

The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class # 39

The Temple in Jerusalem vs. the 'High Places' ["bamot"]

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Introduction -

As today is Lag b'Omer; and the popular custom is to gather to celebrate on Har Meron in the Galilee Mountains on this day – and as we prepare our transition from Sefer Shmuel to Sefer Melachim, this week to explore the topic of “bamot” [high places] which are so common in Tanach, even though the Torah and the Neviim seem to be very wary of this custom. In today's class, we try to understand why.

In light of this week's discussion, we will return to our study of King David choosing Jerusalem after Hashem answered his prayer on Har haBayit in next week's shiur – in honor of Jerusalem Day next week.

I. When David chooses Har ha'Bayit for the Temple – DH chapter 21

[after Hashem answered his prayer and stopped the Plague / last week's shiur]

כב וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד אֶל-אֶרְנָן, תִּנְהַלֵּי מְקוֹם הַגֶּרְןִי, וְאֶבְנֶנָה-בּוֹ מִזְבֵּחַ, לַיהוָה; בְּכֶסֶף מְלֵא תִנְהוּ לִי, וְתֵעָצֵר הַמִּגָּפָה מֵעַל הָעָם.

22 Then David said to Ornan: 'Give me the place of this threshing-floor, that I may build thereon an altar unto the LORD; for the full price shalt thou give it me; that the plague may be stayed from the people.'

כג וַיֹּאמֶר אֶרְנָן אֶל-דָּוִד קַח-לָךְ, וַיַּעַשׂ אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינָיו; וְרָאָה נְתַתִּי הַבֶּקֶר לְעֹלוֹת, וְהַמּוֹרְגִים לְעֵצִים וְהַחֲטִיִּם לַמִּנְחָה--הַכֹּל נְתַתִּי.

23 And Ornan said unto David: 'Take it to thee, and let my lord the king do that which is good in his eyes; lo, I give thee the oxen for burnt-offerings, and the threshing-instruments for wood, and the wheat for the meal-offering; I give it all'

כד וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ דָּוִד, לְאֶרְנָן, לֹא, כִּי-קָנָה אֶקְנֶה בְּכֶסֶף מְלֵא: כִּי לֹא-אֲשָׂא אֲשֶׁר-לָךְ, לַיהוָה, וְהֵעֵלוֹת עֹלָה, חֲנָם.

24 And king David said to Ornan: 'Nay, but I will verily buy it for the full price; for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer a burnt-offering without cost.'

כה וַיִּתֵּן דָּוִד לְאֶרְנָן, בַּמְּקוֹם, שְׁקָלֵי זָהָב, מִשְׁקַל שֵׁשׁ מֵאוֹת.

25 So David gave to Ornan for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight.

כו וַיִּבֶן שָׁם דָּוִד מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה, וַיַּעַל עֹלוֹת וּשְׁלָמִים; וַיִּקְרָא, אֶל-יְהוָה, וַיַּעֲנֵהוּ בְּאֵשׁ מִן-הַשָּׁמַיִם, עַל מִזְבֵּחַ הָעֹלָה. {ס}

26 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings, and called upon the LORD; and He answered him from heaven by fire upon the altar of burnt-offering. {S}

כז וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לַמַּלְאָךְ, וַיִּשֶׁב חֶרְבוֹ אֶל-נִדְנָהּ.

27 And the LORD commanded the angel; and he put up his sword back into the sheath thereof.

כח בַּעֲתָה הַהִיא--בְּרָאוֹת דָּוִד כִּי-עָנָהוּ יְהוָה, בְּגֶרְןִי אֶרְנָן הַיְבוּסִי; וַיִּזְבַּח, שָׁם.

28 At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him in the threshing-floor of Ornan the Jebusite, then he sacrificed there.

כט וּמִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה מֹשֶׁה בַּמִּדְבָּר, וּמִזְבֵּחַ הָעֹלָה--בַּעֲתָה הַהִיא: בְּבִמְתָה, בְּגִבְעוֹן.

