

The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class #42
The transition from Shmuel to Melachim - part two
In light of Tehillim 72 & 105 - and Sefer Breishit

Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Introduction -

In last week's shiur, we demonstrated how the first 10 chapters of Sefer Melachim as a distinct unit, which we attributed to the Navi Natan, in contrast to the unit that begins in chapter 11, which we attributed to the Navi Achiya ha'Shiloni – and suggested a possible reason for why Yirmiyahu, the Prophetic Redactor of Sefer Melachim, may have arranged the book in that manner (in light of Parshat ha'Melech in Sefer Devarim).

In this week's shiur, we return to the importance of the Queen of Sheba's visit as the highlight of Shlomo's reign, to help appreciate the prophetic themes of the books of Shmuel & Melachim – in light of two chapters in Tehillim, which are based on key themes in Sefer Breishit.

I. Review, the 'highlight' in chapter 10 of Sefer Melachim

**א וּמַלְכַת-שָׁבָא, שָׁמְעַת אֶת-שְׁמֵע שְׁלֹמֹה--
לְשֵׁם יְהוָה; וַתָּבֹא לְנִסְתּוֹ, בְּחִידוֹת.**

1 And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon because of the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions.

**ב וַתָּבֹא יְרוּשָׁלַיִם, בְּחִיל כְּבֹד מְאֹד, גְּמָלִים נֹשְׂאִים
בְּשָׂמִים וְזָהָב רַב-מְאֹד, וְאֶבֶן יָקָרָה; וַתָּבֹא, אֶל-
שְׁלֹמֹה, וַתִּדְבֶר אֵלָיו, אֵת כָּל-אֲשֶׁר הָיָה עִם-לִבָּבָה...**

2 And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bore spices and gold very much, and precious stones; and when she was come to Solomon, she spoke with him of all that was in her heart.

**ו וַתֹּאמֶר, אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֲמַת הָיָה הַדָּבָר, אֲשֶׁר
שָׁמַעְתִּי בְּאַרְצִי--עַל-דְּבָרֶיךָ, וְעַל-חֲכָמְתֶךָ.**

6 And she said to the king: 'It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom.

**ז וְלֹא-הֶאֱמַנְתִּי לְדְבָרִים, עַד אֲשֶׁר-בָּאתִי וַתִּרְאֶינָה
עֵינַי, וְהִנֵּה לֹא-הֶגַד-לִי, הַחֲצִי: הוֹסַפְתָּ חֲכָמָה וְטוֹב,
אֶל-הַשְּׂמוּעָה אֲשֶׁר שָׁמַעְתִּי.**

7 Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it; and, behold, the half was not told me; thou hast wisdom and prosperity exceeding the fame which I heard.

**ח אֲשָׁרִי אֲנֹשִׂיךָ, אֲשָׁרִי עֹבְדֶיךָ אֱלֹהִים, הָעַלְמָדִים
לְפָנֶיךָ תָּמִיד, הַשְּׁמַעִים אֶת-חֲכָמְתֶךָ.**

8 Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, that stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

**ט יְהִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, בְּרוּךְ, אֲשֶׁר חָפַץ בְּךָ,
לְתִתֶּךָ עַל-כִּסֵּא יִשְׂרָאֵל--
בְּאַהֲבַת יְהוָה אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְעֹלָם,**

9 Blessed be the LORD thy God, who delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel; because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made He thee king, to do justice and righteousness.'

וַיְשִׁימֵךְ לְמִלְכְךָ, לַעֲשׂוֹת מִשְׁפָּט וְצִדְקָה.

