

The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class # 17
Sefer Shmuel & its prophetic purpose
The 'sons of Eli' in contrast to Shmuel
& the Prophetic meaning of 'to know God'

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Review – Shmuel chapters 1->7 / Shmuel the Prophet & Judge

Chapter 1->2

The birth of Shmuel / Chana's Prayer

Shmuel serves at the Mishkan with Eli the High Priest in Shilo

The sins of Eli's sons & their nature

Chapter 3->

Shmuel's first prophecy

Chapter 4->6

The war with the Philistim – the Ark of the Covenant taken captive

The return of the Ark to Bet-Shemesh, and then to Kiryat Ye'arim

Chapter 7

The "teshuva" gathering in Mitzpe

Summary verses

I. Shmuel chapter 2 (after Chana's prayer) - The sons of Eli vs. Shmuel

יא וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶלְקָנָה הָרָמָתָה, עַל-בֵּיתוֹ; וַהֲנִיעַר,
הָיָה מְשָרֵת אֶת-יְהוָה, אֶת-פָּנָיו, עָלָיו הַכֹּהֵן.

11 And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house.
And the child did minister unto the LORD before
Eli the priest.

יב וּבָנָיו עָלָיו בָּנִי בְלִיעַל: **לֹא יָדְעוּ, אֶת-יְהוָה.**

12 Now the sons of Eli were base men; they
knew not the LORD.

יג וּמִשְׁפַּט הַכֹּהֲנִים, אֶת-הָעַם--כָּל-אִישׁ זֹבַח
זָבַח, וּבָא נֶעַר הַכֹּהֵן כְּבִשְׁל הַבָּשָׂר, וַהֲמִזְלֵג
שֵׁלֶשׁ הַשָּׁנִים, בְּיָדוֹ.

13 And the custom of the priests with the people
was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the
priest's servant came, while the flesh was in
seething, with a flesh-hook of three teeth in his
hand;

יד וַהֲכָה בַכִּיּוֹר אוֹ בַדּוּד, אוֹ בַקְלַחַת אוֹ בַפָּרוֹר--כָּל
אֲשֶׁר יַעֲלֶה הַמִּזְלֵג, יִקַּח הַכֹּהֵן בּוֹ; כִּכָּה יַעֲשׂוּ לְכָל-
יִשְׂרָאֵל, הַבָּאִים שָׁם בְּשִׁלָּה.

14 and he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or
caldron, or pot; all that the flesh-hook brought
up the priest took therewith. So they did unto all
the Israelites that came thither in Shiloh.

טו גַּם, בְּטָרִם יִקְטְרוּן אֶת-הַחֲלֵב, וּבָא נֶעַר הַכֹּהֵן וְאָמַר
לְאִישׁ הַזֹּבֵחַ, תִּנְהַ בָּשָׂר לְצִלוֹת לַכֹּהֵן; וְלֹא-יִקַּח מִמֶּנּוּ
בָּשָׂר מִבֶּשֶׂל, כִּי אִם-חַי.

15 Yea, before the fat was made to smoke, the
priest's servant came, and said to the man that
sacrificed: 'Give flesh to roast for the priest; for
he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.'

טז וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו הָאִישׁ, קַטֵּר יִקְטְרוּן כִּיּוֹם הַחֲלֵב,
וְקַח-לָךְ, כְּאֲשֶׁר תִּצְוֶנּוּ נַפְשֶׁךָ; וְאָמַר לוֹ (לֹא), כִּי עֲתָה
תִּתֶנּוּ--וְאִם-לֹא, לְקַחְתִּי בְחֹזֶקָה.

16 And if the man said unto him: 'Let the fat be
made to smoke first of all, and then take as much
as thy soul desireth'; then he would say: 'Nay,
but thou shalt give it me now; and if not, I will
take it by force.'

יז וַתְּהִי חַטָּאת הַנְּעָרִים גְּדוֹלָה מְאֹד,
אֶת-פָּנָיו יְהוָה:

17 And the sin of the young men was very great
before the LORD; for the men dealt
contemptuously with the offering of the LORD.

כִּי נָאֲצוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים, אֶת מִנְחַת יְהוָה.

יח וְשָׁמוּאֵל, מְשָׁרֵת אֶת-פְּנֵי יְהוָה :

18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

נער, חגור אפוד בד ...

