

# Stollen Moments – Nitzavim/Vayelech – Sept. 9, 2023

## PARASHA SUMMARY FROM WWW. REFORMJUDAISM.ORG

- God warns the Israelites that they will be punished if they act idolatrously, the way the inhabitants of the other nations do. (29:15–28)
- Moses reassures the people that God will not forsake them and that they can attain blessings by following God's commandments. (30:1–20)
- Moses prepares the people for his death and announces that Joshua will succeed him. (31:1–8)
- Moses instructs the priests and the elders regarding the importance of reading the Torah. (31:9–13)
- God informs Moses that upon his death, the people will commit idolatry and "many evils and troubles shall befall them." God tells Moses to teach the people a poem that will "be My witness." (31:14–30)
- Deut. 29:9-14, 30:11-20

אתם נצבים היום כלכם לפני יהוה אלהיכם ראשיכם שבטיכם זקניכם ושטריכם כל איש ישראל:

You stand this day, all of you, before your God יהוה —your tribal heads, your elders, and your officials, every householder in Israel,

טפכם נשיכם וגרר אשר בקרב מחגף עציף עד שאב מימיה:

your children, your wives, even the stranger within your camp, from woodchopper to waterdrawer—

לעברך בברית יהוה אלהיך ובאלתו אשר יהוה אלהיך כרת עמך היום:

to enter into the covenant of your God יהוה, which your God יהוה is concluding with you this day, with its sanctions;

למען הקים אתך היום | לו לעם והוא יהיה לך לאלהים כאשר דבר-לך וכאשר נשבע לאבותיך לאברהם ליצחק וליעקב:

in order to establish you this day as God's people and in order to be your God, as promised you and as sworn to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

ולא אתכם לבדכם אנכי כרת את-הברית הזאת ואת-האלה הזאת:

I make this covenant, with its sanctions, not with you alone,

כי את-אשר ישנו פה עמנו עמד היום לפני יהוה אלהינו ואת אשר איננו פה עמנו היום:

but both with those who are standing here with us this day before our God יהוה and with those who are not with us here this day.

...

פי המצוה הזאת אשר אנכי מצוה היום לא-נפלאה הוא ממך ולא רחקה הוא:

Surely, this Instruction which I enjoin upon you this day is not too baffling for you, nor is it beyond reach.

לֹא בַשָּׁמַיִם הוּא לֵאמֹר מִי יַעֲלֶה-לָנוּ הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וְיִקְחֶהָ לָנוּ וְיִשְׁמְעֵנוּ אֹתָהּ וְנַעֲשֶׂנָּה:

It is not in the heavens, that you should say, “Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?”

וְלֹא-מֵעַבֵּר לַיָּם הוּא לֵאמֹר מִי יַעֲבֹר-לָנוּ אֶל-עֶבֶר הַיָּם וְיִקְחֶהָ לָנוּ וְיִשְׁמְעֵנוּ אֹתָהּ וְנַעֲשֶׂנָּה:

Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who among us can cross to the other side of the sea and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?”

כִּי-קָרוֹב אֵלָיךָ הַדְּבָר מְאֹד בְּפִיךָ וּבִלְבָבְךָ לַעֲשֹׂתוֹ: {ס}

No, the thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to observe it.

רְאֵה נָתַתִּי לְפָנֶיךָ הַיּוֹם אֶת-הַחַיִּים וְאֶת-הַטּוֹב וְאֶת-הַמָּוֶת וְאֶת-הָרָע:

See, I set before you this day life and prosperity, death and adversity.

אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוֶּה הַיּוֹם לְאַהֲבָה אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לָלֶכֶת בְּדַרְכָּיו וּלְשָׁמֵר מִצְוֹתָיו וְחֻקֹּתָיו וּמִשְׁפָּטָיו וְחַיִּית וְרִבִּית וּבִרְכָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בָּאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה בָּא-שָׁמָּה לְרִשְׁתָּהּ:

For I command you this day, to love your God יהוה, to walk in God’s ways, and to keep God’s commandments, God’s laws, and God’s rules, that you may thrive and increase, and that your God יהוה may bless you in the land that you are about to enter and possess.

וְאִם-יִפְגַּה לְבָבְךָ וְלֹא תִשְׁמָע וְנִדְחַת וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִית לֵאלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים וַעֲבַדְתָּם:

But if your heart turns away and you give no heed, and are lured into the worship and service of other gods,

הִגַּדְתִּי לָכֶם הַיּוֹם כִּי אֶבֶד תֵּאבְדוּן לֹא-תֵאָרִיכוּ יָמִים עַל-הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עֹבֵר אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן לְבוֹא שָׁמָּה לְרִשְׁתָּהּ:

I declare to you this day that you shall certainly perish; you shall not long endure on the soil that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

הַעֲדֹתִי בָכֶם הַיּוֹם אֶת-הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת-הָאָרֶץ הַחַיִּים וְהַמָּוֶת נָתַתִּי לְפָנֶיךָ הַבִּרְכָּה וְהַקְלָלָה וּבִחְרַת בְּסָלִים לְמַעַן תִּחַיֶּה אִתָּה וְנִרְעָדָה:

I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day: I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life—if you and your offspring would live—

לְאַהֲבָה אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשָׁמֵעַ בְּקוֹלוֹ וּלְדַבָּקָה-בּוֹ כִּי הוּא סִיּוֹ וְאַרְץ יִמִּיךָ לְשִׁבְתָּ עַל-הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע יְהוָה לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וּלְיַעֲקֹב לָתֵת לָהֶם: {פ}

by loving your God יהוה, heeding God’s commands, and holding fast to [God]. For thereby you shall have life and shall long endure upon the soil that יהוה swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give to them.