

The Prophets and Psalmists as Exegetes - *Class # 4*

For Torah in Motion - by Menachem Leibtag

How the Prophet Yirmiyahu Understood Sefer Shmot

Intro: This week, our study will focus on Yirmiyahu chapters 7, 22 & 23 - to see how he understood the primacy of Sefer Shmot over Sefer Vayikra, and all based on the underlying theme of Sefer Breishit!

I. The Forty Years of Yirmiyahu's prophecies [18+11+11]

A- 18 w/Yoshiyahu – [From Year 13 of his reign until his death in Year 31]

Year 13 - National teshuva begins [based on II DH 34:1-8] / Ashur falls

Year 18 - Renovation of Temple; when they find the 'sefer torah'

Year 31 - Yoshiyahu's tragic death at Megiddo, fighting Pharaoh Necho

[Yehoyakim becomes King with support of Pharaoh Necho]

B- 11 w/Yehoyakim – leaves God, aligns himself with Egypt, rebels against Bavel

Year 4 - Nebuchadnezzar, King of Bavel, begins conquest of Middle East

Year 8 – rebellion against Bavel, after three years of servitude

Year 11 - Nebuchadnezzar defeats Jerusalem, King dies; 'aristocracy' is exile

Including King Yehoyachin (son of Yehoyakim), after 3 mos. reign

C- 11 w/Tzidkiyahu – [appointed by Bavel, on condition of subservience]

Year 4 – plans rebellion against Bavel, which begins the next year

Year 11 – Temple & Jerusalem destroyed, People exiled

Discussion: The RELIGIOUS ISSUE vs The POLITICAL ISSUE

[& the Clash between Yirmiyahu and the 'false prophets']

& the people's desire to fight the Babylonians

II. Chapter 7 - our focus will be on these psukim

[The Haftara for Parshat Tzav!!!]

כא כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
עֲלוֹתֵיכֶם סִפּוּ עַל-זִבְחֵיכֶם, וְאָכְלוּ בָשָׂר.

21 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Add your burnt-offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat ye flesh.

כב כִּי לֹא-דִבַּרְתִּי אֶת-אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם, וְלֹא
צִוִּיתִים, בְּיוֹם הוֹצִיא (הוֹצִיאִי) אוֹתָם,
מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם--עַל-דִּבְרֵי עוֹלָה, וְזָבַח.

22 For I spoke not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt-offerings or sacrifices;

כג כִּי אִם-אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה צִוִּיתִי אוֹתָם
לֵאמֹר, שְׁמַעוּ בְקוֹלִי--וְהָיִיתִי לָכֶם לֵאלֹהִים,
וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ-לִי לְעָם; וְהִלַּכְתֶּם, בְּכָל-הַדֶּרֶךְ
אֲשֶׁר אֶצְוֶה אֶתְכֶם, לַמַּעַן, יֵיטֵב לָכֶם.

23 but this thing I commanded them, saying: 'Hearken unto My voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be My people; and walk ye in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.'

To understand these psukim, let's review from beginning of chapter 7:

א הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר הָיָה אֶל-יִרְמְיָהוּ, מֵאֵת יְהוָה לֵאמֹר.

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:

ב עֲמַד, בְּשַׁעַר בַּיִת יְהוָה, וְקִרְאתָ שָׁם, אֶת-הַדָּבָר
הַזֶּה; וְאָמַרְתָּ שְׁמַעוּ דְבַר-יְהוָה, כָּל-יְהוּדָה הַבָּאִים
בְּשַׁעְרֵי הָאֵלֶּה, לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת, לַיהוָה. {ס}

2 Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say: Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD. {S}

ג כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת, אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל,
הִיטִיבוּ דַרְכֵיכֶם, וּמַעַלְלֵיכֶם;
וְאַשְׁכְּנָה אֶתְכֶם, בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה.

3 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

ד אַל-תִּבְטְחוּ לָכֶם, אֶל-דִּבְרֵי הַשָּׁקָר לֵאמֹר: הֵיכַל
יְהוָה הֵיכַל יְהוָה, הֵיכַל יְהוָה הֵמָּה.

4 Trust ye not in lying words, saying: 'The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, are these.'

ה כִּי אִם-הִיטִיב תִּיטִיבוּ, אֶת-דַּרְכֵיכֶם
וְאֶת-מַעַלְלֵיכֶם: אִם-עָשׂוּ תַעֲשׂוּ מִשְׁפָּט,
בֵּין אִישׁ וּבֵין רֵעֵהוּ.

