

54

וזאת הברכה V'Zot HaBerachah

Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12

33

אֲשֶׁר בֵּרַךְ מֹשֶׁה אִישׁ הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לִפְנֵי מוֹתוֹ:
וְזֹאת הַבְּרָכָה

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.

מֵהָר פָּאֵרָן וְאַתָּה מִרְבֶּבֶת קֹדֶשׁ מִמִּינֹו (אֲשֶׁר דָּתָן] לָמוּ:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה מִסִּינִי בָּא וְזָרַח מִשְׁעִיר לָמוּ הוֹפִיעַ

2 He said: הוהי 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.

חֲבֹב עַמִּים כָּל־קֹדֶשְׁיוֹ בִּידָךְ וְהֵם תָּכֹו לְרִגְלֶךָ יֵשָׂא מִדְּבַרְתֶּיךָ:
אֶף

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 מוֹרֶשֶׁה קִהַלְתָּ יַעֲקֹב:

4 When Moses charged us with the TeachingAs the heritage of the congregation of Jacob.

וַיְהִי בִישְׁרוֹן מֶלֶךְ בְּהַתְּאַסָּף רָאשֵׁי עַם יְחִיד שְׁבָטֵי 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־יָמָת וַיְהִי מִתּוֹ מִסְפָּר:

6 May Reuben live and not die,Though few be his numbers.

קוֹל יְהוּדָה וְאַל־עֲמֹו תְּבִיאֲנוּ יָדָיו רַב לוֹ וְעֶזֶר מִצָּרָיו תִּהְיֶה:
וְזֹאת לִיהוּדָה וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמַע יְהוָה

7 And this he said of Judah:Hear, הוהי, the voice of JudahAnd 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.

לְאִישׁ חֲסִידְךָ אֲשֶׁר נִסִּיתוֹ בַּמַּסָּה תְּרִיבָהוּ עַל־מִי מְרִיבָה:
וְלִלְנִי אָמַר תִּמְיֶךָ וְאוֹרֶיךָ

8 And of Levi he said:Let Your Thummim and UrimBe 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.
- לֹא הִלִּיר וְאֶת־בָּנָיו לֹא יָדַע כִּי שָׁמְרוּ אִמְרֹתֶיךָ וּבְרִיתֶךָ יִנָּצְרוּ:
הָאֵמֶר לְאָבִיו וּלְאִמּוֹ לֹא רָאִיתִיו וְאֶת־אָחִיו
- וְתוֹרֹתֶיךָ לְיִשְׂרָאֵל יְשִׁימוּ קְטֹרֶת בְּאַפֶּךָ וְכִלְיִל עַל־מִזְבְּחֶךָ:
יֹרֶוּ מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ לִיעֲקֹב
- וּפָעַל יָדָיו תְּרַצֶּה מִחֹץ מִתְנַנִּים קָמִיו וּמִשְׁנֵאָיו מִן־יָקוֹמוֹן:
בִּרְךָ יְהוָה חֵילֹו
- יִשְׁכֵּן לְבָטֶחַ עָלָיו חֶפֶץ עָלָיו כְּלִי־הַלֹּם וּבֵין כַּתְּפָיו שֹׁכֵן:
לְבִנְיָמִן אָמַר יְדִיד יְהוָה
- מִבְּרֶכֶת יְהוָה אֶרֶצּוֹ מִמֶּנֶּד שְׁמַיִם מִטֹּל וּמִתְהוֹם רִבְצָת תַּחַת:
וּלְיוֹסֵף אָמַר
- וּמִמֶּנֶּד תְּבוּאֹת שֶׁמֶשׁ וּמִמֶּנֶּד נֶגֶד יְרֵחַ יְרֵחִים:
- וּמִרֵּאשׁ הָרִי־קָדָם וּמִמֶּנֶּד גִּבְעוֹת עוֹלָם:
- וּרְצֹן שִׁכְנָה תְּבוּאָתָהּ לְרֵאשׁ יוֹסֵף וּלְקֶדֶד נֹזֵיר אָחִיו:
וּמִמֶּנֶּד אֶרֶץ וּמִלֵּאָה
- יְחַדּוּ אֶפְסֵי־אֶרֶץ וְהֵם רִבְבוֹת אֶפְרַיִם וְהֵם אֲלָפֵי מְנַשֶּׁה:
כְּבוֹר שׁוֹרֵי הָדָר לוֹ וְקִרְנֵי רֵאשׁ קִרְלָיו בְּהֵם עֲמִים יִנָּח
- וּלְזְבוּלֹן אָמַר שְׂמַח זְבוּלֹן בְּצֵאתֶךָ וְיִשְׁשַׁכֶּר בְּאֵהֱלֶיךָ:
- יִזְבְּחוּ זִבְחֵי־צֶדֶק כִּי שֹׁפַע יָמִים יִלְקוּ וּשְׁפָנִי טְמוּנֵי חוֹל:
עֲמִים הָרִי־קָדָמוֹ שֵׁם

