

## The Prophets and Psalmists as Exegetes - Class # 2

For Torah in Motion - by Menachem Leibtag

### How Yeshayahu Understood Sefer Breishit - Part II

#### I. Issaiah chapter 2 -

**א** הַדְּבַר אֲשֶׁר חָזָה, יִשְׁעִיָּהוּ בֶן-אָמוֹץ, עַל-יְהוּדָה, וִירוּשָׁלַם.  
1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

**ב** וְהָיָה בְּאַחֲרֵית הַיָּמִים, נִכּוֹן יְהִיָּה הַר בֵּית-יְהוָה בְּרֹאשׁ הַהָרִים, וְנִשְׂאָ, מִגְּבְעוֹת; וְנָהָרוּ אֵלָיו, כָּל-הַגּוֹיִם.  
2 And it shall come to pass in the end of days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established as the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

**ג** וְהָלְכוּ עַמִּים רַבִּים, וְאָמְרוּ לָכוּ וְנַעֲלֶה אֶל-הַר-יְהוָה אֶל-בֵּית אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב, וְיִרְנוּ מִדְּרָכָיו, וְנִלְכֶה בְּאַרְחֹתָיו: כִּי מִצִּיּוֹן תֵּצֵא תוֹרָה, וְדִבַּר-יְהוָה מִירוּשָׁלַם.  
3 And many peoples shall go and say: 'Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

**ד** וְשָׁפַט בֵּין הַגּוֹיִם, וְהוֹכִיחַ לְעַמִּים רַבִּים; וְכַתְּתוּ חַרְבוֹתָם לְאֵתִים, וְחַנִּיתוֹתֵיהֶם לְמִזְמָרוֹת--לֹא-יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל-גּוֹי חֶרֶב, וְלֹא-יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה. {פ}  
4 And He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. {P}

**ה** בֵּית, יַעֲקֹב--לָכוּ וְנִלְכֶה, בְּאוֹר יְהוָה.  
5 O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

**ו** כִּי נָטַשְׁתָּהּ, עַמְּךָ בֵּית יַעֲקֹב--כִּי מָלְאוּ מִקְדָּם, וְעַנְנִים כַּפְּלִשְׁתִּים; וּבִילְדֵי נִכְרִים, יִשְׁפִּיקוּ.  
6 For Thou hast forsaken Thy people the house of Jacob; for they are replenished from the east, and with soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the brood of aliens.

**ז** וְתִמְלֵא אֶרְצוֹ כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב, וְאִין קֶצֶה לְאַצְרֹתָיו; וְתִמְלֵא אֶרְצוֹ סוּסִים, וְאִין קֶצֶה לְמַרְכָּבָתָיו.  
7 Their land also is full of silver and gold, neither is there any end of their treasures; their land also is full of horses, neither is there any end of their chariots.

**ח** וְתִמְלֵא אֶרְצוֹ, אֱלִילִים: לְמַעֲשֵׂה יָדָיו יִשְׁתַּחֲווּ, לְאֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ אֶצְבָּעֹתָיו.  
8 Their land also is full of idols; every one worshippeth the work of his own hands, that which his own fingers have made.

## II. Chapter 42 - concept of 'light to other nations' / Haftara Breishit

ה כה-אמר האל יהוה, בורא השמים ונוטיהם, רקע הארץ, וצאצאיה; נתן נשמה לעם עליה, ורוח להלכים בה.

5 Thus saith God the LORD, He that created the heavens, and stretched them forth, He that spread forth the earth and that which cometh out of it, He that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

ו אני יהוה קראתיך בצדק, ואחזק בידך; ואצרך, ואתנדך לברית עם-- לאור גוים.

6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and have taken hold of thy hand, and kept thee, and set thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the nations;

ז לפקח, עינים עורות; להוציא ממסגר אסיר, מבית כלא ישבי חשך.

7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house.

ח אני יהוה, הוא שמי; וכבודי לאחר לא-אתו, ותהלתי לפסילים.

8 I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images.

## Chapter 43: Haftara for Parshat Vayikra

כא עם-זו יצרתי לי, תהלתי יספרו. {ס}

21 The people which I formed for Myself, that they might tell of My praise. {S}

כב ולא-אתי קראת, יעקב: כי-נגעת בי, ישראל.

22 Yet thou hast not called upon Me, O Jacob, neither hast thou wearied thyself about Me, O Israel.

כג לא-הביאת לי שיה עלתיך, וזבחך לא כבדתני; לא העבדתיך במנחה, ולא הוגעתיך בלבונה.

23 Thou hast not brought Me the small cattle of thy burnt-offerings; neither hast thou honoured Me with thy sacrifices. I have not burdened thee with a meal-offering, nor wearied thee with frankincense.

## III. Devarim chapter 4 - purpose of keeping the mitzvot

א ועתה ישראל, שמע אל-החקים ואל-המשפטים, אשר אנכי מלמד אתכם, לעשות--למען תחיו, ובאתם וירשתם את-הארץ, אשר יהוה אלהי אבותיכם, נתן לכם.