II. Tehillim 72 [end of book Two of Tehillim]

- א לְשִׁלְמָה:** אֱלֹהִים-- מִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ לְמִלְכְךָ תֵּן; וְצִדְקַתְךָ לְבֶן-מִלְכְךָ.
- ב** יִדְיִן עַמְּךָ בְצִדְקָה; וְעֲנִיֶיךָ בְּמִשְׁפָּט.
- ג** יִשְׂאוּ הָרִים שְׁלוֹם לָעָם; וּגְבְעוֹת, בְּצִדְקָה.
- ד** יִשְׁפֹּט, עֲנִיֵי-עָם-; וַיִּשְׁמַד אֹפְרַיִם, וַיִּדְכֵּא עוֹשֵׂק.
- ה** יִירָאוּךָ עַם-שָׁמַשׁ; וְלִפְנֵי יָרַח, דּוֹר דּוֹרִים.
- ו** יֵרֵד, כְּמָטָר עַל-גֵּז; כְּרִבִּיבִים, זֶרְזִיף אֶרֶץ.
- ז** יִפְרַח-בְּיָמָיו צְדִיק; וְרֹב שְׁלוֹם, עַד-בְּלֵי יָרַח.
- ח** וַיִּרְדֵּךְ, מִיָּם עַד-יָם; וּמִנְהַר, עַד-אֶפְסַי-אֶרֶץ.
- ט** לִפְנֵי, יִכְרְעוּ צְיִים; וְאֹיְבָיו, עָפָר יִלְחֲכוּ.
- י** מְלָכֵי תַרְשִׁישׁ וְאֵיִים, מִנְחָה יִשְׁיִבוּ; מְלָכֵי שֶׁבָא וְסִבָּא, אֶשְׁכֵּר יִקְרִיבוּ.
- יא** וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ-לוֹ כָּל-מְלָכִים; כָּל-גּוֹיִם יַעֲבֹדוּהוּ.
- יב** כִּי-יִצִּיל, אֶבְיוֹן מִשׁוֹעַ; וְעֲנִי, וְאִין-עֹזֵר לוֹ.
- יג** יַחַס, עַל-דָּל וְאֶבְיוֹן; וְנַפְשׁוֹת אֶבְיוֹנִים יוֹשִׁיעַ.
- יד** מִתּוֹךְ וּמִחֲמָס, יִגְאֵל נַפְשָׁם; וַיִּיקַר דָּמָם בְּעֵינָיו.
- טו** וַיְחִי-- וַיִּתֵּן-לוֹ, מִזֶּהָב שֶׁבָא; וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל בְּעֵדוֹ תָּמִיד; כָּל-הַיּוֹם, יְבָרְכֵנָהוּ.
- טז** יִהְיֶה כְּשֵׂד-בָּר, בְּאֶרֶץ-- בְּרֹאשׁ הָרִים; יִרְעַשׂ כְּלִבְנוֹן פְּרִי; וַיִּצְיִצּוּ מֵעִיר, כְּעֵשֶׂב הָאֶרֶץ.
- יז** יִהְיֶה שְׁמוֹ, לְעוֹלָם-- לִפְנֵי-שָׁמֶשׁ, יִנּוֹן (יִנּוֹן) שְׁמוֹ; וַיִּתְבָּרְכוּ בוֹ; כָּל-גּוֹיִם יִאֲשְׁרוּהוּ.
- 1 [A Psalm] **for Solomon**. Give the king Thy judgments, O God, and Thy righteousness unto the king's son;
- 2 That he may judge Thy people with righteousness, and Thy poor with justice.
- 3 Let the mountains bear peace to the people, and the hills, through righteousness.
- 4 May he judge the poor of the people, and save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor.
- 5 They shall fear Thee while the sun endureth, and so long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- 6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, as showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his days let the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace, till the moon be no more.
- 8 May he have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River unto the ends of the earth.
- 9 Let them that dwell in the wilderness bow before him; and his enemies lick the dust.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall render tribute; {N} the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.
- 11 Yea, all kings shall prostrate themselves before him; all nations shall serve him.
- 12 For he will deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.
- 13 He will have pity on the poor and needy, and the souls of the needy he will save.
- 14 He will redeem their soul from oppression and violence, and precious will their blood be in sight;
- 15 That they may live, and that he may give them of the gold of Sheba, {N} that they may pray for him continually, yea, bless him all the day.
- 16 May he be as a rich cornfield in the land upon the top of the mountains; {N} may his fruit rustle like Lebanon; and may they blossom out of the city like grass of the earth.
- 17 May his name endure for ever; may his name be continued as long as the sun; {N} may men also bless themselves by him; may all nations call him happy.

