Chapter 5/6 - Joshua & the Angel: Torah Study at a Time of War The Biblical Antecedent of a Contemporary Challenge''

neglected the daily evening offering, and now, tonight, you are neglecting Torah study. Joshua asked him: For which of these sins have you come specially to reprove me? He said to him: "I am now come," [i.e., the fact that I did not come last night, but waited until now, shows that the sin of neglecting Torah study is the more severe one.] Joshua immediately acted "And Joshua walked that night in the midst of the valley [ha'emek]" (Joshua 8:13). And Rabbi Yoḥanan said: This teaches that he walked all night in the depth [be'omeka] of halakha, thereby atoning for his previous neglect of Torah study.

רד"ק יהושע פרק ה

ויש בו דרש כי בא להפחידם על בטול תורה... וזה הדרש רחוק כי אין שעת המלחמה שעת ת"ת...

4. הר סיני – שמות יט

(יב) וְהֹגְבַּלְתָּ אֶת־הָעֶם ׁ סָבִיב לֵאמֹר הִשְּׁמְרָוּ לָכֶם עֲלִוֹת בָּהָר וּנְגְעַ בְּקָצֵהוּ בָּלֹהַנָּגַעַ בָּהָר מְוֹת יוּמֵת: (יג) לֹאֹתְנַּע בּוֹ יָד בִּי־סְקְּוֹל יִּסְקֵל אוֹ־יָרָה יִיָּרָה אִם־בְּהַמֶּה אִם־אִישׁ לָא יִחְיֶה בִּּמְשׁךּ הַיּבֵּל הַמָּה יַעַלוּ בָהָר:

... (טז) וַיְהְלֹּ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִּׁי בַּהְנָת הַבּּקֶר וַיְהִי**ּ ׁ לְּלֹת וּבְּרָתִּים** וְעָנֶן כָּבֵד עַלִּהָהָר **וְקֹל שׁפָּר** חָזֶק מְאֶד **וַיֶּחֲרֵד כָּל־הָעֶם** אֲשֶׁר בַּמַּחְנֵה: (יז) וַיּוֹצֵא משֶׁה אֶת־הָעֶם לִקְרָאת הָאֱלֹהָים מִרְהַמַּחְהָה יָרָד עָלֵיו בְּתַחְתִּית הָהָר: (יח) וְהַר סִינֵי עֲשֶׁן כֵּלוֹ מִפְּנִי אֲשֶׁר יָרָד עָלֵיו וַיְהִי קּוֹל הַשִּׁבָּר הוֹלֵדְ וְתָזֵק מְאֶד משֶׁה יְדַבֵּר וְהָאֱלֹהִים יַעְנֵנִּוּ

(כד:טז) וַיִּשְׁכָּן כְּבוֹד־יִקוֹּק עַלֹתַר סִינִּי וַיְכַפֵּחוּ הָעָנָן שֵׁשְׁתּ יָמֵים וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹמשֵׁה בַּיִּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי מִתְּוֹדְ הַעָּנַן:

(12) You shall set a border for the people, all around, saying, 'Be careful not to go up the mountain or touch its edge; all who touch the mountain will surely be put to death. (13) No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot, be he animal or man, he shall not live. When the horn is drawn, they shall go up the mountain.'"

(16) On the third day, in the morning, there was thunder and lightning and a heavy cloud on the mountain, and the sound of a horn, very strong. And all the people in the camp trembled. (17) Moshe brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stationed themselves at the bottom of the mountain. (18) And all of Mount Sinai was smoking because Hashem had come down upon it in fire, and its smoke went up like the smoke of a furnace; and the whole mountain trembled greatly. (19) The sound of the horn was growing exceedingly stronger and stronger. Moshe would speak and God would reply with a voice.

(16) The glory of Hashem dwelled over Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and He called to Moshe on the seventh day from within the cloud.

When he came to wage war in Jericho, seven nations assembled in Jericho, as it is stated: "You crossed the Jordan, and you came to Jericho; the masters of Jericho made war against you, the Emorites, the Perizites, the Canaanites, the Hitites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Yevusites, and I delivered them into your hand" (Joshua 24:11). Were the masters of Jericho seven nations? Rabbi Shmuel bar Naḥmani said: Jericho was the safeguard of the Land of Israel. If Jericho is conquered, immediately the rest of the Land will be conquered. That is why the seven nations assembled in it.