1 And now, O Israel, hearken unto the statutes and unto the ordinances, which I teach you, to do them; that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, giveth you.

ב לא תספו, על-הדבר אשר אנכי מצוה אתכם, ולא תגרעו, ממונו--לשמר, את-מצות יהוה אלהיכם, אשר אנכי, מצוה אתכם.

2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

ג עיניכם, הראות, את אשר-עשה יהוה, בבעל פעור: כי כל-האיש, אשר הלך אחרי בעל-פעור--השמידו יהוה אלהיך, מקרבך.

3 Your eyes have seen what the LORD did in Baal-peor; for all the men that followed the Baal of Peor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from the midst of thee.

ד ואתם, הדבקים, ביהוה, אלהיכם-- חיים בלכם, היום.

4 But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day.

ה ראה למדתי אתכם, חקים ומשפטים, באשר צוני, יהוה אלהי: לעשות כן-- בקרב הארץ, אשר אתם באים שמה לרשתה.

5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and ordinances, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the midst of the land whither ye go in to possess it.

ו ושמרתם, ועשיתם-- **פי הוא חכמתכם** **ובינתכם, לעיני העמים:** אשר ישמעון, את כל-החקים האלה, **ואמרו רק עם- חכם ונבון, הגוי הגדול הזה.**

6 Observe therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, that, when they hear all these statutes, shall say: 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

ז **פי מי- גוי גדול, אשר- לו אלהים קרבים אליו, פיהו אלהינו, בכל- קראנו אליו.**

7 For what great nation is there, that hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is whensoever we call upon Him?

ח **ומי גוי גדול, אשר- לו חקים ומשפטים צדיקים, ככל התורה הזאת, אשר אנכי נתן לפניכם היום.**

8 And what great nation is there, that hath statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

ט רק השמר לך ושמר נפשך מאד, פן- תשכח את-הדברים אשר-ראו עיניך ופן- יסורו מלבבך, כל, ימי חיך; והודעתם לבניך, ולבני בניך.

9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes saw, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life; but make them known unto thy children and thy children's children;

י יום, אשר עמדת לפני יהוה אלהיך בחרב, באמר יהוה אלי הקהל-לי את- העם, ואשמעם את-דברי: אשר ילמדון ליראה אתי, כל-הימים אשר הם חיים על-האדמה, ואת-בניהם, ילמדון.

10 the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me: 'Assemble Me the people, and I will make them hear My words that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.'

### III. Devarim Chapter 28

א והיה, אם-שמוע תשמע בקול יהוה אלהיך, לשמר לעשות את-כל-מצותיו, אשר אנכי מצוה היום--ונתנה יהוה אלהיך, עליך, על, כל-גויי הארץ.

1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all the nations of the earth.

ב ובאו עליך כל-הברכות האלה, והשיגך: כי תשמע, בקול יהוה אלהיך.

2 And all these blessings shall come upon thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

- ג בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, בְּעִיר; וּבְרוּךְ אַתָּה, בַּשָּׂדֶה. 3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.
- ד בָּרוּךְ פְּרִי-בְטֶנֶךָ וּפְרִי אֲדָמָתְךָ, וּפְרִי בְהֵמָתְךָ--שֹׁגֵר אֶלְפִידָה, וְעֹשְׂתֵרוֹת צֹאנֶךָ. 4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the young of thy flock.
- ה בָּרוּךְ טֵנְאֶךָ, וּמִשְׁאַרְתְּךָ. 5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy kneading-trough.
- ו בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה, בְּבֹאֶךָ; וּבְרוּךְ אַתָּה, בְּצֵאתְךָ. 6 Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.
- ז יִתֵּן יְהוָה אֶת-אֹיְבֶיךָ הַקָּמִים עֲלֶיךָ, נֹגְפִים לְפָנֶיךָ: בְּדֶרֶךְ אֶחָד יִצְאוּ אֵלֶיךָ, וּבִשְׁבָעָה דְרָכִים יִנוּסוּ לְפָנֶיךָ. 7 The LORD will cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thee; they shall come out against thee one way, and shall flee before thee seven ways.
- ח יִצַּו יְהוָה אֶתְךָ, אֶת-הַבְּרָכָה, בְּאֶסְמֶיךָ, וּבְכָל מִשְׁלַח יָדְךָ; וּבְרָכֶךָ--בְּאֶרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ. 8 The LORD will command the blessing with thee in thy barns, and in all that thou putteth thy hand unto; and He will bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- ט יִקְיַמְךָ יְהוָה לֹו לְעַם קְדוֹשׁ, כְּאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע-לָךְ: כִּי תִשְׁמֹר, אֶת-מִצְוֹת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, וְהִלַּכְתָּ, בְּדַרְכָיו. 9 The LORD will establish thee for a holy people unto Himself, as He hath sworn unto thee; if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in His ways.
- י וְרָאוּ כָל-עַמֵּי הָאָרֶץ, כִּי שֵׁם יְהוָה נִקְרָא עֲלֶיךָ; וַיִּרְאוּ, מִמֶּךָ. 10 And all the peoples of the earth shall see that the name of the LORD is called upon thee; and they shall be afraid of thee.

