וְאַהֲבֵה גֵר לָתֵת לוֹ לֶחֶם וְשִׁמְלָה: יט וְאַהֲבַתֶּם אֶת־הַגֵּר כִּי־גֵרִים הָיִיתֶם בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: כ אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ תִירָא אוֹתוֹ תַעֲבֹד וּבוֹ תִדְבֹק וּבְשִׁמוֹ תִשָּׁבַע: כא הוּא תְהַלְתֶּךָ וְהוּא אֱלֹהֵיךָ אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה אֶתְךָ אֶת־הַגְּדֹלֶת וְאֶת־הַנּוֹרָאֹת הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר רָאוּ עֵינֶיךָ: כב בְּשִׁבְעִים לָפֶשׁ יִרְדּוּ אֲבֹתֶיךָ מִצְרַיִמָה וְעַתָּה שְׁמַד יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ כְּכֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם לָרֹב:

DEUTERONOMY 10:1-22

1 Thereupon Adonai said to me, "Carve out two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain; and make an ark of wood. **2** I will inscribe on the tablets the commandments that were on the first tablets that you smashed, and you shall deposit them in the ark." **3** I made an ark of acacia wood and carved out two tablets of stone like the first; I took the two tablets with me and went up the mountain. **4** After inscribing on the tablets the same text as on the first--the Ten Commandments that Adonai addressed to you on the mountain out of the fire on the day of the Assembly Adonai gave them to me. **5** Then I left and went down from the mountain, and I deposited the tablets in the ark that I had made, where they still are, as Adonai had commanded me. **6** From Beeroth-bene-jaakan the Israelites marched to Moserah. Aaron died there and was buried there; and his son Eleazar became priest in his stead. **7** From there they marched to Gudgod, and from Gudgod to Jotbath, a region of running brooks. **8** At that time Adonai set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the Ark of Adonai's Covenant, to stand in attendance upon Adonai, and to bless in God's name, as is still the case. **9** That is why Levi has received no hereditary portion along with its kin: Adonai is its portion, as Adonai your God spoke concerning it. **10** I had stayed on the mountain, as I did the first time, forty days and forty nights; and Adonai heeded me once again: Adonai agreed not to destroy you. **11** And Adonai said to me, "Up, resume the march at the head of the people, that they may go in and possess the land that I swore to their fathers to give them." **12** And now, O Israel, what does Adonai your God demand of you? Only this: to revere Adonai your God, to walk only in divine paths, to love and to serve Adonai your God with all your heart and soul, **13** keeping Adonai's commandments and laws, which I enjoin upon you today, for your good. **14** Mark, the heavens to their uttermost reaches belong to Adonai your God, the earth and all that is on it! **15** Yet it was to your ancestors that Adonai was drawn out of love for them, so that you, their lineal descendants, were chosen from among all peoples—as is now the case. **16** Cut away, therefore, the thickening about your hearts and stiffen your necks no more. **17** For Adonai your God is God supreme and Lord supreme, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who shows no favour and takes no bribe, **18** but upholds the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and befriends the stranger, providing food and clothing.—**19** You too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. **20** You must revere Adonai: only your God shall you worship, to God shall you hold fast, and by God's name shall you swear. **21** Adonai is your glory and your God, who wrought for you those marvellous, awesome deeds that you saw with your own eyes. **22** Your ancestors went down to Egypt seventy persons in all; and now Adonai your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

ISAIAH 49:14-50:9

But Zion said, Adonai has forsaken me, and Adonai has forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the child of her womb? Yes, even they may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you upon the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me. Your children shall make haste; your destroyers and those who destroyed you shall go away from you. Lift up your eyes around, and behold; all these gather themselves together, and come to you. As I live, said Adonai, you shall surely dress yourself with them all, as with an ornament, and bind them on you, as a bride does. For your destruction and your desolate places, and the land of your destruction, shall now be too narrow for your inhabitants; and those who swallowed you up shall be far away. The children who were taken away from you shall say again in your ears, The place is too narrow for me; give me room to dwell in. Then shall you say in your heart, Who has borne me these, seeing I have lost my children, a solitary, an exile, and a wanderer to and fro? And who has brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where have they been? Thus said Adonai, Behold, I will lift up My hand to the nations, and set up My standard to the people; and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. And kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers; they shall bow down to you with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet; and you shall know that I am Adonai; for those who wait for Me shall not be ashamed. Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captive of the victorious rescued? But thus says Adonai, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be saved; for I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children. And I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine; and all flesh shall know that I, Adonai am your Saviour and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. Thus says Adonai, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, with which I have put her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have you sold yourselves, and for your transgressions your mother was put away. Why, when I came, was no one there? When I called, was there none to answer? Is My hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to save? Behold, at My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness; their fish stink because there is no water, and die for thirst.

I dress the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering. Adonai has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to sustain with a word the weary; God wakens morning by morning, God wakens my ear to hear as the learned. Adonai has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. I gave my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who plucked off the hair; I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Adonai has helped me; therefore I have not been confounded; therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. God who justifies me is near; who will contend with me? Let us stand together; who is my adversary? Let them come near to me. Behold, Adonai will help me; who shall condemn me? Lo, they shall all become old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up.