יח בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים--אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל : 18 Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things; עֲשֵׂה נִפְלְאוֹת לְבָדוֹ.

יט וּבְרוּךְ שֵׁם כְּבוֹדוֹ-- לְעוֹלָם : 19 And blessed be His glorious name for ever; {N} וַיִּמְלֵא כְבוֹדוֹ, אֶת-כָּל הָאָרֶץ-- אָמֵן וְאָמֵן. and let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen.

כ כָּלוּ תַפְלוֹת-- דָּוִד, בֶּן-יִשָּׁי . 20 The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

III. Returning to the Biblical themes of tzedek u'Mishpat & shem Hashem in Breishit

To appreciate the tragedy of the Destruction of the First Temple, it's important to understand it's Biblical and prophetic importance.

This can help us understand both Sefer Shmuel and Sefer Melachim:

First – review:

The two unique dialogues between Hashem & Avraham Avinu

Chapter 15 – brit Bein ha'Btarim

Chapter 18 – The story of Sedom

Yirmiyahu chapter 22

א כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה, יֵרַד בֵּית-מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה; וְדַבַּרְתָּ שָׁם, אֶת-הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה. 1 Thus said the LORD: Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and speak there this word,

ב וְאָמַרְתָּ, שְׁמַע דְּבַר-יְהוָה, מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה, הַיֹּשֵׁב עַל-כִּסֵּא דָוִד : אַתָּה וְעַבְדֶיךָ וְעַמֶּיךָ, הַבָּאִים בְּשַׁעְרֵי הָאֵלֶּה. 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 כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה, עֲשׂוּ מִשְׁפָּט וְצִדְקָה, וְהִצִּילוּ גְזוּל, מִיַּד עֹשׂוֹק; וְגַר יִתּוֹם וְאַלְמָנָה אַל-תִּגְנוּ, אַל-תַּחֲמִסוּ, וְדָם נָקִי, אַל-תִּשְׁפְּכוּ בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה. 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 כִּי אִם-עֲשׂוּ תַעֲשׂוּ, אֶת-הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה--וַיָּבֹאוּ בְּשַׁעְרֵי הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה, מְלָכִים יֹשְׁבִים לְדָוִד עַל-כִּסְאוֹ, רֹכְבִים בְּרֶכֶב וּבִסּוּסִים, הוּא וְעַבְדּוֹ, וְעַמּוֹ. 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.

5 But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by Myself, saith the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation.
ה וְאִם לֹא תִשְׁמָעוּ, אֶת-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה--בֵּי נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי נְאֻם-יְהוָה, כִּי-לְחָרְבָה יִהְיֶה הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה. {פ}

Chapter 22 – the rebuke to Yehoyakim:

- יג הוּי בָנָה בֵּיתוֹ בְּלֹא-צְדָק, וְעָלְיוֹתָיו בְּלֹא מִשְׁפָּט; בְּרָעָהוּ יַעֲבֹד חֲנָם, וּפְעָלוֹ לֹא יִתֶּן-לוֹ.** 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;
- יד הָאֵמַר, אֲבָנָה-לִי בַּיִת מְדוֹת, וְעָלְיוֹת, מְרוּחִים; וְקָרַע לוֹ, חֲלוֹנָי, וְסָפוֹן בְּאַרְזוֹ, וּמִשׁוֹחַ בְּשֵׁשֶׁר.** 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 vermilion.
- טו הֲתִמְלֹךְ, כִּי אָתָּה מִתְחַרָּה בְּאַרְזוֹ; אֲבִידָה הָלוֹא אֲכַל וְשָׂתָה, וְעָשָׂה מִשְׁפָּט וְצְדָקָה--אָז, טוֹב לוֹ.** 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.
- טז דָּן דִּין-עָנִי וְאֲבִיוֹן, אָז טוֹב; הָלוֹא-הִיא הַדַּעַת אֹתִי, נְאֻם-יְהוָה.** 16 He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know Me? saith the LORD.
- יז כִּי אֵין עֵינֶיךָ וְלִבְךָ, כִּי אִם-עַל-בְּצֻעָה; וְעַל דָּם-הַנָּקִי לְשֹׁפֵךְ, וְעַל-הָעֶשֶׂק וְעַל-הַמְרוּצָה לַעֲשׂוֹת.** 17 But thine eyes and thy heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for shedding innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it.