כב וְעֵלִי, זָקֵן מְאֹד; וְשָׁמַע, אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשׂוּן בְּנָיו לְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר-יִשְׁכָּבוּן אֶת-הַנְּשִׁים, הַצְּבָאוֹת פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד.

22 Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons did unto all Israel, and how that they lay with the women that did service at the door of the tent of meeting.

כג וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם, לָמָּה תַעֲשׂוּן בְּדַבְּרִים הָאֵלֶּה, אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי שֹׁמֵעַ אֶת-דְּבָרֵיכֶם רָעִים, מֵאֵת כָּל-הָעָם אֵלֶּה.

23 And he said unto them: 'Why do ye such things? for I hear evil reports concerning you from all this people.

כד אֵל, בְּנֵי: כִּי לֹא-טוֹבָה הַשְּׁמֵעָה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי שֹׁמֵעַ, מֵעֲבָרִים עִם-יְהוָה.

24 Nay, my sons; for it is no good report which I hear the LORD'S people do spread abroad.

כה אִם-יַחֲטֵא אִישׁ לְאִישׁ, וּפָלְלוּ אֱלֹהִים, וְאִם לַיהוָה יַחֲטֵא-אִישׁ, מִי יִתְפַּלֵּל-לוֹ; וְלֹא יִשְׁמָעוּ לְקוֹל אָבִיהֶם, כִּי-חָפֵץ יְהוָה לְהַמִּיתָם.

25 If one man sin against another, God shall judge him; but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall entreat for him?' But they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

כו וַהֲנַעַר שָׁמוּאֵל, הֵלֵךְ וַגְּדַל וְטוֹב: **גַּם, עִם-יְהוָה, וְגַם, עִם-אֲנָשִׁים.** {פ}

26 And the child Samuel grew on, and increased in favour both with the LORD, and also with men. {P}

כז וַיָּבֹא אִישׁ-אֱלֹהִים, אֶל-עֵלִי; וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו, כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה, הֲנִגְלָה נְגִלְתִּי אֶל-בֵּית אָבִיךָ, בְּהִיוֹתָם בְּמִצְרַיִם לְבַיִת פְּרַעֲהַ.

27 And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him: 'Thus saith the LORD: Did I reveal Myself unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in bondage to Pharaoh's house?

כח וּבָחַר אֶתוֹ מִכָּל-שִׁבְטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לִי, לְכַהֵן, לַעֲלוֹת עַל-מִזְבְּחִי לְהַקְטִיר קֹטֶרֶת לְשֵׁאת אֶפֻּד, לִפְנָי; וְאֶתְנָה לְבַיִת אָבִיךָ, אֶת-כָּל-אֲשֵׁי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

28 And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to go up unto Mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before Me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire?

כט לָמָּה תִּבְעָטוּ, בְּזֹבְחִי וּבְמִנְחָתִי, אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִי, מֵעוֹן; וְתִכְבְּדוּ אֶת-בְּנֵיךָ, מִמֶּנִּי, לְהַבְרִיאֲכֶם מִרֵּאשִׁית כָּל-מִנְחַת יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְעַמִּי.

29 Wherefore kick ye at My sacrifice and at Mine offering, which I have commanded in My habitation; and honourst thy sons above Me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel My people?

לד וְזֶה-לָּךְ הָאוֹת, אֲשֶׁר יָבֹא אֶל-שְׁנֵי בְנֵיךָ-- אֶל-חֹפְנִי, וּפִינְחָס: בַּיּוֹם אֶחָד, יָמוּתוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם.

34 And this shall be the sign unto thee, that which shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas: in one day they shall die both of them.

לה וְהִקִּימְתִּי לִי כַהֵן נֶאֱמָן, כַּאֲשֶׁר בִּלְבָבִי וּבִנְפָשִׁי יַעֲשֶׂה; וּבְנִיתִי לוֹ בַּיִת נֶאֱמָן, וְהִתְהַלֵּךְ לִפְנֵי-מְשִׁיחִי כָּל-הַיָּמִים.

35 And I will raise Me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in My heart and in My mind; and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before Mine anointed for ever.

