

Hospitality and the Torah
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The First-fruits Prayer in Spring

Deuteronomy 26:1 "When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it,

² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there.

³ And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.'

⁴ Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

⁵ "And you shall make response before the LORD your God, A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.

⁶ And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor.

⁷ Then ^awe cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

⁸ And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror,¹ with signs and wonders.

⁹ And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, ^aa land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁰ And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.' And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. (Deu 26:1-10 ESV)

Abraham the sojourner

Genesis 12:1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.¹

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Gen 12:1-3 NIV)

Genesis 15:13 Then the LORD said to Abram, Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. (Gen 15:13 ESV)

God's engagement with the oppression in Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 18:1 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.

² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

³ He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord,¹ do not pass your servant by.

⁴ Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree.

⁵ Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way-- now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs¹ of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

⁷ Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it.

⁸ He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. (Gen 18:1-8 NIV)

¹⁷ Then the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?"

¹⁸ Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.¹

¹⁹ For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous
²¹ that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

²² The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.¹
(Gen 18:17-22 NIV)

God always hears the cries of the oppressed

Exodus 3:7-8

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,

⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place o (Exo 3:6-8 ESV)

Human rights of sojourners

Ex. 22:21 ¶ "You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.
Ex. 23:9 ¶ "You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Sojourners join the saved community during the High Holy Days

Lev. 16:29 ¶ "And it shall be a statute to you forever that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict yourselves and shall do no work, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you.

Love the stranger as yourself

Lev. 18:26 But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you

Lev. 19:10 And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

Lev. 19:33 ¶ "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong.

Lev. 19:34 You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Care for the poor and the sojourner

Lev. 23:22 ¶ "And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God."

Deut. 10:18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.

Deut. 10:19 Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

No legal and social discrimination

Lev. 24:22 You shall have the same rule for the sojourner and for the native, for I am the LORD your God."

Num. 9:14 And if a stranger sojourns among you and would keep the Passover to the LORD, according to the statute of the Passover and according to its rule, so shall he do. You shall have one statute, both for the sojourner and for the native."

Num. 15:15 For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you, a statute forever throughout your generations. You and the sojourner shall be alike before the LORD.
Num. 15:16 One law and one rule shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you."

Deut. 23:7 ¶ "You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother. You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were a sojourner in his land.

Deut. 24:14 ¶ "You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns.

Deut. 24:17 ¶ "You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow's garment in pledge,

Deut. 24:19 ¶ "When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Deut. 24:20 When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.

Deut. 24:21 When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.

Celebration of Feasts

Deut. 16:11 And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite who is within your towns, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are among you, at the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name dwell there.

Deut. 16:14 You shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your towns.

Everyone is a sojourner

Lev. 25:23 ¶ "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.