גמ' עירובין סג:

אָמֵר רַבִּי אַבָּא בַּר פָּפָּא: ... יינִיְהִי בִּהְיוֹת יְהוֹשֵׁעַ בִּירִיחוֹ וַיִּשְׁא עֵינִיו וַיַּרְא וְגוֹייִ, וּכְתִיב: יינַיּאֹמֶר (לוֹ) כִּי אֲנִי שַׁר צְבָּא הי עַתָּה בָאתִי וְגוֹייִ. אָמֵר לוֹ: אָמֶשׁ בִּישַׁלְתָּם תָּמִיד שָׁל בֵּין הָעַרְבַּיִם, וְעַרְשְׁיוֹ בִּישַּלְתָּם תַּלְמוּד תּוֹרָה. עַל אֵיזֶה מֵהֶן בָּאתָי אָמֵר לוֹ: ייעַתָּה בָּאתִיי. מִיָּד: ייוַיֵּיֶלֶךְ יְהוֹשֵׁעַ בַּלַיְלָה הַהוּא בְּתוֹךְ הָעֵמֶקי, וְאָמֵר רַבִּי יוֹחָנָן: מְלַמֵּד שֶׁהְלַדְּ בְּעוֹמֵקָה שֵׁל הַלָּבָה!

Rabbi Abba bar Pappa said: ... "And it came to pass when Joshua was by Jericho that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, a man stood over against him with his sword drawn in his hand" (Joshua 5:13), and it is written further: "And he said: No, but I am captain of the host of the Lord, I am now come" (Joshua 5:14). The angel said to him: Last night, due to your preparations for war, you

3. יריחו - יהושעו

(א) **וִירִיחוֹ סֹגֶרֶת וּמְסֻגֶּׁרֶת** מִפְּנֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אַין יוֹצֵא <u>יוֹצְ</u>א. וְאֵין בֵּא: ס

(ב) וַלָּאֶמֶר יְקּוָקָּ אֶליְהוֹשֶׁעַ רְאֵה ׁ נָתְתִּי בְּיֶדְדֶּ אֶתייְרִיחָוֹ וְאֶת־מֵלְכֵּהּ גִּבּוֹרֵי הֶחָיִלּ: (ג) וְסַבּׁתָּם אֶת־הָעִיר כְּל אַנְאֵי הַמִּלְחָמָה הַקִּיף אֶת־הָעִיר בַּעם אֶחֶת כָּה תַּעְשֶׁה שֵׁשֶׁת יָמֵים: (ד) וְשִׁ**בְּעָה** כֹהְנִים יִשְׂאוֹ שָׁבְּעָּה שׁוֹפְרְוֹת הַיִּוֹבְלִים לְבְנֵי הָאָרוֹן וּבִיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי תְּסְבּוּ אֶת־הָעִיר שָׁבַע בְּעָמֵים וְהַכְּהְנִים יִתְּקְעָוּ בַּשִּׁוֹפְרִוֹת: (ה) וְהָיָה בִּמְשְׁדְּן בְּשִּׁוֹת הַיּוֹבֵל בְּשָׁמְיְבֶכם אֶת־קוֹל הַשִּׁוֹבְר יָרָיעוּ כַּלִיהָעָם אְישׁ נָגְדְּוֹ

(1) Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. (2) And Hashem said to Joshua, "See, I have given into your hand Jericho and its king, even the mighty men of valor. (3) And you shall encircle the city, all the men of war, going about the city once. Thus shall you do six days. (4) And seven priests shall bear seven rams' horns before the ark; and the seventh day you shall encircle the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the horns. (5) And it shall be, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the horn, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall go up, every man straight before him."

5. במד"ר טו:ט

בְּשֶׁבָּא לְהַלֶּחֵם בִּירִיחוֹ נִתְכַּנְסוּ לִירִיחוֹ שֶׁבַע אֲמּוֹת, שֶׁנֶּאֲמֵר (יהושע כד, יא): וַתַּעַבְרוּ אֶת הַיַּרְדֵּן וַתְּבֹאוּ אֶל יְרִיחוֹ (יהושע כד, יא): וַתַּעַבְרוּ אֶת הַיַּרְדֵּן וַתְּבֹאוּ אֶל יְרִיחוֹ וַיְּצֶמֹרִי וְהַבְּּרְזִי וְהַכְּנְעֵנִי וְהַחִתִּי וְהַבְּּנְעֵי וְהַחְנִּי וְהַבְּעֵנִי וְהַחְתִּי וְהַבְּּרְנָי הַחָוּי וְהָיִבּוֹי וְאָתֵן אוֹתָם בְּיֶדְכֶם. וְכִי שָׁבַע אֲמוֹת הָיוּ בַּּצְלֵי יְרִיחוֹ, אָמֵר רַבִּי שְׁמוּאֵל בַּר נַחְמָנִי יְרִיחוֹ עֵיְד בָּל הָאָרֶץ נַגְרָא שֶׁל אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל, אִם נִכְבְּשָׁה יְרִיחוֹ מִיְד כָּל הָאָרֶץ נְכְבֶּעְה, לְפִיכְךְּ נִתְכַּנְסוּ לְתוֹכָה שֶׁבַע אֲמוֹת...