

Congregation Beth Israel
Torah Study
פרשת מטות/מסעי
Matot/Masei
Numbers 30:2-36:13
Haftarah: Jeremiah 2:4-28; 3:4
"Looking Backwards To Look Forwards"
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**A Prayer For Comfort To Help Us Through
This Dangerous And Challenging Time**

אנא בעל הרחמים — O merciful God, we seek Your comfort and protection as this disease of Coronavirus rips through our world and our individual lives. Bring רפואה שלמה, complete healing to those stricken, and give strength and courage to those who care for them. We also pray for the healing of our nation, as we find ourselves ripped and wounded physically and spiritually. Grant us courage to help us to live our lives so that we are a source of healing and hope for ourselves and for others. Bestow wisdom upon those in authority that they may fulfill their obligations to provide for the common welfare with responsibility and compassion. Grant us strength of body, mind and spirit so that we may overcome these challenges that touch us all in so many ways.

ברוך אתה יי, מקור החיים.
Blessed are You, O Source of Life.

BLESSING FOR THE STUDY OF TORAH

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצוותיו, וצונו לעסוק בדברי תורה.

Barukh atah, ADONAI, Eloheinu melek ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu la-asok b'divrei Torah.

Blessed are You, ADONAI our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who makes us holy through the Mitzvot, and commands us to occupy ourselves with the words of Torah.

Text #1 Numbers 32:1-5

^אוּמִקְנֵהוּ | רַב הָיָה לְבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן וּלְבְנֵי-גָד עֲצוּם מְאֹד וַיֵּרְאוּ אֶת-אַרְץ יַעֲזֹר וְאֶת-אַרְץ גִּלְעָד וְהִנֵּה הַמָּקוֹם מְקוֹם מִקְנֵה: ^בוַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי-גָד וּבְנֵי רְאוּבֵן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן וְאֶל-נְשֵׂי־הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר: ^געֲטֹרוֹת וְדִיכָן וַיַּעֲזֹר וְנִמְרָה וְחֶשְׁבּוֹן וְאַלְעָלָה וּשְׁבָם וְנָבֹו וּבְעֹן: ^דהָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר הִכָּה יְיָ לְפָנֵי עַדְתִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶרֶץ מִקְנֵה הִוא וְלַעֲבָדֶיךָ מִקְנֵה: ^הוַיֹּאמְרוּ אִם-מִצְאָנוּ חֵן בְּעֵינֶיךָ יִתֵּן אֶת-הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת לַעֲבָדֶיךָ לְאֶחָזָה אֶל-תַּעֲבָרְנוּ אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן:

¹The Reubenites and the Gadites owned cattle in great numbers. Now they saw that the land of Yazer and the land of Gil'ad were a region suitable for cattle. ²So the Gadites and the Reubenites came to Moses and Eleazar the priest, and the tribal chieftans and said to them, ³"Atarot, Divon, Yazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Ele'aleh, Sevam, Nevo and B'on — ⁴the land that ADONAI has conquered for the community of Israel is cattle country, and your servants have cattle. ⁵If we have found favor in your eyes," they said, "let this land be given to your servants for homesteading, do not make us move across the Jordan."

Text #2 Numbers 32:16-19

^{טו}וַיִּגָּשׁוּ אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמְרוּ גְדֻרָת צֹאן נִבְנֶה לְמִקְנֵנוּ פָה וְעָרִים לְטָפָנוּ: ^{טז}וַיֹּאמְרוּ נַחֲלֵץ חֲשִׁים לְפָנֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד אֲשֶׁר אִם-הִבִּיאֲנָם אֶל-מְקוֹמָם וַיָּשֻׁב טָפָנוּ בְּעָרֵי הַמִּבְצָר מִפְּנֵי יֹשְׁבֵי הָאָרֶץ: ^{טז}לֹא נָשׁוּב אֶל-בְּתִינוּ עַד הַתְּנַחֵל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אִישׁ נַחֲלָתוֹ: ^{טז}כִּי לֹא נִנְחַל אִתָּם מֵעַבְרָ לַיַּרְדֵּן וְהִלָּאָה כִּי בָאָה נַחֲלָתָנוּ אֵלֵינוּ מֵעַבְרָ הַיַּרְדֵּן מִזְרָחָה:

¹⁶So they approached him and said, "We will build sheepfolds for our flocks and towns for our children here. ¹⁷Then we will arm ourselves and become shock troops at the vanguard of the Israelites until we have brought them to their own territory, while our children will stay in the fortified towns because of the inhabitants of the land. ¹⁸We will not return to our homes until every one of the Israelites has taken possession of their portion. ¹⁹But we will not share with them in the territory beyond the Jordan, for we have received our portion on the eastern shores of the Jordan."

Text #3 Sforno on Numbers 33:1

אלה מסעי רצה האל יתברך שיכתבו מסעי ישראל להודיע זכותם בלכתם אחריו במדבר כארץ לא זרועה באופן שהיו ראויים להכנס לארץ:

These were the journeys, the Blessed God wanted all the journeys to be recorded in order to compliment the merit of the people who had followed God through the wilderness where nothing grew, so that as a reward for their faith they would deserve to enter and inherit the land of Israel.

