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וזאת הברכה V'Zot HaBerachah

Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12

- וְזֹאת הַבְּרָכָה אֲשֶׁר בֵּרַךְ מֹשֶׁה אֶישׁ הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לִפְנֵי מוֹתוֹ:
- 1 This is the blessing with which Moses, God's agent, (agent Lit. "participant whose involvement defines the depicted situation"; trad. "man"; cf. Exod. 3.10; Num. 12.6–8; 20.16. See the Dictionary under 'ish; Agent.) bade the Israelites farewell before he died.
- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה מִסִּינַי בָּא וְזָרַח מִשְׁעֵיר לְמוֹ הוֹפִיעַ מִהָר פָּאֵרָן וְאַתָּה מִרְבֶּבֶת קֹדֶשׁ מִיִּמִּינוֹ (אֲשֶׁר הִתְּן) לְמוֹ:
- 2 He said: הוּא came from Sinai, And shone upon them from Seir; [God] appeared from Mount Paran, And approached from Ribebboth-kodesh, (Ribebboth-kodesh Cf. Meribath-kadesh, 32.51.) Lightning flashing at them from [God's] right. (Lightning flashing ... from [God's] right Meaning of Heb. mi-ymino 'esh dath uncertain, perhaps a place name.)
- אֶף חֶבֶב עַמִּים כָּל־קֹדְשָׁיו בְּיָדְךָ וְהֵם תָּכֹן לְרַגְלְךָ יִשְׂאֵ מִדְּבַרְתֶּיךָ:
- 3 (The meaning of vv. 3–5 is uncertain. An alternative rendering, with v. 3 apostrophizing Moses, is: "3 Then were, O lover of the people, / All [God's] worshipers in your care; / They followed your lead, / Accepted your precepts. / 4 Moses charged us with the Teaching / As the heritage of the congregation of Jacob. / 5 Thus was he king in Jeshurun....") Lover, indeed, of the people, Their hallowed are all in Your hand. They followed in Your steps, Accepting Your pronouncements,
- תּוֹרָה צִוְּה־לָנוּ מֹשֶׁה מוֹרְשָׁה קִהַלְתָּ יַעֲקֹב:
- 4 When Moses charged us with the Teaching As the heritage of the congregation of Jacob.
- וַיְהִי בִישְׁרוּן מֶלֶךְ בְּהַתְּאַסֵּף רָאשֵׁי לֵם יָחַד שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
- 5 Then [God] became King (King I.e., one who provides protection and caring help. (This poetic figure takes the ancient Near Eastern status and gender hierarchy as a given.) See further the Dictionary under "king.") in Jeshurun, When the heads of the people assembled, The tribes of Israel together.
- יְחִי רְאוּבֵן וְאַל־יָמֹת וַיְהִי מִתּוֹ מִסְפָּר:
- 6 May Reuben live and not die, Though few be his numbers.
- וְזֹאת לִיהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמַע יְהוָה קוֹל יְהוּדָה וְאַל־עֲמֹן תְּבִיאֲנֹנוּ יָדָיו רַב לוֹ וְעֲזָר מִצָּרָיו תִּהְיֶה:
- 7 And this he said of Judah: Hear, הוּא, the voice of Judah And restore him to his people. Though his own hands strive for him, (Though his own hands strive for him Better (vocalizing rab with patha) "Make his hands strong for him." Cf. rabbeh, Judg. 9.29.) Help him against his foes.
- וּלְלֵוִי אָמַר תִּמְיָךְ וְאוּרִיךְ לְאִישׁ חֲסִידְךָ אֲשֶׁר נָסִיתוֹ בַּמָּסָה תִּרְיָבֵהוּ עַל־מֵי מְרִיבָה:
- 8 And of Levi he said: Let Your Thummim and Urim Be with Your faithful one, Whom You tested at Massah, Challenged at the waters of Meribah;