Chapter 23:

- ה הִנֵּה יָמִים בָּאִים נְאֻם-יְהוָה, וְהִקְמַתִּי לְדָוִד צֶמַח צְדִיק; וּמִלְךְ מִלְךְ וְהִשְׁכִּיל, וְעָשָׂה מִשְׁפָּט וְצְדָקָה בְּאַרְצוֹ.** 5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous shoot, and he shall reign as king and prosper, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- ו בְּיָמָיו תִּשָּׁע יְהוּדָה, וְיִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׁכֹּן לְבֶטֶח; וְזֶה-שְּׁמוֹ אֲשֶׁר-יִקְרָאוּ, יְהוָה צְדִקְנוֹ. {פ}** 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The LORD is our righteousness.

Recall end of first Natan unit, i.e. Shmuel bet chapters 5 thru 8

Chapter 8

- יד וַיִּשֶׂם בְּאֶדְוִם נְצָבִים, בְּכָל-אֶדְוִם שֵׁם נְצָבִים, וַיְהִי כָל-אֶדְוִם, עֲבָדִים לְדָוִד; וַיִּוָּשַׁע יְהוָה אֶת-דָּוִד, בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר הָלַךְ.** 14 And he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom put he garrisons, and all the Edomites became servants to David. And the LORD gave victory to David whithersoever he went.
- טו וַיִּמְלֹךְ דָּוִד, עַל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיְהִי דָוִד, עֹשֶׂה מִשְׁפָּט וְצְדָקָה--לְכָל-עַמּוֹ.** 15 And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed justice and righteousness unto all his people.
- טז וַיֹּאבֵב בֶּן-זְרוּיָה, עַל-הַצָּבָא; וַיְהוֹשֶׁפֶט בֶּן-אַחִילוּד, מִזְכִּיר.** 16 And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the host; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

In light of this; let's return to Breishit chapter 18
 And the Tehillim 105 [and the theme of Aleinu...]

Breishit chapters 18 -19

16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked out toward Sodom; and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way. 17 And the LORD said: 'Shall I hide from Abraham that which I am doing; 18 seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 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 hath spoken of him.'

20 And the LORD said: 'Verily, the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and, verily, their sin is exceeding grievous. 21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto Me; and if not, I will know.' 22 And the men turned from thence, and went toward Sodom; but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

23 And Abraham drew near, and said: 'Wilt Thou indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 Peradventure there are fifty righteous within the city; wilt Thou indeed sweep away and not forgive the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? ...' 26 And the LORD said: 'If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will forgive all the place for their sake.'

Chapter 19 1 And the two angels came to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom; and Lot saw them, and rose up to meet them; and he fell down on his face to the earth; 2 and he said: 'Behold now, my lords, turn aside, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your way.' And they said: 'Nay; but we will abide in the broad place all night.' 3 And he urged them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both young and old, all the people from every quarter. 5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him: 'Where are the men that came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.' 6 And Lot went out unto them to the door, and shut the door after him. 7 And he said: 'I pray you, my brethren, do not so wickedly. 8 Behold now, I have two daughters that have not known man.... And they said: 'This one fellow came in to live here and now he judges us! We will deal worse with you, than with them.' And they pressed the door..

Yechezkel 16:48-49

49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom: pride, fulness of bread, and careless ease was in her and in her daughters; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

בראשית יח טז וַיִּקְמוּ מִשָּׁם הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיִּשְׁקְפוּ עַל-פְּנֵי סְדֹם וְאַבְרָהָם--הֲלִיךְ עִמָּם, לְשַׁלְּחָם.