Text #4 Numbers 34:1-12

^אוַיֹּדְבֶר יְיָ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: ^בצֹו אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם כִּי־אַתֶּם בָּאִים אֶל־הָאָרֶץ כְּנָעַן זֹאת הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר תִּפֹּל לָכֶם בְּנַחֲלָה אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן לְגַבְלֹתֶיהָ: ^גוְהָיָה לָכֶם פָּת־נֹגֵב מִמִּדְבַּר־צֶן עַל־יְדֵי אֲדוֹם וְהָיָה לָכֶם גְּבוּל נֹגֵב מִקְצֵה יַם־הַמֶּלַח קִדְמָה: ^דוְנֹסֵב לָכֶם הַגְּבוּל מִנֹּגֵב לַמַּעֲלָה עַקְרָבִים וְעֵבֶר צֶנֶה וְהָיָה תוֹצְאָתוֹ מִנֹּגֵב לַקֹּדֶשׁ בְּרֹנֶעַ וַיֵּצֵא חֲצַר־אֲדָר וְעֵבֶר עֲצְמָנָה: ^הוְנֹסֵב הַגְּבוּל מֵעֲצְמוֹן נַחֲלָה מִצְרִים וְהָיוּ תוֹצְאָתוֹ הַיַּמָּה: ^ווְגְבוּל יָם וְהָיָה לָכֶם הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל וְגְבוּל זֶה־יְהִיֶּה לָכֶם גְּבוּל יָם: ^זוְזֶה־יְהִיֶּה לָכֶם גְּבוּל צָפוֹן מִן־הַיָּם הַגָּדֹל תִּתְּאוּ לָכֶם הֹר הָהָר: ^חמִהֹר הָהָר תִּתְּאוּ לְבֹא חֲמַת וְהָיוּ תוֹצְאָת הַגְּבֹל צִדְדָּה: ^טוַיֵּצֵא הַגְּבֹל זְפֹרְנָה וְהָיוּ תוֹצְאָתוֹ חֲצֵר עֵינָן זֶה־יְהִיֶּה לָכֶם גְּבוּל צָפוֹן: ^יוְהַתְּאוּיָתָם לָכֶם לְגְבוּל קִדְמָה מִחֲצֵר עֵינָן שְׁפָמָה: ^{יא}וַיֵּרֶד הַגְּבֹל מִשְׁפָּם הַרְבֵּלָה מִקֶּדֶם לַעֵין וַיֵּרֶד הַגְּבֹל וּמַחֲהָ עַל־כֶּתֶף יַם־כְּנָעַן קִדְמָה: ^{יב}וַיֵּרֶד הַגְּבוּל הַיַּרְדֵּנָה וְהָיוּ תוֹצְאָתוֹ יַם הַמֶּלַח זֹאת תִּהְיֶה לָכֶם הָאָרֶץ לְגַבְלֹתֶיהָ סָבִיב:

¹ADONAI said to Moses, ²Instruct the Israelites and say to them — ‘When you enter Canaan, the land that will be allotted to you as an inheritance is to have these boundaries:

³Your southern sector shall extend from the wilderness of Zin along the border of Edom. Your southern boundary will start in the east from the southern end of the Dead Sea, ⁴cross south of Scorpion Pass and continue on to Zin and go south of Kadesh Barnea. Then it will go to Hatzar-Addar and continue on to Atzmon, ⁵where it will turn, join the Wadi of Egypt and terminate at the Mediterranean Sea.

⁶Your western boundary will be the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. This will be your boundary on the west.

⁷For your northern boundary, run a line from the Mediterranean Sea to Mount Hor ⁸and from Mount Hor to Lebo-Hamat. Then the boundary will go to Zedad, ⁹continuing on to Ziphron and end at Hatzar-Enan. This will be your boundary on the north.

¹⁰For your eastern boundary, run a line from Hatzar-Enan to Shepham. ¹¹The boundary will descend from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ayin and continue along the slopes east of the Sea of Galilee. ¹²Then the boundary will go down along the Jordan and end at the Dead Sea.

This will be your land, with its boundaries on every side.



Text #5 Numbers 35:9-15

וַיֹּדֶבֶר יְיָ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר: דִּבֶּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם כִּי אַתֶּם עֹבְרִים אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן: וְהִקְרִיתֶם לָכֶם עָרִים מְקֻלָּט תְּהִינָה לָכֶם וְגַם שְׂמָה רֹצֵחַ מִכַּה־נֶּפֶשׁ בְּשָׁגָה: וְהָיוּ לָכֶם הָעָרִים לְמִקְלָט מִזָּאֵל וְלֹא יָמוּת הָרֹצֵחַ עַד־עֲמֻדוֹ לִפְנֵי הָעֵדָה לְמִשְׁפָּט: וְהָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר תִּתְּנוּ שְׁש־עָרֵי מְקֻלָּט תְּהִינָה לָכֶם: וְאַתָּה שְׁלֹשׁ הָעָרִים תִּתְּנוּ מֵעֵבֶר לַיַּרְדֵּן וְאַתָּה שְׁלֹשׁ הָעָרִים תִּתְּנוּ בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן עָרֵי מְקֻלָּט תְּהִינָה: וְלִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְלִגֵּר וְלַתּוֹשֵׁב בְּתוֹכָם תְּהִינָה שְׁש־הָעָרִים הָאֵלֶּה לְמִקְלָט לָנוֹס שָׁמָּה כָּל־מִכַּה־נֶּפֶשׁ בְּשָׁגָה:

⁹Then ADONAI said to Moses, ¹⁰“Speak to the Israelites and say to them, ‘When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, you shall provide yourselves with places to serve you as cities of refuge to which a manslayer who has killed someone unintentionally may flee. ¹²The cities shall serve you as a refuge from the avenger, so that the manslayer may not die before standing trial before the community. ¹³The towns that you assign shall be six in all — ¹⁴three of the cities shall be designated beyond the Jordan, while the other three shall be designated in the land of Canaan — these shall serve as cities of refuge. ¹⁵These six cities shall serve the Israelites and the resident aliens among them as a refuge, so that anyone who kills a person unintentionally may flee there.