- 9 Who said of his father and mother, "I consider them not." His brothers he disregarded, Ignored his own children. Your precepts alone they observed, And kept Your covenant.
- 10 They shall teach Your laws to Jacob And Your instructions to Israel. They shall offer You incense to savor (They shall offer You incense to savor Lit. "They shall place incense in Your nostril.") And whole-offerings on Your altar.
- 11 Bless, הוהי, his substance, And favor his undertakings. Smite the loins of his foes; Let his enemies rise no more.
- 12 Of Benjamin he said: Beloved of הוהי, He rests securely beside [God], Who protects him always, As he rests between God's shoulders. (As he rests between God's shoulders Or "He dwells amid God's slopes.")
- 13 And of Joseph he said: Blessed of הוהי be his land With the bounty of dew from heaven, (With the bounty of dew from heaven Targum Onkelos and two Hebrew manuscripts: "With the bounty of heaven above," reading me'al ("above") for mial (lit., "from dew"), cf. Gen. 49.25.) And of the deep that couches below;
- 14 With the bounteous yield of the sun, And the bounteous crop of the moons;
- 15 With the best from the ancient mountains, And the bounty of hills immemorial;
- 16 With the bounty of earth and its fullness, And the favor of the Presence (Presence Lit. "Dweller"; cf. Exod. 3.1ff.) in the Bush. May these rest on the head of Joseph, On the crown of the elect of his brothers.
- 17 Like a firstling bull in his majesty, He has horns like the horns of the wild-ox; With them he gores the peoples, The ends of the earth one and all. These (These I.e., one of the wild-ox's horns.) are the myriads of Ephraim, Those (Those I.e., the other horn.) are the thousands of Manasseh.
- 18 And of Zebulun he said: Rejoice, O Zebulun, on your journeys, And Issachar, in your tents.
- 19 They invite their kin to the mountain, Where they offer sacrifices of success. For they draw from the riches of the sea And the hidden hoards of the sand.
- האמר לאביו ולאמו לא ראיתיו ואת־אחיו לא הכיר ואת־בניו לא ידע כי שמרו אמרתך ובריתך ינצרו:
- יורו משפט־יך ליעקב ותורתך לישראל ישִׁימו קטורה באֶפֶךָ וכליל על־מזבחך:
- ברך יהוה חילו ופעל ידיו תרצה מחץ מתננים קמיו ומשנאיו מן־יקומיו:
- לבנימין אמר יהוה ישכון לבטח עליו חֶפֶץ עליו כל־היום ובין כתפיו שֶׁבֶן:
- וליוסף אמר מברכת יהוה ארצו ממנו שמים מטל ומתהום רבצת תחת:
- וממנו תבואת שמש וממנו נֶרֶשׁ ירחים:
- ומראש הררי־קדם וממנו גבעות עולם:
- וממנו ארץ ומלאה ורצון שכני סנה תבואתה לראש יוסף ולקדקד נזיר אחיו:
- בלור שורו הדר לו וקרני ראם קרניו בהם עמים ינגח יחדו אפסי־ארץ והם רבבות אפלים והם אלפי מנשה:
- ולזבולן אמר שמח זבולן בצאתך ויששכר באהלך:
- עמים הר־יקראו שם יזבחו וזבחי־צדק כי שפע ימים יילקו ושפני טמוני חול:

- 20 And of Gad he said: Blessed be the One who enlarges Gad! Poised is he like a lion To tear off arm and scalp.
- 21 (Meaning of verse uncertain; cf. vv. 3–5 (with note there), and saphun “esteemed” in post-biblical Heb.) He chose for himself the best, For there is the portion of the revered chieftain, Where the heads of the people come. He executed יהוה’s judgments And God’s decisions for Israel.
- 22 And of Dan he said: Dan is a lion’s whelp That leaps forth from Bashan.
- 23 And of Naphtali he said: O Naphtali, sated with favor And full of יהוה’s blessing, Take possession on the west and south.
- 24 And of Asher he said: Most blessed of sons be Asher; May he be the favorite of his brothers, May he dip his foot in oil.
- 25 (Meaning of verse uncertain.) May your doorbolts be iron and copper, And your security last all your days.
- 26 O Jeshurun, there is none like God, Riding through the heavens to help you, Through the skies in His majesty.
- 27 (Meaning of verse uncertain.) The ancient God is a refuge, A support are the arms everlasting. He drove out the enemy before you By His command: Destroy!
- 28 Thus Israel dwells in safety, Untroubled is Jacob’s abode, (abode Others “fountain.”) In a land of grain and wine, Under heavens dripping dew.
- 29 O happy Israel! Who is like you, A people delivered by יהוה, Your protecting Shield, your Sword triumphant! Your enemies shall come cringing before you, And you shall tread on their backs.
- וילגד אמר ברוך מרחיב גֹּד כְּלָבִיא שֶׁכֵּן וְטָרַף זֶרֶעַ אֶף־קֶדֶד:
וַיֵּרָא רָאשִׁית לּוֹ כִּי־שֵׁם חִלָּקֶת מְחַקֵּק סָפֹון וַיִּתָּא רָאשֵׁי לָם צִדְקַת יְהוָה עֲשָׂה וּמִשְׁפָּטָיו עִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל:
וילדן אמר דן גִּיד אַרְיֵה יִזְנֵק מִן־הַבָּשָׁן:
וילנפתלי אמר נפתלי שָׂבַע רָצוֹן וּמֵלֵא בִרְכַּת יְהוָה יָם וְדָרוֹם יִרְשֶׁה:
וילאשר אמר ברוך מבנים אשר יהי רצוי אחיו וטבל בשמן רגלו:
ברגל ונחשת מנעלך וכימך דבאך:
אין באל ישורון רכב שמים בעזרך ובגאותו שחקים:
מענה אלהי קדם ומתחת זרעת עולם ויגרש מפניך אויב ויאמר השמר:
וישכן ישראל בטח בדד עין יעקב אלארץ דגן ותירוש אף־שמיו יערפו טל:
אשכך* ישראל מי כמוך עם נושע ביהוה מגן עזרך ואשר־חַב גִּאוֹתֶךָ וַיַּכְחֲשׂוּ אֹיְבֶיךָ לָךְ וְאֹתָהּ עַל־בְּמוֹתֵימוֹ תִּדְרֹךְ:
וילעל משה מערבת מואב אלהי נבו ראש הפסגה אשר על־פני ירחו ויראהו יהוה את־כל־הָאָרֶץ אֶת־הַגִּלְעָד עַד־דָּן:
ואת כל־נפתלי ואת־ארץ אפרים ומנשה ואת כל־ארץ יהודה עד הים האחרון:
ואת־הַנֶּגֶב וְאֶת־הַכָּר בִּקְעַת יִרְחוֹ עִיר הַתְּמָרִים עַד־צֹר:

