

The Early Prophets - One Book, One Theme - class #44

The thematic centrality of Temple in Sefer Melachim

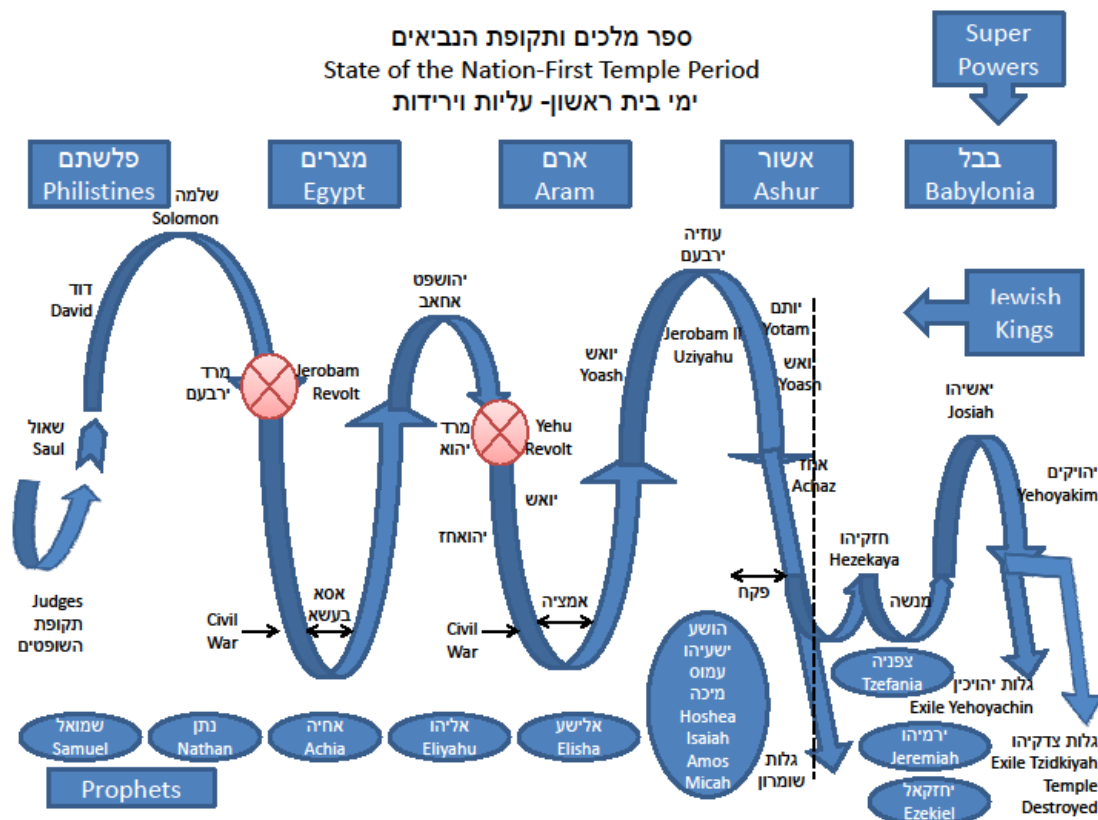
Source sheet for TIM shiur by Menachem Leibtag/

Introduction -

This week, we return to our study of Sefer Melachim as a book, in an attempt to explain why Shlomo's construction of the Temple is so central to its opening chapters, while the Temple's destruction becomes the central topic of its final chapters.