29 For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt-offering, were at that time in the high place at Gibeon.

ל וְלֹא-יָכַל דָּוִד לְלַכֵּת לִפְנֵי, לְדַרְשׁ אֱלֹהִים : כִּי
נִבְעַת--מִפְּנֵי, חָרַב מִלְּאֲדָי יְהוָה. {ס}

30 But David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was terrified because of the sword of the angel of the LORD.

**א וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד--זֶה הוּא,
בַּיִת יְהוָה הָאֱלֹהִים;**

1 Then David said: 'This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt-offering for Israel.' {P}

וְזֶה-מִזְבֵּחַ לְעֹלָה, לְיִשְׂרָאֵל. {פ}

**ב וַיֹּאמֶר דָּוִד--לְכַנּוֹס אֶת-הַגֵּרִים, אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ
יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיַּעֲמֵד חֲצָבִים, לְחִצּוֹב אֲבָנֵי גְזִית, לְבִנוֹת,
בַּיִת הָאֱלֹהִים....**

2 And David commanded to gather together the strangers that were in the land of Israel; and he set masons to hew wrought stones to build the house of God.

I.I The primary source for ONE PLACE - in Devarim chapter 12

**א אֵלֶּה הַחֻקִּים וְהַמִּשְׁפָּטִים, אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמְרוּן
לְעֹשׂוֹת, בְּאֶרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר נָתַן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתֵיךָ לָךְ
לְרִשְׁתָּהּ: כָּל-הַיָּמִים--אֲשֶׁר-אַתֶּם חַיִּים, עַל-הָאֲדָמָה.**

1 These are the statutes and the ordinances, which ye shall observe to do in the land which the LORD, the God of thy fathers, hath given thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth.

**ב אַבֵּד תִּאֲבֹדוּן אֶת-כָּל-הַמִּקְדָּמוֹת אֲשֶׁר עָבְדוּ-שָׁם
הַגּוֹיִם, אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם יֹרְשִׁים אֹתָם--אֶת-אֱלֹהֵיהֶם: עַל-
הַהָרִים הָרָמִים וְעַל-הַגְּבְעוֹת, וְתַחַת כָּל-עֵץ רֵעָנָן.**

2 Ye shall surely destroy all the places, wherein the nations that ye are to dispossess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every leafy tree.

**ג וְנִתְצַתְּם אֶת-מִזְבְּחֹתָם, וְשִׁבְרַתְּם אֶת-מִצְבֹּתָם,
וְאַשְׂרִייתֶם תִּשְׂרֹפוּן בָּאֵשׁ, וּפְסִילֵי אֱלֹהֵיהֶם תִּגְדַּעוּן;
וְאַבְדַּתְּם אֶת-שְׁמֵם, מִן-הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא.**

3 And ye shall break down their altars, and dash in pieces their pillars, and burn their Asherim with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods; and ye shall destroy their name out of that place.

ד לֹא-תַעֲשׂוּן כֵּן, לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם.

4 Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God.

**ה כִּי אִם-אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר-יִבְחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם,
מִכָּל-שְׁבֵטֵיכֶם, לְשׂוֹם אֶת-שְׁמוֹ, שָׁם-
לְשַׁכְּנוֹ תִּדְרְשׁוּ, וּבֵאתָ שָׁמָּה.**

5 But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put His name there, even unto His habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come;

**ו וְהֵבֵאתֶם שָׁמָּה, עֲלֵיתִיכֶם וְזִבְחֵיכֶם, וְאֵת
מַעֲשֵׂרֵיכֶם, וְאֵת תְּרוּמַת יְדְכֶם; וְנִדְרֵיכֶם,
וְנִדְבַתֵיכֶם, וּבְכֹרֶת בְּקֹרְכֶם, וְצֹאנְכֶם.**

6 and thither ye shall bring your burnt-offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and the offering of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill-offerings, and the firstlings of your herd and of your flock;

**ז וְאָכַלְתֶּם-שָׁם, לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם, וּשְׂמַחְתֶּם
בְּכָל מַשְׁלַח יְדְכֶם, אֹתָם וּבֵיתֵיכֶם--אֲשֶׁר בְּרִכְדָּה,
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיךָ.**

7 and there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee.