א וַהֲנַעַר שָׁמוּאֵל מְשָׁרֵת אֶת-יְהוָה, לִפְנֵי עֵלִי; וְדַבַּר-יְהוָה, הָיָה יָקָר בַּיָּמִים הָאֵלֶּם-- אִין חִזוֹן, נִפְרָץ. {ס}

1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no frequent vision.

Conclusion of chapter 3

ב וַיְהִי בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא, וְעֵלִי שָׁכַב בְּמִקְוֹמוֹ; וַעֲיָנוֹ הִחְלוּ כִּהְיוֹת, לֹא יוּכַל לִרְאוֹת.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place--now his eyes had begun to wax dim, that he could not see--

ג וַיֵּרֶא אֱלֹהִים טָרָם יְכַבֵּה, וַשְּׁמוּאֵל שָׁכַב, בְּהֵיכַל יְהוָה, אֲשֶׁר-שָׁם אָרוֹן אֱלֹהִים. {פ}

3 and the lamp of God was not yet gone out, and Samuel was laid down to sleep in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, {P}

ד וַיִּקְרָא יְהוָה אֶל-שְׁמוּאֵל, וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִנִּי. 4 that the LORD called Samuel; and he said: 'Here am I.'

ה וַיִּרְץ אֶל-עֲלִי, וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִנִּי כִּי-קָרָאתָ לִּי, וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא-קָרָאתִי, שׁוּב שָׁכַב; וַיֵּלֶךְ, וַיִּשְׁכַּב. {ס}

5 And he ran unto Eli, and said: 'Here am I; for thou didst call me.' And he said: 'I called not; lie down again.' And he went and lay down. {S}

ו וַיִּסֹּף יְהוָה, קְרָא עוֹד שְׁמוּאֵל, וַיָּקָם שְׁמוּאֵל וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל-עֲלִי, וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִנִּי כִּי קָרָאתָ לִּי; וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא-קָרָאתִי בְנִי, שׁוּב שָׁכַב. 6 And the LORD called yet again Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said: 'Here am I; for thou didst call me.' And he answered: 'I called not, my son; lie down again.'

ז וַשְּׁמוּאֵל, טָרָם יָדַע אֶת-יְהוָה; וְטָרָם יִגְלֶה אֵלָיו, דְּבַר-יְהוָה. 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

ח וַיִּסֹּף יְהוָה קְרָא-שְׁמוּאֵל, בְּשָׁלִישֵׁת, וַיָּקָם וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל-עֲלִי, וַיֹּאמֶר הֲנִנִּי כִּי קָרָאתָ לִּי; וַיִּבֹן עֲלִי, כִּי יְהוָה קָרָא לְנֶעֱר. 8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said: 'Here am I; for thou didst call me.' And Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the child.

ט וַיֹּאמֶר עֲלִי לְשְׁמוּאֵל, לֵךְ שָׁכַב, וְהָיָה אִם-יִקְרָא אֵלָיִךְ, וְאָמַרְתָּ דְבַר יְהוָה כִּי שָׁמַע עַבְדְּךָ; וַיֵּלֶךְ שְׁמוּאֵל, וַיִּשְׁכַּב בְּמִקְוֹמוֹ. 9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel: 'Go, lie down; and it shall be, if thou be called, that thou shalt say: Speak, LORD; for Thy servant heareth.' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

י וַיָּבֹא יְהוָה וַיִּתְיַצֵּב, וַיִּקְרָא כַּפְעַם-בְּכַפְעַם שְׁמוּאֵל שְׁמוּאֵל; וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמוּאֵל דְּבַר, כִּי שָׁמַע עַבְדְּךָ. {פ}

10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times: 'Samuel, Samuel.' Then Samuel said: 'Speak; for Thy servant heareth.' {P}

יא וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-שְׁמוּאֵל, הִנֵּה אָנֹכִי עֹשֶׂה דְבַר בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: אֲשֶׁר, כָּל-שָׁמְעוֹ-תִצְלִינָה, שְׁתֵּי אָזְנוֹ.

11 And the LORD said to Samuel: 'Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.'

יב בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא אֶקִּים אֶל-עֲלִי, אֶת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר דְּבַרְתִּי אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ--הַחֵל, וְכֹלָה. 12 In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from the beginning even unto the end.