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- 1 Moses went up from the steppes of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the summit of Pisgah, opposite Jericho, and יהוה showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan;
- 2 all Naphtali; the land of Ephraim and Manasseh; the whole land of Judah as far as the Western (Western I.e., Mediterranean; cf. 11.24.) Sea;
- 3 the Negeb; and the Plain—the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar.

- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלָיו זֹאת הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק
וְלַיַּעֲקֹב לֵאמֹר לְזֶרְעֶךָ אֶתְנַנָּה הָרְאִיתִיךָ בְּעֵינֶיךָ וְשָׂמָּה לֹא תַעֲבֹר:
- וַיָּמָת שָׁם מֹשֶׁה עֶבֶד־יְהוָה בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹאָב עַל־פִּי יְהוָה:
- וַיִּקְבֹּר אֹתוֹ בְּגִל בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹאָב מִן הַבַּיִת פְּעֹר וְלֹא־יָדָע אִישׁ
אֶת־קְבֻרָתוֹ עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה:
- וּמֹשֶׁה בָּן־מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה בָּמָתוֹ לֹא־כָהָתָה עֵינָיו וְלֹא־נָס לַחֹה:
- וַיִּבְכּוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־מֹשֶׁה בְּעָרְבַת מוֹאָב שְׁלֹשִׁים יוֹם וַיִּתְּמֻ
יָמָי בְּכִי אֲבֵל מֹשֶׁה:
- וַיְהִי־שֶׁשׁ בְּיָנוֹן מִלֵּא רוּחַ חֲכָמָה כִּי־סָמַךְ מֹשֶׁה אֶת־יָדָיו עָלָיו
וַיִּשְׁמְעֻהוּ אֵלָיו בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּעֲשׂוּ כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת־מֹשֶׁה:
- וְלֹא־קָם נָבִיא עוֹד בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כְּמֹשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר יָדָעוּ יְהוָה פָּנִים אֶל־פָּנִים:
- לְכָל־הָאֵתֹת וְהַמּוֹפְתִים אֲשֶׁר שְׁלַח יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרָיִם
לְפָרֹעַה וּלְכָל־עַבְדָּיו וּלְכָל־אֶרֶצוֹ:
- וּלְכָל הַיָּד הַחֲזָקָה וּלְכָל הַמּוֹרָא הַגָּדוֹל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה מֹשֶׁה לְעֵינֵי
כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל:
- 4 And הוהי said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, ‘I will assign it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you shall not cross there.”
- 5 So Moses the servant of הוהי died there, in the land of Moab, at the command of הוהי.
- 6 [God] buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, near Beth-peor; and no one knows his burial place to this day.
- 7 Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died; his eyes were undimmed and his vigor unabated.
- 8 And the Israelites bewailed Moses in the steppes of Moab for thirty days. The period of wailing and mourning for Moses came to an end.
- 9 Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands upon him; and the Israelites heeded him, doing as הוהי had commanded Moses.
- 10 Never again did there arise in Israel a prophet like Moses—whom הוהי singled out, face to face,
- 11 for the various signs and portents that הוהי sent him to display in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his courtiers and his whole country,
- 12 and for all the great might and awesome power that Moses displayed before all Israel.