**ח לֹא תַעֲשׂוּן--כָּכֵל אֲשֶׁר אֲנַחֲנוּ עֹשִׂים פֹּה, הַיּוֹם:
אִישׁ, כָּל-הַיֹּשֵׁר בְּעֵינָיו.**

8 Ye shall not do after all that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his own eyes;

ט כי לא-באתם, עד-עתה--אל-המנוחה, ואל-הנחלה, אשר-יהוה אלהיך, נתן לך.

9 for ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth thee.

י ועברתם, את-הירדן, וישבתם בארץ, אשר-יהוה אלהיכם מנחיל אתכם; והניח לכם מפל-איביכם מסביב, וישבתם-בטח.

10 But when ye go over the Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God causeth you to inherit, and He giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety;

יא והיה המקום, אשר-יבחר יהוה אלהיכם בו לשכון שמו שם--שמה תביאו, את כל-אשר אנכי מצוה אתכם: עולתיכם וזבחיכם, מעשרתיכם ותרמת ידכם, וכל מבחר נדריכם, אשר תדרו ליהוה.

11 then it shall come to pass that the place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause His name to dwell there, thither shall ye bring all that I command you: your burnt-offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD.

יב ושמחתם, לפני יהוה אלהיכם--אתם ובניכם ובנותיכם, ועבדיכם ואמהתיכם; והלוי אשר בשעריכם, כי אין לו חלק ונחלה אתכם.

12 And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your men-servants, and your maid-servants, and the Levite that is within your gates, forasmuch as he hath no portion nor inheritance with you.

יג השמר לך, פן-תעלה עלתיך, בכל-מקום, אשר תראה.

13 Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt-offerings in every place that thou seest;

יד כי אם-במקום אשר-יבחר יהוה, באחד שבטיך--שם, תעלה עלתיך; ושם תעשה, כל אשר אנכי מצוה.

14 but in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt-offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

טו רק בכל-אות נפשך תזבח ואכלת בשר, כבדבת יהוה אלהיך אשר נתן לך--בכל-שעריך; הטמא והטהור יאכלנו, בצבי וקאיל...

15 Notwithstanding thou mayest kill and eat flesh within all thy gates, after all the desire of thy soul, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which He hath given thee; the unclean and the clean may eat thereof, as of the gazelle, and as of the hart.

Discussion:

Why the need for a singular site –

And, why ONLY after the nation has settled down-

After conquest and settlement. Note later in chapter 12, permission to eat meat outside the Mikdash / Temple [not like in the desert – see Vayikra chapter 17]

כ כי-ירחיב יהוה אלהיך את-גבולך, באשר דבר-לך, ואמרת אכלה בשר, כי-תאונה נפשך לאכל בשר--בכל-אות נפשך, תאכל בשר.

20 When the LORD thy God shall enlarge thy border, as He hath promised thee, and thou shalt say: 'I will eat flesh', because thy soul desireth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, after all the desire of thy soul.

כא כי-ירחק ממך המקום, אשר יבחר יהוה אלהיך לשום שמו שם, וזבחת מבקרך ומצאנך אשר נתן יהוה לך, באשר צויתך--ואכלת, בשעריך, בכל, אות נפשך.

21 If the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to put His name there be too far from thee, then thou shalt kill of thy herd and of thy flock, which the LORD hath given thee, as I have commanded thee, and thou shalt eat within thy gates, after all the desire of thy soul.