יג וְהִגַּדְתִּי לוֹ, כִּי-שֹׁפֵט אֲנִי אֶת-בֵּיתוֹ עַד-עוֹלָם--בְּעֵוֹן אֲשֶׁר-יָדַע, כִּי-מִקְלָלִים לָהֶם בָּנָיו, וְלֹא כָהָה, בָּם. 13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever, for the iniquity, in that he knew that his sons did bring a curse upon themselves, and he rebuked them not.

יד וַיַּגִּד לוֹ שְׁמוּאֵל אֶת-כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים, וְלֹא כָחַד מִמֶּנּוּ; וַיֹּאמֶר--יְהוָה הוּא, הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינָיו יַעֲשֶׂה. {פ}

14 And Samuel told him all the words, and hid nothing from him. And he said: 'It is the LORD; let Him do what seemeth Him good.' {P}

יט וַיִּגְדַּל, שְׁמוּאֵל; וַיְהוֹה הָיָה עִמוֹ, וְלֹא-
הָפִיל מִכָּל-דְּבָרָיו אֶרְצָה.

19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

כ וַיֵּדַע, כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִדָּן, וְעַד-בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע: כִּי
נִאֲמַן שְׁמוּאֵל, לְנָבִיא לַיהוָה. {ס}

20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. {S}

כא וַיִּסֹּף יְהוָה, לְהִרְאֶה בְּשִׁלָּה: כִּי-נִגְלָה
יְהוָה אֶל-שְׁמוּאֵל בְּשִׁלוֹ, בְּדַבֵּר יְהוָה. {פ}

21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh; for the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

II. II Kings chapter 21

א בֶּן-שְׁתַּיִם עָשָׂה שָׁנָה, מִנְּשָׂה בְּמַלְכוֹ, וַחֲמִשִּׁים
וַחֲמִשׁ שָׁנָה, מָלַךְ בִּירוּשָׁלַם; וְשֵׁם אִמּוֹ, חֶפְצִי-בָהּ.

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign; and he reigned five and fifty years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hephzi-bah.

ב וַיַּעַשׂ הָרַע, בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה--כְּתוֹעֲבַת, הַגּוֹיִם, אֲשֶׁר
הוֹרִישׁ יְהוָה, מִפְּנֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, after the abominations of the nations, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

ג וַיִּשָּׁב, וַיִּבֶן אֶת-הַבָּמוֹת, אֲשֶׁר אָבֹד, חִזְקִיָּהוּ
אָבִיו; וַיִּקַּם מִזְבְּחֹת לְבַעַל, וַיַּעַשׂ אֲשֶׁרָה כַּאֲשֶׁר
עָשָׂה אַחְזָב מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל, וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לְכָל-צָבָא
הַשָּׁמַיִם, וַיַּעֲבֹד אֹתָם.

3 For he built again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made an Asherah, as did Ahab king of Israel, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

ד וַיִּבְנֶה מִזְבְּחֹת, בְּבַיִת יְהוָה, אֲשֶׁר אָמַר יְהוָה,
בִּירוּשָׁלַם אֲשִׁים אֶת-שְׁמִי.

4 And he built altars in the house of the LORD, whereof the LORD said: 'In Jerusalem will I put My name.'

ה וַיִּבֶן מִזְבְּחוֹת, לְכָל-צָבָא הַשָּׁמַיִם, בְּשַׁתֵּי, חֲצֵרוֹת
בֵּית-יְהוָה.

5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

ו וְהַעֲבִיר אֶת-בְּנוֹ, בָּאֵשׁ, וְעוֹנֵן וְנִחֹשׁ, וְעָשָׂה אוֹב
וַיִּדְעָנִים: הַרְבֵּה, לַעֲשׂוֹת הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה--
לְהַכְעִיס.

6 And he made his son to pass through the fire, and practised soothsaying, and used enchantments, and appointed them that divined by a ghost or a familiar spirit: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him.

ז וַיִּשֶׂם, אֶת-פֶּסֶל הָאֲשֶׁרָה אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה--בְּבַיִת, אֲשֶׁר
אָמַר יְהוָה אֶל-דָּוִד וְאֶל-שְׁלֹמֹה בְּנוֹ, בְּבַיִת הַזֶּה
וּבִירוּשָׁלַם אֲשֶׁר בְּחַרְתִּי מִכָּל שְׁבֵטֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשִׁים
אֶת-שְׁמִי לְעוֹלָם.