- 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.
- 20 וילגד אמר ברוך מרחיב גֹּד כְּלָבִיָּא שֶׁכֵּן וְטָרַף זֶרַע אֶף־קֹדֶקֶד:
- 21 וַיִּתָּא רֹאשִׁי עִם צִדְקַת יְהוָה עֲשֵׂה וּמִשְׁפָּטִיו עִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּרְא רֹאשִׁית לֹו כִּי־שָׁם חֵלֶקֶת מִחֶקֶק סָפֹון
- 22 וילדן אמר דן גִּיד אַרְיֵה יִזְנֹק מִן־הַבָּשָׁן:
- 23 נַפְתָּלִי שָׂבַע רֶצֶון וּמִלֵּא בְרֶכֶת יְהוָה יָם וְדָרוֹם יִרְשֶׁה: וּלְנַפְתָּלִי אָמַר
- 24 אָמַר בְּרוּךְ מִבְּנִים אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה רְצוֹי אָחִיו וְטָבַל בְּשֶׁמֶן רַגְלוֹ: וּלְאַשֶׁר
- 25 בִּרְגֶל וּנְחֹשֶׁת מִנְעֻלָּךְ וּכְיָמֶיךָ דְּבָאָךְ:
- 26 אֵין כָּאֵל יִשְׁרָוִן רֶכֶב שְׁמַיִם בָּעֶזְלָךְ וּבִגְאֻנוֹתוֹ שְׁחִיקִים:
- 27 קֹדֶם וּמִתְחַת זֹרַעַת עוֹלָם וַיִּגְרֶשׁ מִפְּנֶיךָ אוֹיֵב וַיֹּאמֶר הַשֵּׁמֶד: מְעַנֶּה אֱלֹהֵי
- 28 בָּטַח בְּדָל עֵין יַעֲקֹב אֶל־אַרְץ דָּגֵן וְתִירוֹשׁ אֶף־שִׁמְיוֹ יַעֲרֹפוּ טֵל: וַיִּשְׁכֵּן יִשְׂרָאֵל
- 29 גְּאוֹתֶךָ וַיִּכְחָשׁוּ אֵיבֶיךָ לָךְ וְאַתָּה עַל־בְּמוֹתֶימוֹ תִּדְרֹךְ: גְּדוּלָּה (יִשְׂרָאֵל מִי כְמוֹךָ עִם נוֹשֵׁעַ בִּיהוָה מִן עֶזְלָךְ וְאַשְׁר־חֶרֶב אֲשֶׁר־יָךְ*) בַּסִּפְרֵי תִימָן אֲשֶׁר־יָךְ בֹּאֵל־יָף

34

- 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;
- עַל־פְּנֵי יַרְחוֹ נִירָאָהוּ יְהוָה אֶת־כְּלִי־הָאָרֶץ אֶת־הַגִּלְעָד עַד־דָּן: וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה מִעֶרְבַת מוֹאָב אֶל־הָר נְבוֹ רֹאשׁ הַפְּסִגָּה אֲשֶׁר

- וְאֶת־אֶרֶץ אֶפְרַיִם וּמְנַשֶּׁה וְאֵת כָּל־אֶרֶץ יְהוּדָה עַד הַיָּם הָאֲחֵרִים:
וְאֵת כָּל־נַפְתָּלִי
- וְאֶת־הַנֶּגֶב וְאֶת־הַכֶּלָּךְ בְּקֻעַת יְרֵחוֹ עִיר הַתְּמָרִים עַד־צֹר:
לֵאמֹר לְיִזְרְעֵךְ אֶתְנַנָּה הָרְאִיתִיךָ בְּעֵינֶיךָ וְשָׁמָּה לֹא תַעֲבֹר:
יְהוָה אֵלֶיךָ וְאֵת הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב
וְיֹאמַר
- וַיָּמָת שָׁם מֹשֶׁה עַבְד־יְהוָה בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹאָב עַל־פִּי יְהוָה:
מוֹאָב מוֹל בֵּית פְּעוֹר וְלֹא־יָדָע אִישׁ אֶת־קְבָרָתוֹ עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה:
וַיִּקְבֹּר אָתּוֹ בְּגִל בְּאֶרֶץ
- בֶּן־מֵאָה וָעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה בָּמָתוֹ לֹא־כָהָתָה עֵינָיו וְלֹא־נָס לַחֹה:
וּמֹשֶׁה
- בְּעָרְבַת מוֹאָב שְׁלֹשִׁים יוֹם וַיִּתְּמּוּ יָמָי בְּכִי אֲבָל מֹשֶׁה:
וַיִּכְבְּדוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־מֹשֶׁה
- וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֵלָיו בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּעֲשׂוּ כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת־מֹשֶׁה:
וַיְהִי־שֶׁשׁ בִּן־נֹון מְלֵא רוּחַ חֲכָמָה כִּי־סָמַךְ מֹשֶׁה אֶת־יָדָיו עָלָיו
- נִבְיָא עוֹד בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל כְּמֹשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר יָדָעוּ יְהוָה פָּנִים אֶל־פָּנִים:
וְלֹא־קָם
- יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לְפָרְעָה וּלְכָל־עַבְדָּיו וּלְכָל־אֲרָצוֹ:
לְכָל־הָאֵתָת וְהַמוֹפְתִּים אֲשֶׁר שְׁלַחַ
- וּלְכָל הַמִּוִּרָא הַגָּדוֹל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה מֹשֶׁה לְעֵינֵי כָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל:
וּלְכָל הַיָּד הַחֲזָקָה
- 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.
- 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.