III. Why / When David thought it was the correct time

Shmuel Bet chapter 7

א וַיְהִי, כִּי-יָשָׁב הַמֶּלֶךְ בְּבֵיתוֹ; וַיְהוֶה הַנִּיחַ-לוֹ מִסָּבִיב, מִכָּל-אֹיְבָיו.

1 And it came to pass, when the king dwelt in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies round about,

ב וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶל-נָתָן הַנָּבִיא, רְאֵה נָא, אֲנֹכִי יוֹשֵׁב בְּבַיִת אֲרָזִים; וְאַרוֹן, הָאֱלֹהִים, יֹשֵׁב, בְּתוֹךְ הִרְיָעָה.

2 that the king said unto Nathan the prophet: 'See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.'

ג וַיֹּאמֶר נָתָן אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, כָּל אֲשֶׁר בְּלִבְבְּךָ לַעֲשֹׂה: כִּי יְהוֶה, עִמָּךְ.

3 And Nathan said to the king: 'Go, do all that is in thy heart; for the LORD is with thee.'

ד וַיְהִי, בַּלַּיְלָה הַהוּא; {ס} וַיְהִי, דְּבַר-יְהוֶה, אֶל-נָתָן, לֵאמֹר.

4 And it came to pass the same night, {S} that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying:

ה לֵךְ וְאָמַרְתָּ אֶל-עַבְדִּי אֶל-דָּוִד, {ס} כֹּה אָמַר יְהוֶה:

5 'Go and tell My servant David: {S} Thus saith the LORD: Shalt thou build Me a house for Me to dwell in?

הַאֲתָה תִּבְנֶה-לִּי בַיִת, לְשִׁבְתִּי...

יא וְלִמְן-הַיּוֹם, אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי שְׁפָטִים עַל-עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְהִנִּיחֹתִי לְךָ, מִכָּל-אֹיְבֶיךָ; וְהִגִּיד לְךָ יְהוֶה, כִּי-בַיִת יַעֲשֶׂה-לְךָ יְהוֶה.

11 even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will cause thee to rest from all thine enemies. Moreover the LORD telleth thee that the LORD will make thee a house.

יב כִּי יִמְלְאוּ יָמֶיךָ, וְשָׁכַבְתָּ אֶת-אֲבֹתֶיךָ, וְהִקִּימֹתִי אֶת-זָרְעֶךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ, אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא מִמֶּעֶיךָ; וְהִכִּינֹתִי, אֶת-מַמְלַכְתּוֹ.

12 When thy days are fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, that shall proceed out of thy body, and I will establish his kingdom.

יג הוּא יִבְנֶה-בַיִת, לְשִׁמִּי; וְכִנֵּנְתִּי אֶת-כִּסֵּא מַמְלַכְתּוֹ, עַד-עוֹלָם.

13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

In DH aleph chapter 22

ט הִנֵּה-בֶן נוֹלָד לְךָ, הוּא יְהִי אִישׁ מְנוּחָה, וְהִנִּיחֹתִי לוֹ מִכָּל-אֹיְבָיו, מִסָּבִיב: כִּי שָׁלְמָה יְהִי שְׁמוֹ, וְשָׁלוֹם וְשִׁקֵּט אֶתָּן עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּיָמָיו.

9 Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about; for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.

י הוּא יִבְנֶה בַיִת, לְשִׁמִּי, וְהוּא יְהִי-לִּי לְבֶן, וְאֲנִי-לוֹ לְאָב; וְהִכִּינֹתִי כִּסֵּא מַלְכוּתוֹ, עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל--עַד-עוֹלָם.