I. Review of the time period of approx 400 years of Sefer Melachim The chart below will be the focus of our opening discussion

The X axis left to right is the year
from time of Sefer Shmuel till end of Melachim
the Y axis - the state of Monarchy, security, unity, economy, peace



II. The Biblical importance of the Temple [or one central place of worship] Concept of “ha’Makom Asher Yivchar Hashem” Part of the laws for a nation, in Sefer Devarim

Outline of the main speech in Sefer Devarim, and its key sections:

Chapter 5 Moshe Rabeinu retells the story of Maamad Har Sinai,
and how he received at that time - the laws that he is about to teach

Chapters 6->11 - The “mitzvah” section , the love & fear of God

/ From “shema” to “v’haya im shmoah”

[note how 6:4-6 introduces & 11:22-25 concludes this section

Chapters 12->26 - The “chukim u’mishpatim” section

/ The Laws that will establish God's nation in the Land of Israel

[note the transition for end of chapter 11 into 12:1]

Examples of the parallel between the detailed laws and Dibrot

[THE 'MITZVA' SECTION]

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 6 -11 | I | 'Ahavat Hashem', emuna |
| | II | Not worshipping 'avoda zara'
(parallel to the first two dibrot) |

[THE 'CHUKIM U-MISHPATIM' SECTION]

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| 12-14 | III | Establishing God's Name in the Temple-
HAMAKOM ASHER YIVCHAR HASHEM I'shaken SHMO sham
(parallel to not saying God's Name in vain) |
| 15-16 | IV | The seven year Shmitta cycle & 3 regalim, 7 days of chag ha'matzot, 7 weeks, 7 days succot in 7th month
(parallel to Shabbat) |
| 17-18 | V | The national leaders (shoftim, kohanim & levi'im, melech, and navi)
(parallel to honoring parents) |
| 19-21 | VI | Laws of going to war, murder, and capital punishment
(parallel to 'lo tirtzach') |
| 21-25 | VII-X | Misc. laws 'bein adam le-chavero'
(parallel to the final dibrot) |

Conclusion of the main speech [26:16-19]

טז - יט **היום הזה**, ה' אלהיך מצוה לעשות את-החקים האלה ואת-המשפטים; ושמרת ועשית אותם, בכל-לבבך ובכל-נפשך. **את-ה' האמרת, היום**

- להיות לך לאלהים - וללכת בדרכיו ולשמר חקיו ומצותיו ומשפטיו ולשמע בקלו.
- ניהוה האמירך היום, להיות לו לעם סגלה, פאשר, דבר-לך; ולשמר, כל-מצותיו.

• ולתתך עליון, על כל-הגוים אשר עשה,

○ לתהלה, ולשם ולתפארת;

• ולהיתך עם-קדש לה' אלהיך, פאשר דבר

III. Review all the actions David takes to build Yerushalaim Shmuel Bet chapters 5 thru 7 Divrei ha'Yamim Aleph– from chapter 10 thru 29

Then review what Shlomo does in first chapters 3 thru 10
[of Sefer Melachim]

Note how book of Melachim concludes –
In contrast to the concluding chapter of Divrei ha'Yamim

Focus on Shlomo's prayer in chapter 8 and theme of “teshuva”

כח וּפְנִיתָ אֶל-תְּפִלַּת עַבְדְּךָ, וְאֶל-תְּחִנָּתוֹ--ה' אֱלֹהֵי:
לְשִׁמְעַ אֶל-הַרְנָה וְאֶל-הַתְּפִלָּה, אֲשֶׁר עַבְדְּךָ מִתְּפַלֵּל
לְפָנֶיךָ הַיּוֹם.

28 Yet have Thou respect unto the prayer of Thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer which Thy servant prayeth before Thee this day;

כט לְהִיּוֹת עֵינֶיךָ פְּתוּחֹת אֶל-הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה, לַיְלָה
וַיּוֹם, אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם, אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתָּ יְהִיֵּה שְׁמִי שָׁם--
לְשִׁמְעַ, אֶל-הַתְּפִלָּה, אֲשֶׁר יִתְּפַלֵּל עַבְדְּךָ, אֶל-
הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה.

29 that Thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place whereof Thou hast said: My name shall be there; to hearken unto the prayer which Thy servant shall pray toward this place.