7 And he set the graven image of Asherah, that he had made, in the house of which the LORD said to David and to Solomon his son: 'In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, will I put My name for ever;

ח וְלֹא אֲסִיף, לְהִנָּיֵד רַגְלֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, מִן-הָאָדָמָה,
אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לְאֲבוֹתָם: רַק אִם-יִשְׁמְרוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת, כְּכֹל
אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִים, וּלְכָל-הַתּוֹרָה, אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּה אֹתָם עַבְדִּי
מֹשֶׁה.

8 neither will I cause the feet of Israel to wander any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; if only they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them.'

ט וְלֹא, שָׁמְעוּ; וַיִּתְּעַם מִנְּשָׂה, לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת-הָרַע,
מִן-הַגּוֹיִם, אֲשֶׁר הִשְׁמִיד יְהוָה מִפְּנֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

9 But they hearkened not; and Manasseh seduced them to do that which is evil more than did the nations, whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.

י וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה בְּיַד-עַבְדָּיו הַנְּבִיאִים, לֵאמֹר.

10 And the LORD spoke by His servants the

prophets, saying:

יא יַעַן אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה מְנַשֶּׁה מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה, הַתְּלַעְבוֹת הָאֵלֶּה--הָרַע, מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר-עָשׂוּ הָאֲמֹרִי אֲשֶׁר לִפְנֵי; וַיַּחְטֵא גַם-אֶת-יְהוּדָה, בְּגִלּוּלָיו. {ס}

11 'Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, that were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols; {S}

יב לָכֵן, כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, הֲנִי מֵבִיא רָעָה, עַל-יְרוּשָׁלַם וַיהוּדָה: אֲשֶׁר, כָּל-שְׁמֵעֵיו (שְׁמָעָה)--תִּצְלָנָה, שְׁתֵּי אָזְנוֹ.

12 therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel: Behold, I bring such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.

יג וְנִטִּיתִי עַל-יְרוּשָׁלַם, אֶת קוֹ שִׁמְרוֹן, וְאֶת-מִשְׁקַלֶּת, בֵּית אַחָזָב; וּמַחִיתִי אֶת-יְרוּשָׁלַם כַּאֲשֶׁר-יִמָּחַה אֶת-הַצִּלְחַת, מָחָה, וְהִפְדָּ, עַל-פָּנֶיהָ.

13 And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab; and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.

יד וְנִטְשֹׁתִי, אֶת שְׂאֲרֵית נַחְלָתִי, וּנְתַתִּים, בְּיַד אֲיִבֵיהֶם; וְהָיוּ לְבוֹז וּלְמִשְׁשָׁה, לְכָל-אֲיִבֵיהֶם.

14 And I will cast off the remnant of Mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies;

טו יַעַן, אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ אֶת-הָרַע בְּעֵינַי, וַיְהִיוּ מְכַעְסִים, אֹתִי--מִן-הַיּוֹם, אֲשֶׁר יֵצְאוּ אֲבוֹתָם מִמִּצְרַיִם, וְעַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה.

15 because they have done that which is evil in My sight, and have provoked Me, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.'

טז וְגַם דָּם נָקִי שָׁפַךְ מְנַשֶּׁה, הַרְבֵּה מְאֹד, עַד אֲשֶׁר-מָלֵא אֶת-יְרוּשָׁלַם, פֶּה לְפֶה--לְבַד מִחֻטְאָתוֹ אֲשֶׁר הִחְטִיא אֶת-יְהוּדָה, לַעֲשׂוֹת הָרַע בְּעֵינַי יְהוָה.

16 Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

III. To know God - Yirmiyahyu chapter 2

ד שְׁמָעוּ דְבַר-יְהוָה, בֵּית יַעֲקֹב, וְכָל-מִשְׁפָּחוֹת, בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל.

4 Hear ye the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel;

ה כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה, מַה-מָּצְאוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם בִּי עוֹל--כִּי רָחֲקוּ, מֵעָלַי; וַיֵּלְכוּ אַחֲרֵי הַהֶבֶל, וַיִּהְיֻּבְלוּ.

