

# Nitzavim

## Deuteronomy 29:9 - 30:20

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9 You stand this day, all of you, before the Lord your God - your tribal heads, your elders and your officials, all the men of Israel, 10 your children, your wives, even the stranger within your camp, from woodchopper to waterdrawer - 11 to enter into the covenant of the Lord your God, which the Lord your God is concluding with you this day, with its sanctions; 12 to the end that He may establish you this day as His people and be your God, as He promised you and as He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 13 I make this covenant, with its sanctions, not with you alone, 14 but both with those who are standing here with us this day before the Lord our God and with those who are not with us here this day.

15 Well you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we passed through the midst of various other nations through which you passed; 16 and you have seen the detestable things and the fetishes of wood and stone, silver and gold, that they keep. 17 Perchance there is among you some man or woman, or some clan or tribe, whose heart is even now turning away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations - perchance there is among you a stock sprouting poison weed and wormwood. 18 When such a one hears the words of these sanctions, he may fancy himself immune, thinking, "I shall be safe, though I follow my own willful heart" - to the utter ruin of moist and dry alike. 19 The Lord will never forgive him; rather will the Lord's anger and passion rage against that man, till every sanction recorded in this book comes down upon him, and the Lord blots out his name from under heaven.

20 The Lord will single them out from all the tribes of Israel for misfortune, in accordance with all the sanctions of the covenant recorded in this book of Teaching. 21 And later generations will ask - the children who succeed you, and foreigners who come from distant lands and see the plagues and diseases that the Lord has inflicted upon that land, 22 all its soil devastated by sulfur and salt, beyond sowing and producing, no grass growing in it, just like the upheaval of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in His fierce anger - 23 all nations will ask, "Why did the Lord do thus to this land? Wherefore that awful wrath?" 24 They will be told, "Because they forsook the covenant that the Lord, God of their fathers, made with them when He freed them from the land of Egypt; 25 they turned to the service of other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not experienced and whom He had not allotted to them. 26 So the Lord was incensed at that land and brought upon it all the curses recorded in this book. 27 The Lord uprooted them from their soil in anger, fury, and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as is still the case."

28 Concealed acts concern the Lord our God; but with overt acts, it is for us and our

children ever to apply all the provisions of this Teaching.

### **Chapter 30**

1 When all these things befall you - the blessing and the curse that I have set before you - and you take them to heart amidst the various nations to which the Lord your God has banished you, 2 and you return to the Lord your God, and you and your children heed His command with all your heart and soul, just as I enjoin upon you this day, 3 then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and take you back in love. He will bring you together again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. 4 Even if your outcasts are at the ends of the world, from there the Lord your God will gather you, from there He will fetch you. 5 And the Lord your God will bring you to the land that your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will make you more prosperous and more numerous than your fathers.

6 Then the Lord your God will open up your heart and the hearts of your offspring to love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul, in order that you may live. 7 The Lord your God will inflict all those curses upon the enemies and foes who persecuted you. 8 You, however, will again heed the Lord and obey all His commandments that I enjoin upon you this day. 9 And the Lord your God will grant you abounding prosperity in all your undertakings, in the issue of your womb, the offspring of your cattle, and the produce of your soil. For the Lord will again delight in your well-being, as He did in that of your fathers, 10 since you will be heeding the Lord your God and keeping His commandments and laws that are recorded in this book of the Teaching - once you return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.

11 Surely, this Instruction which I enjoin upon you this day is not too baffling for you, nor is it beyond reach. 12 It is not in the heavens, that you should say, "Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?" 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who among us can cross to the other side of the sea and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?" 14 No, the thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to observe it.

15 See, I set before you this day life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 For I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His laws, and His rules, that you may thrive and increase, and that the Lord your God may bless you in the land that you are about to enter and possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you give no heed, and are lured into the worship and service of other gods, 18 I declare to you this day that you shall certainly perish; you shall not long endure on the soil that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day: I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life - if you and your offspring would live - 20 by loving the Lord your God, heeding His commands, and holding fast to Him. For thereby you shall have life and shall long endure upon the soil that the Lord swore to your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give to them.

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# Haftarah for Nitzavim

## Isaiah 61:10 - 63:9

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10 I greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
My whole being exults in my God.  
For He 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.  
11 For as the earth brings forth her growth  
And a garden makes the seed shoot up,  
So the Lord God will make  
Victory and renown shoot up  
In the presence of all the nations.

### Chapter 62

1 For the sake of Zion I will not be silent,  
For the sake of Jerusalem I will not be still,  
Till her victory emerge resplendent  
And her triumph like a flaming torch.  
2 Nations shall see your victory,  
And every king your majesty;  
And you shall be called by a new name  
Which the Lord Himself shall bestow.  
3 You shall be a glorious crown  
In the hand of the Lord,  
And a royal diadem  
In the palm of your God.  
4 Nevermore shall you be called "Forsaken,"  
Nor shall your land be called "Desolate";  
But you shall be called "I delight in her,"  
And your land "Espoused."  
For the Lord takes delight in you,  
And your land shall be espoused.  
5 As a youth espouses a maiden,  
Your sons shall espouse you;  
And as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,  
So will your God rejoice over you.

6 Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,  
I have set watchmen,  
Who shall never be silent  
By day or by night.  
O you, the Lord's remembrancers,  
Take no rest  
7 And give no rest to Him,  
Until He establish Jerusalem  
And make her renowned on earth.

8 The Lord has sworn by His right hand,  
By His mighty arm:  
Nevermore will I give your new grain  
To your enemies for food,  
Nor shall foreigners drink the new wine  
For which you have labored.

9 But those who harvest it shall eat it  
And give praise to the Lord;  
And those who gather it shall drink it  
In My sacred courts.

10 Pass through, pass through the gates!  
Clear the road for the people;  
Build up, build up the highway,  
Remove the rocks!

Raise an ensign over the peoples!

11 See, the Lord has proclaimed

To the end of the earth:

Announce to Fair Zion,

Your Deliverer is coming!

See, his reward is with Him,

His recompense before Him.

12 And they shall be called, "The Holy People,

The Redeemed of the Lord,"

And you shall be called, "Sought Out,

A City Not Forsaken."

### **Chapter 63**

1 Who is this coming from Edom,  
In crimsoned garments from Bozrah -

Who is this, majestic in attire,

Pressing forward in His great might?

"It is I, who contend victoriously,

Powerful to give triumph."

2 Why is your clothing so red,  
Your garments like his who treads grapes?  
3 "I trod out a vintage alone;  
Of the peoples no man was with Me.  
I trod them down in My anger,  
Trampled them in My rage;  
Their life-blood bespattered My garments,  
And all My clothing was stained.  
4 For I had planned a day of vengeance,  
And My year of redemption arrived.  
5 Then I looked, but there was none to help;  
I stared, but there was none to aid -  
So My own arm wrought the triumph,  
And My own rage was My aid.  
6 I trampled peoples in My anger,  
I made them drunk with My rage,  
And I hurled their glory to the ground."

7 I will recount the kind acts of the Lord,  
The praises of the Lord -  
For all that the Lord has wrought for us,  
The vast bounty to the House of Israel  
That He bestowed upon them  
According to His mercy and His great kindness.  
8 He thought: Surely they are My people,  
Children who will not play false.  
So He was their Deliverer.  
9 In all their troubles He was troubled,  
And the angel of His Presence delivered them.  
In His love and pity  
He Himself redeemed them,  
Raised them, and exalted them  
All the days of old.

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Taken from *Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures*,  
(Philadelphia, Jerusalem: Jewish Publication Society) 1985.