ל וְשָׁמַעְתָּ אֶל-תְּחִנַּת עַבְדְּךָ, וְעַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר
יִתְּפַלְּלוּ, אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה; וְאַתָּה תִּשְׁמַע אֶל-
מָקוֹם שְׁבִתְךָ, אֶל-הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְשָׁמַעְתָּ, וְסָלַחְתָּ.

30 And hearken Thou to the supplication of Thy servant, and of Thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place; yea, hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling-place; and when Thou hearest, forgive.

לג בְּהִנָּגַף עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל, לְפָנֵי אוֹיֵב-
אֲשֶׁר יַחְטְאוּ-לָךְ; וְשָׁבוּ אֵלֶיךָ וְהוֹדוּ אֶת-שִׁמְךָ,
וְהִתְּפַלְּלוּ וְהִתְחַנְּנוּ אֵלֶיךָ בַּבַּיִת הַזֶּה.

33 When Thy people Israel are smitten down before the enemy, when they do sin against Thee, if they turn again to Thee, and confess Thy name, and pray and make supplication unto Thee in this house;

לד וְאַתָּה, תִּשְׁמַע הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְסָלַחְתָּ
לְחַטָּאת עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל; וְהִשְׁבַּתְּם, אֶל-הָאָדָמָה, אֲשֶׁר נָתַתָּ,
לְאֲבוֹתָם

34 then hear Thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy people Israel, and bring them back unto the land which Thou gavest unto their fathers. {S}

לה בְּהִעָצַר שָׁמַיִם וְלֹא-יְהִיֵּה מָטָר, כִּי יַחְטְאוּ-
לָךְ; וְהִתְּפַלְּלוּ אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה, וְהוֹדוּ אֶת-שִׁמְךָ,
וּמַחְטָאתָם יִשׁוּבוּן, כִּי תַעֲנֶם.

35 When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, when they do sin against Thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess Thy name, and turn from their sin, when Thou dost afflict them;

לו וְאַתָּה תִּשְׁמַע הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְסָלַחְתָּ לְחַטָּאת עַבְדֶּיךָ
וְעַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל--כִּי תוֹרֵם אֶת-הַדֶּרֶךְ הַטּוֹבָה,
אֲשֶׁר יִלְכוּ-בָּהּ; וְנָתַתָּה מָטָר עַל-אֲרָצְךָ, אֲשֶׁר-נָתַתָּה לְעַמְּךָ
לְנַחֲלָה.

36 then hear Thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of Thy servants, and of Thy people Israel, when Thou teachest them the good way wherein they should walk; and send rain upon Thy land, which Thou hast given to Thy people for an inheritance. {S}

נד וַיְהִי כְּכֹלֹת שְׁלֹמֹה, לְהִתְפַּלֵּל אֶל-יְהוָה, אֶת כָּל-הַתְּפִלָּה וְהַתְּחִנָּה, הַזֹּאת; קָם מִלִּפְנֵי מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה, מִכְרַעַע עַל-בְּרָכָיו, וְכַפָּיו, פָּרְשׂוֹת הַשָּׁמַיִם.

54 And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread forth toward heaven.

נה וַיַּעֲמַד--וַיְבָרֵךְ, אֶת כָּל-קְהַל יִשְׂרָאֵל: קוֹל גָּדוֹל, לֵאמֹר.

55 And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying:

נו בָּרוּךְ יְהוָה, אֲשֶׁר נָתַן מְנוּחָה לְעַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל, כְּכֹל, אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר: לֹא-נִפְלָ דְבַר אֶחָד, מִכָּל דְּבָרֵי הַטּוֹב, אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר, בְּיַד מֹשֶׁה עַבְדּוֹ.

56 'Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto His people Israel, according to all that He promised; there hath not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised by the hand of Moses His servant.

נז יְהִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ עִמָּנוּ, כַּאֲשֶׁר הָיָה עִם-אֲבוֹתֵינוּ: אֵל-יַעֲזָבֵנוּ, וְאֵל-יִטְשָׁנוּ.