10 He shall build a house for My name; and he shall be to Me for a son, and I will be to him for a father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

IV. The history of “kosher meat” & danger of “bamot”

[Discuss – pro’s & con’s of humans consuming meat]

Breishit chapter 9

- א** וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים, אֶת-נֹחַ וְאֶת-בָּנָיו; וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ, וּמְלֵאוּ אֶת-הָאָרֶץ.
- ב** וּמִוֹרְאֵכֶם וּחִתְכֶם, יִהְיֶה, עַל כָּל-חַיַּת הָאָרֶץ, וְעַל כָּל-עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם; בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר תִּרְמַשׁ הָאֲדָמָה וּבְכָל-דְּגֵי הַיָּם, בְּיַדְכֶם נִתְּנוּ.
- ג** כָּל-רֶמֶשׂ אֲשֶׁר הוּא-חַי, לָכֶם יִהְיֶה לְאֹכְלָהּ: כִּי־רֶקַע יַעֲשֶׂב, נִתַּתִּי לָכֶם אֶת-כָּל.
- ד** אֶדְ-בֶּשֶׂר, בִּנְפֹשׁוֹ דָמוֹ לֹא תֹאכְלוּ.
- ה** וְאֵד אֶת-דַּמְכֶם לְנַפְשֵׁיכֶם אֲדַרְשׁ, מִיַּד כָּל-חַיָּה אֲדַרְשֶׁנּוּ; וּמִיַּד הָאָדָם, מִיַּד אִישׁ אַחִיו--אֲדַרְשׁ, אֶת-נַפְשׁ הָאָדָם.
- ו** שִׁפְךְ דַּם הָאָדָם, בְּאָדָם דָּמוֹ יִשְׁפָךְ: כִּי בְצַלְם אֱלֹהִים, עָשָׂה אֶת-הָאָדָם.
- 1** And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth.
- 2** And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, and upon all wherewith the ground teemeth, and upon all the fishes of the sea: into your hand are they delivered.
- 3** Every moving thing that liveth shall be for food for you; as the green herb have I given you all.
- 4** Only flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.
- 5** And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it; and at the hand of man, even at the hand of every man's brother, will I require the life of man.
- 6** Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God made He man.

Vayikra chapter 17

- א** וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר.
- ב** דַּבֵּר אֶל-אַהֲרֹן וְאֶל-בָּנָיו, וְאֶל כָּל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמַרְתָּ, אֲלֵיהֶם: זֶה הַדְּבָר, אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּה יְהוָה לֵאמֹר.
- ג** אִישׁ אִישׁ, מִבֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁחַט שׂוֹר אוֹ-כֶשֶׂב אוֹ-עֵז, בַּמַּחֲנֶה; אוֹ אֲשֶׁר יִשְׁחַט, מִחוּץ לַמַּחֲנֶה.
- ד** וְאֵל-פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד, לֹא הֵבִיאוּ, לְהִקְרִיב קֹרְבָן לַיהוָה, לִפְנֵי מִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה--דָּם יַחֲשֵׁב לְאִישׁ הֵהוּא, דָּם שִׁפְךְ, וּנְכַרְתָּ הָאִישׁ הֵהוּא, מִקֶּרֶב עַמּוֹ.
- ה** לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר יָבִיאוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶת-זְבָחֵיהֶם אֲשֶׁר הֵם זֹבְחִים עַל-פְּנֵי הַשָּׂדֶה, וְהֵבִיֵּאם לַיהוָה אֶל-פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד, אֶל-הַכֹּהֵן; וְזָבְחוּ זְבָחֵי שְׁלָמִים, לַיהוָה--אוֹתָם.
- ו** וְזָרַק הַכֹּהֵן אֶת-הַדָּם עַל-מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה, פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד; וְהִקְטִיר הַחֶלֶב, לְרִיחַ נִיחַח לַיהוָה.
- ז** וְלֹא-יִזְבְּחוּ עוֹד, אֶת-זְבָחֵיהֶם, לְשַׁעִירִם, אֲשֶׁר הֵם זֹנִים אַחֲרֵיהֶם: חֻקַּת עוֹלָם תִּהְיֶה-זֹּאת לָהֶם, לְדֹרֹתָם.
- 1** And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying:
- 2** Speak unto Aaron, and unto his sons, and unto all the children of Israel, and say unto them: This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, saying:
- 3** What man soever there be of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth it without the camp,
- 4** and hath not brought it unto the door of the tent of meeting, to present it as an offering unto the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD, blood shall be imputed unto that man; he hath shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people.
- 5** To the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices, which they sacrifice in the open field, even that they may bring them unto the LORD, unto the door of the tent of meeting, unto the priest, and sacrifice them for sacrifices of peace-offerings unto the LORD.
- 6** And the priest shall dash the blood against the altar of the LORD at the door of the tent of meeting, and make the fat smoke for a sweet savour unto the LORD.
- 7** And they shall no more sacrifice their sacrifices unto the satyrs, after whom they go astray. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations.