5 Thus saith the LORD: what unrighteousness have your fathers found in Me, that they are gone far from Me, and have walked after things of nought, and are become nought?

ו וְלֹא אָמְרוּ--אֵיךָ יְהוָה, הִמְעַלָּה אֶתְנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם; הַמּוֹלִיד אֶתְנוּ בְּמִדְבָּר, בְּאֶרֶץ עֲרָבָה וְשׁוּחָה בְּאֶרֶץ צִיָּה וְצִלְמוֹת--בְּאֶרֶץ לֹא-עֹבֵר בָּהּ אִישׁ, וְלֹא-יָשֵׁב אָדָם שָׁם.

6 Neither said they: 'Where is the LORD that brought us up out of the land of Egypt; that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?'

ז וְאָבִיא אֶתְכֶם אֶל-אֶרֶץ הַפְּרִמָּל, לֶאֱכֹל פְּרִיָּה וְטוֹבָה; וְתִבְאוּ וְתִטְמְאוּ.

7 And I brought you into a land of fruitful fields, to eat the fruit thereof and the good thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled

את-ארצי, ונחלתי שמותם לתועבה. My land, and made My heritage an abomination.

ח הכהנים, לא אמרו איה יהוה, ותפשי התורה לא ידעוני, והרעים פשעו בי; והנבאים נבאו בבעל, ואחרי לא-יועלו הלכו. 8 The priests said not: 'Where is the LORD?' And they that handle the law knew Me not, and the rulers transgressed against Me; the prophets also prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.

IV. Last line of Haftara 9 Av morning -(Jeremiah 9:22-23)

ירמיהו 9 Chapter Jeremiah

א מי-יתנני במדבר, מלון ארחים, ואעזבה את-עמי, ואלכה מאתם: פי כלם מנאפים, עצרת בגדים. 1 Oh that I were in the wilderness, in a lodging-place of wayfaring men, that I might leave my people, and go from them! For they are all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

ב ויזרכו את-לשונם קשתם שקר, ולא לאמונה גברו בארץ: פי מרעה אל-רעה יצאו ואתי לא-ידעו, נאם-יהוה. 2 And they bend their tongue, their bow of falsehood; and they are grown mighty in the land, but not for truth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and Me they know not, saith the LORD.

ג איש מרעהו השמרו, ועל-כל-אח אל-תבטחו: פי כל-אח עקוב יעקב, וכל-רע רכיל יהלך. 3 Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother; for every brother acteth subtly, and every neighbour goeth about with slanders.

ד ואיש ברעהו יהתלו, ואמת לא ידברו; למדו לשונם דבר-שקר, העוה נלאו. 4 And they deceive every one his neighbour, and truth they speak not; they have taught their tongue to speak lies, they weary themselves to commit iniquity.

ה שבתך, בתוך מרמה; במרמה מאנו דעת-אותי, נאם-יהוה. {ס} 5 Thy habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know Me, saith the LORD. {S}

ו לכו, כה אמר יהוה צבאות, הנני צורפם, ובחנתים: פי-איך אעשה, מפני בת-עמי. 6 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts: behold, I will smelt them, and try them; for how else should I do, because of the daughter of My people?

ז חץ שוחט (שחוט) לשונם, מרמה דבר; בפיו, שלום את-רעהו ידבר, ובקרבו, ישים ארבו. 7 Their tongue is a sharpened arrow, it speaketh deceit; one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in his heart he layeth wait for him.

ח העל-אלה לא-אפקד-בם, נאם-יהוה; אם בגוי אשר-קזה, לא תתנקם נפשי. {ס} 8 Shall I not punish them for these things? saith the LORD; shall not My soul be avenged on such a nation as this? {S}

Last line of Haftara 9 Av morning -(Jeremiah 9:22-23)

כב כה אמר יהוה, אל-יתהלל חכם; בחכמתו, ואל-יתהלל הגבור, בגבורתו; 9.22-23 ..Let not the wise man glory in his

אל-יתהלל עשיר, בעשורו. כי אם-בזאת
 יתהלל המתהלל, השכל וידע אותי—כי
 אני יהוה, עשה חסד משפט וצדקה
 בארץ: כי-באלה חפצתי, נאם-יהוה

wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his
 might, let not the rich man glory in his riches;
 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he
 understands, and **knows Me**, that I am the LORD
 who does **kindness justice, and righteousness**,
 in the earth; for in these things I delight, saith the
 LORD

V. Proof from Yirmiyahu chapter 22 - what could have saved Jerusalem

א כה אמר יהוה, רד בית-מלך יהודה;
 ודברת שם, את-הדבר הזה.