57 The LORD our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; let Him not leave us, nor forsake us;

נח לְהִטּוֹת לְבַבֵּנוּ, אֱלֹיו--לְלַכֵּת בְּכָל-דַּרְכָיו, וְלִשְׁמֹר מִצְוֹתָיו וְחֻקָיו וּמִשְׁפָּטָיו, אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה, אֶת-אֲבוֹתֵינוּ.

58 that He may incline our hearts unto Him, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments, and His statutes, and His ordinances, which He commanded our fathers.

נט וַיְהִי דְבַרֵי אֵלֶּהָ, אֲשֶׁר הִתְחַנַּנְתִּי לִפְנֵי יְהוָה, קִרְבִּים אֶל-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יוֹמָם וּלְיָלָה: לַעֲשׂוֹת מִשְׁפָּט עַבְדּוֹ, וּמִשְׁפָּט עַמּוֹ יִשְׂרָאֵל--דְּבַר-יוֹם בְּיוֹמוֹ.

59 And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God day and night, that He maintain the cause of His servant, and the cause of His people Israel, as every day shall require;

ס לְמַעַן, דַּעַת כָּל-עַמֵּי הָאָרֶץ, כִּי יְהוָה, הוּא הָאֱלֹהִים: אִין, עוֹד.

60 that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD, He is God; there is none else.

סא וְהָיָה לְבַבְכֶם שָׁלֵם, עִם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ, לְלַכֵּת בְּחֻקָיו וְלִשְׁמֹר מִצְוֹתָיו, כִּיֹּם הַזֶּה.

61 Let your heart therefore be whole with the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes, and to keep His commandments, as at this day.'

סב וְהַמֶּלֶךְ, וְכָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל עִמּוֹ, זָבָחִים זָבַח, לִפְנֵי יְהוָה.

62 And the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD.

סג וַיִּזְבַּח שְׁלֹמֹה, אֶת זָבַח הַשְּׁלָמִים אֲשֶׁר זָבַח לַיהוָה, בְּקָר עֶשְׂרִים וּשְׁנַיִם אֶלֶף, וְצֹאן מֵאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים אֶלֶף; וַיַּחֲנֹכוּ אֶת-בֵּית יְהוָה, הַמֶּלֶךְ וְכָל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

63 And Solomon offered for the sacrifice of peace-offerings, which he offered unto the LORD, two and twenty thousand oxen, and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD

IV. Hashem's response to Shlomo's prayer: Chapter 9

א וַיְהִי כְּכֹלֹת שְׁלֹמֹה, לְבַנּוֹת אֶת-בֵּית-יְהוָה וְאֶת-בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ, וְאֶת כָּל-חֶשֶׁק שְׁלֹמֹה, אֲשֶׁר חָפֵץ לַעֲשׂוֹת. {פ}

1 And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's delight which he was pleased to do, {P}

ב וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה אֶל-שְׁלֹמֹה, שְׁנִיָּתָהּ, כַּאֲשֶׁר נִרְאָה אֵלָיו, בְּגִבְעוֹן.

2 that the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as He had appeared unto him at Gibeon.

ג וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלָיו, שָׁמַעְתִּי אֶת-תְּפִלָּתְךָ וְאֶת-

3 And the LORD said unto him: 'I have

תִּחְנַתֶּךָ אֲשֶׁר הִתְחַנַּנְתָּה לְפָנַי--הַקְדַּשְׁתִּי אֶת-הַבַּיִת
הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר בָּנִיתָה, לְשׁוּם-שְׁמִי שָׁם עַד-עוֹלָם ; וְהָיוּ
עֵינַי וְלִבִּי שָׁם, כָּל-הַיָּמִים.

heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before Me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put My name there for ever; and Mine eyes and My heart shall be there perpetually.