V. The rebuke of Micha re: 'high places'

Micha chapter 6

- א** שְׁמְעוּ-נָא, אֵת אֲשֶׁר-יְהוָה אָמַר: **קוֹם רִיב אֶת-הַהָרִים**, וְתִשְׁמַעְנָה הַגְּבְעוֹת קוֹלְךָ.
- ב** **שְׁמְעוּ הָרִים אֶת-רִיב יְהוָה**, וְהֵאֲתַנְיִם מוֹסְדֵי אָרֶץ: **כִּי רִיב לִיהוָה עִם-עַמּוֹ, וְעִם-יִשְׂרָאֵל יִתּוֹכַח.**
- ג** עַמִּי מָה-עָשִׂיתִי לָךְ, וּמָה הִלְאַתִּיךָ: **עֲנֵה בִי.**
- ד** כִּי הֵעַלְתִּיךָ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, וּמִבֵּית עֲבָדִים פְּדִיתִיךָ; וְאֶשְׁלַח לְפָנֶיךָ, אֶת-מֹשֶׁה אַהֲרֹן וּמִרְיָם.
- ה** עַמִּי, זְכֹר-נָא מַה-יַעֲצֵ בְלֶקְמֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב, וּמָה-עָנָה אֹתוֹ, בְּלַעַם בֶּן-בְּעוֹר--מִן-הַשְּׁטִיִּם, עַד-הַגִּלְגָּל, לְמַעַן, דַּעַת צְדָקוֹת יְהוָה.
- ו** **בַּמָּה אֶקְדָּם יְהוָה**, אֲכַפֵּף לְאֱלֹהֵי מָרוֹם; הֲאֶקְדָּמְנוּ בְּעוֹלוֹת? בְּעִגְלִים בְּנֵי שָׁנָה?
- ז** הֲיִרְצָה יְהוָה בְּאַלְפֵי אֵילִים? בְּרִבְבוֹת נַחְלֵי-שֶׁמֶן; הֲאֶתֶן בְּכוֹרֵי פִשְׁעֵי, פְּרִי בִטְנֵי חַטָּאת נַפְשִׁי?
- ח** הֲגִיד לָךְ אָדָם, מַה-טוֹב; וּמָה-יְהוָה דוֹרֵשׁ מִמֶּךָ, **כִּי אִם-עֲשׂוֹת מִשְׁפָּט וְאַהֲבַת חֶסֶד, וְהִצַּנֵּעַ לִכְתּוּב עִם-אֱלֹהֶיךָ.** {ס}
- 1** Hear ye now what the LORD saith: Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice.
- 2** Hear, O ye mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye enduring rocks, the foundations of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with His people, and He will plead with Israel.
- 3** O My people, what have I done unto thee? And wherein have I wearied thee? Testify against Me.
- 4** For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of bondage, and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.
- 5** O My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him; from Shittim unto Gilgal, that ye may know the righteous acts of the LORD.
- 6** 'Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before Him with burnt-offerings, with calves of a year old?
- 7** Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'
- 8** It hath been told thee, O man, what is good, and what the LORD doth require of thee: only to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.