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SHABBAT SHALOM

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4/5 September 2020

16 Elul 5780

Mazel Tov to Liliana Benoliel and her family on her Bat Mitzvah

SHABBAT KI TAVO

Parashat Ki Tavo addresses the time when the Israelites will settle in the land of Israel. Moses instructs them to place in a basket the first fruits they have harvested and present them, together with a prayer, to the priest at the sanctuary. Their prayer is to be a formula recalling they were slaves in Egypt, liberated by God, and given the land whose first fruits they now enjoy. They are also to set aside a tenth part of their yield for the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and they are to keep all the commandments given to them. In this way they will be a treasured people to God. Moses and the elders tell them, when they have settled in the land, to write the commandments on large plastered stones and set them up on Mount Ebal, where they are also to build an altar to God. The representatives of the tribes of Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin are to stand on Mount Gerizim to hear the blessing describing the good times that will come as a result of observing God's commandments. Facing them on Mount Ebal, representatives from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali are to stand to hear the curse resulting from disobeying the commandments. God promises the Israelites blessings of plenty, security, and peace if they observe faithfully the teachings of Torah. Curses of destruction, agony, want, and exile will befall them if they spurn the teachings of Torah. "Observe faithfully all the terms of this covenant," Moses warns, "that you may succeed in all that you undertake."

א וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה וְזִקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הָעָם לֵאמֹר שָׁמֹר אֶת־כָּל־הַמִּצְוָה אֲשֶׁר
אֲנִי מֵצִוֶּה אֶתְכֶם הַיּוֹם: ב וְהָיָה בַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲבְרוּ אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן
אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ נֹתֵן לָךְ וְהִקְמַתָּ לָךְ אֲבָנִים גְּדֹלוֹת וְשִׁדַּתָּ
אוֹתָם בְּשִׂיד: ג וְכָתַבְתָּ עֲלֵיהֶן אֶת־כָּל־דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת בְּעֵבֶרֶךָ לְמַעַן
אֲשֶׁר תִּבְּאֵ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ נֹתֵן לָךְ אֶרֶץ זָבַת חֶלֶב וְדִבְשׁ
כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי־אַבְרָהָם לָךְ: ד וְהָיָה בְּעֵבְרְכֶם אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן תִּקְיִמוּ
אֶת־הָאֲבָנִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מֵצִוֶּה אֶתְכֶם הַיּוֹם בְּהַר עֵיבָל וְשִׁדַּתָּ
אוֹתָם בְּשִׂיד: ה וּבְנִיתָ שֵׁם מִזִּבְחַ לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ מִזִּבְחַ אֲבָנִים לֹא־תִנְיֶה
עֲלֵיהֶם בְּרִזָּל: ו אֲבָנִים שְׁלֵמוֹת תִּבְנֶה אֶת־מִזְבִּיחַ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ וְהַעֲלִיתָ
עָלָיו עֹלֹת לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ: ז וְזִבַּחְתָּ שְׁלָמִים וְאִכַּלְתָּ שֵׁם וְשִׁמַּחְתָּ לִפְנֵי
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ: ח וְכָתַבְתָּ עַל־הָאֲבָנִים אֶת־כָּל־דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת בְּאֵר
הַיַּיִטב:

ט וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה וְהַכֹּהֲנִים הַלְוִיִּם אֶל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר הִסַּכְתָּ וְשָׁמַע
יִשְׂרָאֵל הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה נְהִייתָ לְעַם לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ: י וְשָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹל יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֵיךָ וַעֲשִׂיתָ אֶת־מִצְוֹתָיו וְאֶת־חֻקָּיו אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מֵצִוְּךָ הַיּוֹם:

יא וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הָעָם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר: יב אֵלֶּה יַעֲמְדוּ לְבָרֶךְ
אֶת־הָעָם עַל־הַר גְּרָזִים בְּעֵבְרְכֶם אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן שְׁמַעוּן וְלוּי וַיהוּדָה
וַיִּשְׁשֹׁכֶר וַיֹּסֶף וּבְנֵימֵן: יג וְאֵלֶּה יַעֲמְדוּ עַל־הַקְּלָה בְּהַר עֵיבָל רְאוּבֵן גָּד
וְאֲשֶׁר וּזְבוּלֹן דָּן וּנְפְתָלִי: יד וְעַנּוּ הַלְוִיִּם וְאָמְרוּ אֶל־כָּל־אִישׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל קוֹל
רָם:

DEUTERONOMY 27:1-14

27 Now Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people, saying: "Keep all the commandments which I command you today. 2 And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the Eternal One your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime. 3 You shall write on them all the words of this law, when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the Eternal One your God is giving you, 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' just as the Eternal One God of your fathers promised you. 4 Therefore it shall be, when you have crossed over the Jordan, that on Mount Ebal you shall set up these stones, which I command you today, and you shall whitewash them with lime. 5 And there you shall build an altar to the Eternal One your God, an altar of stones; you shall not use an iron tool on them. 6 You shall build with [a]whole stones the altar of the Eternal One your God, and offer burnt offerings on it to the Eternal One your God. 7 You shall offer peace offerings, and shall eat there, and rejoice before the Eternal One your God. 8 And you shall write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law."

9 Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the Eternal One your God. 10 Therefore you shall obey the voice of the Eternal One your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today." 11 And Moses commanded the people on the same day, saying,

12 "These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed over the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin; 13 and these shall stand on Mount Ebal to curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. 14 "And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel.

ISAIAH 61:1-10

The spirit of Adonai God is upon me, Because Adonai has anointed me;
God has sent me as a herald of joy to the humble, To bind up the wounded
of heart, To proclaim release to the captives, Liberation to the imprisoned;
To proclaim a year of Adonai's favour And a day of vindication by our God;
To comfort all who mourn—To provide for the mourners in Zion—
To give them a turban instead of ashes, The festive ointment instead of
mourning, A garment of splendor instead of a drooping spirit. They shall be
called terebinths of victory, Planted by Adonai for God's glory. And they
shall build the ancient ruins, Raise up the desolations of old, And renew the
ruined cities, The desolations of many ages. Strangers shall stand and
pasture your flocks, Aliens shall be your ploughmen and vine-trimmers;
While you shall be called "Priests of Adonai," And termed "Servants of our
God." You shall enjoy the wealth of nations And revel in their riches.
Because your shame was double—People cried, "Disgrace is their
portion"—Assuredly, They shall have a double share in their land,
Joy shall be theirs for all time. For I Adonai love justice, I hate robbery with
a burnt offering. I will pay them their wages faithfully, And make a
covenant with them for all time. Their offspring shall be known among the
nations, Their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them
shall recognize That they are a stock Adonai has blessed. I greatly rejoice
in Adonai, My whole being exults in my God. For God has clothed me with
garments of triumph, Wrapped me in a robe of victory, Like a bridegroom
adorned with a turban, Like a bride bedecked with her finery.