ד וְאַתָּה אִם-תֵּלֶךְ לְפָנַי, כַּאֲשֶׁר הִלַּךְ דָּוִד אָבִיךָ
בְּתָם-לֵבָב וּבִישׁוּר, לַעֲשׂוֹת, כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר צִוִּיתִיךָ--חֻקֵּי
וּמִשְׁפָּטַי, תִּשְׁמֹר.

4 And as for thee, if thou wilt walk before Me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep My statutes and Mine ordinances;

ה וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת-כִּסֵּא מַמְלַכְתְּךָ, עַל-יִשְׂרָאֵל--
לְעֹלָם : כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתִּי, עַל-דָּוִד אָבִיךָ לֵאמֹר, לֹא-
יִכָּרֵת לְךָ אִישׁ, מֵעַל כִּסֵּא יִשְׂרָאֵל.

5 then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom over Israel for ever; according as I promised to David thy father, saying: There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.

ו אִם-שׁוּב תִּשְׁבוּן אֶתֶם וּבְנֵיכֶם, מֵאַחֲרַי,
וְלֹא תִשְׁמְרוּ מִצְוֹתַי חֻקְתִּי, אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי
לְפָנֵיכֶם ; וְהִלַּכְתֶּם, וְעַבַּדְתֶּם אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים,
וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִיתֶם, לָהֶם.

6 But if ye shall turn away from following Me, ye or your children, and not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, but shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;

ז וְהִכַּרְתִּי אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל, מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה
אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לָהֶם, וְאֶת-הַבַּיִת אֲשֶׁר הַקְדַּשְׁתִּי
לְשְׁמִי, אֲשַׁלַּח מֵעַל פָּנָי ; וְהָיָה יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִשְׁלַל
וּלְשִׁנְיָנָה, בְּכָל-הָעַמִּים.

7 then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for My name, will I cast out of My sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a by word among all peoples;

ח וְהַבַּיִת הַזֶּה יִהְיֶה עֲלִיוּן, כָּל-עֹבֵר עָלָיו
יִשֹּׁם וְשָׁרַק ; וְאָמְרוּ, עַל-מָה עָשָׂה יְהוָה
כֹּכָה, לָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת, וּלְבַיִת הַזֶּה.

8 and this house which is so high [shall become desolate], and every one that passeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss; and when they shall say: Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and to this house?

ט וְאָמְרוּ, עַל אֲשֶׁר עָזְבוּ אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיהֶם אֲשֶׁר
הוֹצִיא אֶת-אַבְתָּם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, וַיַּחֲזִקוּ בֵּאלֹהִים
אֲחֵרִים, וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ (וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ) לָהֶם וַיַּעֲבֹדֵם ; עַל-כֵּן, הֵבִיא
יְהוָה עֲלֵיהֶם, אֶת כָּל-הָרָעָה, הַזֹּאת. {פ}

9 they shall be answered: Because they forsook the LORD their God, who brought forth their fathers out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them; therefore hath the LORD brought all this evil upon them.' {P}

י וַיְהִי, מִקְצֵה עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה, אֲשֶׁר-בָּנָה שְׁלֹמֹה, אֶת-שְׁנֵי
הַבָּתִּים--אֶת-בַּיִת יְהוָה, וְאֶת-בַּיִת הַמֶּלֶךְ.

10 And it came to pass at the end of twenty years, wherein Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD and the king's house--

יא חִירָם מֶלֶךְ-צֹר נָשָׂא אֶת-שְׁלֹמֹה בַּעֲצֵי אֲרָזִים וּבַעֲצֵי
בְרוֹשִׁים, וּבַזָּהָב--לְכָל-חִפְצוֹ ; אִזּוֹ יָתַן הַמֶּלֶךְ שְׁלֹמֹה
לְחִירָם, עֶשְׂרִים עִיר, בְּאֶרֶץ, הַגָּלִיל.

11 now Hiram the king of Tyre had furnished Solomon with cedar-trees and cypress-trees, and with gold, according to all his desire-- that then king Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee.