1 Thus said the LORD: Go down to the house of
 the king of Judah, and speak there this word,

ב ואמרת, שמע דבר-יהוה, מלך יהודה,
 הישב על-כסא דוד: אתה ועבדיך ועמך,
 הבאים בשערים האלה.

2 and say: Hear the word of the LORD, O king
 of Judah, that sittest upon the throne of David,
 thou, and thy servants, and thy people that enter
 in by these gates.

ג כה אמר יהוה, עשו משפט וצדקה,
 והצילו גזול, מיד עשוק; וגר יתום ואלמנה
 אל-תנו, אל-תחמסו, ודם נקי, אל-תשפכו
 במקום הזה.

3 Thus saith the LORD: Execute ye justice and
 righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the
 hand of the oppressor; and do no wrong, do no
 violence, to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the
 widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place.

ד כי אם-עשו תעשו, את-הדבר הזה--
 ובאו בשערי הבית הזה מלכים יושבים
 לדוד על-כסאו, רכבים ברכב ובסוסים,
 הוא ועבדו, ועמו.

4 For if ye do this thing indeed, then shall there
 enter in by the gates of this house kings sitting
 upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and
 on horses, he, and his servants, and his people.

ה ואם לא תשמעו, את-הדברים האלה--
 בי נשבעתי נאם-יהוה, כי-לחרבה יהיה
 הבית הזה... {פ}

5 But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by
 Myself, saith the LORD, that this house shall
 become a desolation. {P}

ו הוי בנה ביתו בלא-צדק, ועליותיו בלא
 משפט; ברעהו יעבד חנם, ופעלו לא יתן-לו.

13 Woe unto him that buildeth his house by
 unrighteousness, and his chambers by
 injustice; that useth his neighbour's service
 without wages, and giveth him not his hire;

ז האמר, אבנה-לי בית מדות, ועליות,
 מרווחים; וקרע לו, חלונני, וספון בארז,
 ומשוח בששור.

14 That saith: 'I will build me a wide house
 and spacious chambers', and cutteth him out
 windows, and it is ceiled with cedar, and
 painted with vermillion.

ח התמלך, כי אתה מתחרה בארז? אביך
 הלוא אכל ושתה, ועשה משפט וצדקה--אז,
 טוב לו.

15 Shalt thou reign, because thou strivest to
 excel in cedar? Did not thy father eat and
 drink, and do justice and righteousness? Then
 it was well with him.

ט דן דין-עני ואביון, אז טוב; הלוא-

16 He judged the cause of the poor and
 needy; then it was well. Is not this to know

Me? saith the LORD.
היא הדעת אתי, נאם-יהוה.

**God consults with Avraham before destroying Sedom (Breishit 18)
And Biblical concept of "tzedek u'mishpat" / purpose of being chosen**

17 And the LORD said: 'Shall I hide from Abraham that which I am doing;--for Abraham is destined to become a **great nation**, and **through him all the nations of the earth shall be blessed!**

יז ויהוה, אָמַר : הַמְכִסָּה אֲנִי מֵאַבְרָהָם, אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי עֹשֶׂה. וְאַבְרָהָם--הָיוּ יְהִיָּה לְגוֹי גָדוֹל, וְעַצוֹם; וְנִבְרָכוּ-בּוֹ--כָּל, גּוֹי הָאָרֶץ.

19 For **I have known him**, to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, **that they may keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice**; to the end that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which He had spoken.'

יט כִּי יָדַעְתִּיו, לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר יִצְוֶה אֶת-בְּנָיו וְאֶת-בְּיֹתוֹ אַחֲרָיו, וְשָׁמְרוּ דְרָךְ יְהוָה, לַעֲשׂוֹת צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט--לְמַעַן, הֵבִיא יְהוָה עַל-אַבְרָהָם, אֵת אֲשֶׁר-דִּבֶּר, עָלָיו.