יז וַיְהוּה אָמַר הַמַּכְסָּה אֲנִי מֵאַבְרָהָם, אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי עֹשֶׂה. יח וְאַבְרָהָם--הָיוּ יְהוּה לְגוֹי גָדוֹל, וְעָצוּם; וְנִבְרָכוּ-בוֹ--כָּל, גּוֹי הָאָרֶץ. יט כִּי יִדְעֶתְיוּ לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר יִצְוֶה אֶת בְּנָיו וְאֶת-בֵּיתוֹ אַחֲרָיו, וְשָׁמְרוּ דְרֹךְ יְהוּה, לַעֲשׂוֹת צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט--לְמַעַן, הֵבִיא יְהוּה עַל-אַבְרָהָם, אֶת אֲשֶׁר-דִּבֶּר, עָלָיו.

כ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּה, זַעֲקַת סְדֹם וְעִמְרָה כִּי-רָבָה; וְחַטָּאתָם--כִּי כְבֹדָה, מְאֹד. כא אַרְדָּה-נָא וְאַרְאֶהָ, הַכְּצַעֲקֶתָהּ הַבָּאָה אֵלַי עֲשׂוּ כָלָה; וְאִם-לֹא, אֵדְעָה...

כג וַיִּגַּשׁ אַבְרָהָם, וַיֹּאמֶר: הֲאֵף תִּסְפָּה, צְדִיק עִם-רָשָׁע. כד אוֹלֵי יֵשׁ חַמְשִׁים צְדִיקִים, בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר; הֲאֵף תִּסְפָּה וְלֹא-תִשָּׂא לְמַקּוֹם, לְמַעַן חַמְשִׁים הַצְדִיקִים אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבָּה...

כו וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּה, אִם-אֶמְצָא בְּסְדֹם חַמְשִׁים צְדִיקִים בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר--וְנִשְׂאתִי לְכָל-הַמַּקּוֹם, בְּעִבְרָם....

יט א/ וַיָּבֹאוּ שְׁנֵי הַמַּלְאָכִים סְדֹמָה, בְּעָרֵב, וְלוֹט, יוֹשֵׁב בְּשַׁעַר-סְדֹם; וַיֵּרָא-לוֹט וַיִּקָּם לִקְרֹאתָם, וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ אַפַּיִם אַרְצָה. ב וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה נָא-אֲדֹנָי, סוּרוּ נָא אֶל-בַּיִת עִבְדְּכֶם וְלִינוּ וְרַחְצוּ רַגְלֵיכֶם, וְהִשְׁכַּמְתֶּם, וְהִלַּכְתֶּם לְדַרְכְּכֶם; וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא, כִּי בְּרָחוּב גִּלְיוֹן.

ג וַיִּפְצַר-בָּם מְאֹד--וַיִּסְרוּ אֵלָיו, וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל-בֵּיתוֹ; וַיַּעַשׂ לָהֶם מִשְׁתֶּה, וּמִצּוֹת אָפֶה וַיֹּאכְלוּ. ד טָרָם, וַיִּשְׁכְּבוּ, וְאֲנָשֵׁי הָעִיר אֲנָשֵׁי סְדֹם נִסְבּוּ עַל-הַבַּיִת, מִנְעֵר וְעַד-זֶקֶן: כָּל-הָעָם, מִקְצָה. ה וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל-לוֹט וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ, אֵיךְ הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר-בָּאוּ אֵלֶיךָ הִלְלִינָה הוֹצִיאֵם אֵלֵינוּ וְנִדְעָה אֹתָם.

יחזקאל טז מט:

הִנֵּה-זֶה הָיָה, עוֹן סְדֹם אַחֲתֶיךָ: גָּאוֹן שְׁבַעַת-לַחֵם וְשִׁלּוֹת הַשֶּׁקֶט... וַיֵּד-עֵינֵי וְאַבְיוֹן, לֹא הִחְזִיקָה.