יב וַיֵּצֵא חִירָם, מִצֹּר, לִרְאוֹת אֶת-הָעָרִים, אֲשֶׁר נָתַן-לוֹ
שְׁלֹמֹה ; וְלֹא יָשְׂרוּ, בְּעֵינָיו.

12 And Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him: and they pleased him not.

יג וַיֹּאמֶר--מָה הָעָרִים הָאֵלֶּה, אֲשֶׁר-נָתַתָּה לִּי אָחִי ;
וַיִּקְרָא לָהֶם אֶרֶץ כַּבּוּל, עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה. {פ}

13 And he said: 'What cities are these which thou hast given me, my brother?' And they were called the land of Cabul, unto this day.

Compare with Devarim 29 – the end of Brit Nitzavim

כא וְאָמַר הַדּוֹר הָאַחֲרוֹן, בְּנֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר יָקוּמוּ מֵאַחֲרֵיכֶם, וְהִנָּכְרִי, אֲשֶׁר יָבֹא מֵאַרְצַי רְחוֹקָה; וְרָאוּ אֶת-מִכּוֹת הָאָרֶץ הַהִוא, וְאֶת-תַּחֲלָאֵיהָ, אֲשֶׁר-חָלָה יְהוָה, בָּהּ.

21 And the generation to come, your children that shall rise up after you, and the foreigner that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses wherewith the LORD hath made it sick;

כב וְגַפְרִית וּמֶלַח, שָׂרְפָה כָּל-אַרְצָה--לֹא תִזְרַע וְלֹא תִצְמַח, וְלֹא-יַעֲלֶה בָּהּ כֹּל-עֵשֶׂב: **כְּמַהֲפַכַת סֹדֶם וְעֹמֹרָה**, אֲדָמָה וְצִבְיִים, אֲשֶׁר הִפִּיד יְהוָה, בְּאַפוֹ וּבַחֲמָתוֹ.

22 and that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and a burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger, and in His wrath;

כג וְאָמְרוּ, כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם, עַל-מֶה עָשָׂה יְהוָה כִּכָּהֵן, לְאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת; מֶה חֲרִי הָאֵף הַגָּדוֹל, הַזֶּה.

23 even all the nations shall say 'Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger?'

כד וְאָמְרוּ--עַל אֲשֶׁר עָזְבוּ, אֶת-בְּרִית יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲבֹתָם: **אֲשֶׁר כָּרַת עִמָּם, בְּהוֹצִיאֹו אֹתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם.**

24 then men shall say: 'Because they forsook the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them forth out of the land of Egypt;

כה וַיֵּלְכוּ, וַיַּעֲבְדוּ אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים, וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲווּ, לָהֶם: **אֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יָדְעוּם, וְלֹא חָלַק לָהֶם.**

25 and went and served other gods, and worshipped them, gods that they knew not, and that He had not allotted unto them;

כו וַיַּחַר-אַף יְהוָה, בְּאָרֶץ הַהִוא, לְהַבִּיאַ עָלֶיהָ אֶת-כָּל-הַקְּלָלָה, הַכְּתוּבָה בַּסֵּפֶר הַזֶּה.

26 therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, to bring upon it all the curse that is written in this book;

כז וַיִּתְשֵׁם יְהוָה מֵעַל אֲדָמָתָם, בְּאֵף וּבַחֲמָה וּבִקְצָף גָּדוֹל; וַיִּשְׁלַכֵם אֶל-אָרֶץ אַחֲרַת, פִּיּוֹם הַזֶּה.

27 and the LORD rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day'.--

כח הַנְּסֻתָּוּת--לִיהוָה, אֲלֵהֵינוּ; וְהַנְּגַלְתָּ לָנוּ וּלְבְנֵינוּ, עַד-עוֹלָם--לַעֲשׂוֹת, אֶת-כָּל-דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת. {ס}

28 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God; but the things that are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.