IV. Theme of Sefer Breishit ? / what groups together?

Chap 1	Creation	Topics by chapter - no obvious connection between the various stories	
2-3	Gan Eden		
4	Cain & Hevel		
5	Genealogies: Adam->Noach		
6-9	FLOOD		
10	Genealogies - 70 nations		
11a	Tower of Babel		
11b	Genealogies: Shem -> Terach		Stories all relating To Hashem choosing Our forefathers -already grouped together – to simplify list
12-24	Abraham stories ....		
25-27	Yitzchak stories...		
28-36	Yaakov stories....		
37-50	Yosef & Bros. stories...		

Possible Outline - [objective or subjective?]

I. CREATION

II. Four stories re: to Divine Providence [sin/punishment?]

Gan Eden

Cain & Hevel

Flood

Tower of Bavel [did they sin? / were they punished?]

III. Stories about our forefathers

Logical to assume topics s/b connected – if same book

A. Creation

? does chapter 1 stand alone, or part of Gan Eden

B. Divine retribution –

Providence =  $f(\text{man's deeds})$

Does this tie together all the stories from chapter 2 thru 11?

How does this explain the genealogies?

C. The story of HOW (and why?) God starts a Nation

Note how each major section introduced by Genealogies:  
ten generations / last one w/ three sons

Parallel between chapters 5 & 11

Possible thematic conclusion –

Creation

Gan Eden

Cain & Hevel

FLOOD

Tower of Babel

All Civilization – Hashem upset

and reacts to man's deeds

Abraham stories

Yitzchak stories

Yaakov stories

Yosef & Bros. stories..

Hashem chooses a Nation

## V. "shem Hashem" / God's Name-a Biblical Mega-theme

### A. Genesis Chapter 4 - Something goes 'wrong'

כּו וּלְשֵׁת גַּם-הוּא יָלַד-בֶּן, וַיִּקְרָא אֶת-שְׁמוֹ אֶנּוֹשׁ; אַז הוֹחֵל, לְקַרְא בְּשֵׁם ה'.

26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enosh; then began men to call upon the name of the LORD.

### B. Genesis Chapter 9 - Noach & his son 'Shem' [?]

כּו וַיֹּאמֶר, בְּרוּךְ ה' אֱלֹהֵי שֵׁם; וַיְהִי כְנָעַן, עֶבֶד לָמוֹ.

26 And he said: Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be their servant.

### C. Genesis Chapter 11 - Migdal Bavel - God is 'upset'

ד וַיֹּאמְרוּ הֵבֶה נִבְנֶה-לָּנוּ עִיר, וּמִגְדָּל וְרֹאשׁוֹ בַשָּׁמַיִם, וְנַעֲשֶׂה-לָּנוּ שֵׁם: פֶּן-נִפְּוֹץ, עַל-פְּנֵי כָל-הָאָרֶץ.

4 And they said: 'Come, let us build us a city, and a tower, with its top in heaven, and let us make us a name; lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.'

### D. Avraham is chosen; then calls in God's Name / chapters 12,13,21

א וַיֹּאמֶר ה' אֶל-אַבְרָם, לֵךְ-לְךָ...

1 God said unto Abram: 'Get thee out ...

ח וַיֵּצֵתֵק מִשָּׁם הַהָרָה, מִקְדָּם לְבַיִת-אֵל--וַיֵּט אֹהֶל...וַיִּבֶן-שָׁם מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה, וַיִּקְרָא בְּשֵׁם ה'

8 And he removed from thence unto the mountain on the east of Beth-el, and pitched his tent, having Beth-el on the west...and he builded there an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD

פרק י"ג - ג וַיֵּלֶךְ, לְמִסְעָיו, מִנֶּגֶב, וְעַד-בֵּית-אֵל--עַד-הַמָּקוֹם, אֲשֶׁר-הָיָה שָׁם אֹהֶל בְּתַחֲלָה, בֵּין בֵּית-אֵל, וּבֵין הָעֵי.

Chapter 13 -- 3. And he went on his journeys from the South even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Ai;

ד אֶל-מָקוֹם, הַמִּזְבֵּחַ, אֲשֶׁר-עָשָׂה שָׁם, בְּרֵאשִׁיטָה; וַיִּקְרָא שָׁם אַבְרָם, בְּשֵׁם ה'.

4 unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first; and Abram called there on the name of the LORD.

פרק כ"א: לג וַיִּטַע אֶשֶׁל, בְּבֵאֵר שֶׁבַע; וַיִּקְרָא-שָׁם-בְּשֵׁם ה', אֵל עוֹלָם.

21: 33 And Abraham planted a tamarisk-tree in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