5 Nay, but if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute justice between a man and his neighbour;

ו גַּר יְתוֹם וְאֵלֶּמְנָה, לֹא תַעֲשֹׂקוּ, וְדָם נָקִי, אַל-
תִּשְׁפְּכוּ בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה; וְאַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אַחֲרִים לֹא
תִלְכוּ, לְרַע לָכֶם.

6 if ye oppress not the stranger,
the fatherless, and the widow,
and shed not innocent blood in
this place, neither walk after
other gods to your hurt;

ז וְשִׁכַנְתִּי אִתְּכֶם, בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה--בְּאֶרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי
לְאֲבוֹתֵיכֶם: לְמֶן-עוֹלָם, וְעַד-עוֹלָם.

7 then will I cause you to dwell
in this place, in the land that I
gave to your fathers, for ever and
ever.

ח הִנֵּה אַתֶּם בֹּטְחִים לָכֶם, עַל-דְּבָרֵי הַשָּׁקֶר--
לְבַלְתִּי, הוֹעִיל.

8 Behold, ye trust in lying
words, that cannot profit.

ט הֲגִנַב רֶצַח וְנָאֵף, וְהִשָּׁבַע לְשָׁקֶר וְקִטֵּר לַבְּעַל;
וְהִלָּךְ, אַחֲרֵי אֱלֹהִים אַחֲרִים--אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יָדַעְתֶּם.

9 Will ye steal, murder, and
commit adultery, and swear
falsely, and offer unto Baal, and
walk after other gods whom ye
have not known,

י וּבֹאתֶם וְעַמַּדְתֶּם לְפָנַי, בַּבַּיִת הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר נִקְרָא-
שְׁמִי עָלָיו, וְאַמַּרְתֶּם, נִצַּלְנוּ--לְמַעַן עֲשׂוֹת, אֵת כָּל-
הַתּוֹעֵבוֹת הָאֵלֶּה.

10 and come and stand before
Me in this house, whereupon My
name is called, and say: 'We are
delivered', that ye may do all
these abominations?

יא הַמְעַרַת פְּרָצִים, הֲיָה הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר-נִקְרָא-
שְׁמִי עָלָיו--בְּעֵינֵיכֶם; גַּם אֲנֹכִי הִנֵּה רָאִיתִי, נְאֻם-
יְהוָה.

11 Is this house, whereupon My
name is called, become a den of
robbers in your eyes? Behold, I,
even I, have seen it, saith the
LORD.

יב כִּי לָכוּ-נָא, אֶל-מְקוֹמִי אֲשֶׁר בְּשִׁילוֹ, אֲשֶׁר
שִׁכַנְתִּי שְׁמִי שָׁם, בְּרֵאשׁוֹנָה; וּרְאוּ, אֵת אֲשֶׁר-
עָשִׂיתִי לוֹ, מִפְּנֵי, רָעַת עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

12 For go ye now unto My place
which was in Shiloh, where I
caused My name to dwell at the
first, and see what I did to it for
the wickedness of My people
Israel.

יג וְעַתָּה, יַעַן עֲשׂוֹתְכֶם אֵת-כָּל-הַמַּעֲשִׂים הָאֵלֶּה--
נְאֻם-יְהוָה; וְאַדְבַּר אֵלֵיכֶם הַשָּׁפָם וְדַבַּר, וְלֹא
שָׁמַעְתֶּם, וְאַקְרָא אִתְּכֶם, וְלֹא עֲנִיתֶם.

13 And now, because ye have
done all these works, saith the
LORD, and I spoke unto you,
speaking betimes and often, but
ye heard not, and I called you,
but ye answered not;

יד וְעָשִׂיתִי לַבַּיִת אֲשֶׁר נִקְרָא-שְׁמִי עָלָיו, אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם
בֹּטְחִים בּוֹ, וְלַמָּקוֹם, אֲשֶׁר-נָתַתִּי לָכֶם וְלְאֲבוֹתֵיכֶם-
כַּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי, לְשִׁלּוֹ.

14 therefore will I do unto the
house, whereupon My name is
called, wherein ye trust, and
unto the place which I gave to
you and to your fathers, as I have
done to Shiloh.

טו וְהִשְׁלַכְתִּי אִתְּכֶם, מֵעַל פָּנָי, כַּאֲשֶׁר הִשְׁלַכְתִּי
אֵת-כָּל-אַחֵיכֶם, אֵת כָּל-זֶרַע אֶפְרָיִם. {פ}

15 And I will cast you out of My
sight, as I have cast out all your
brethren, even the whole seed of
Ephraim. {P}

טז וְאַתָּה אַל-תִּתְפַּלֵּל בְּעַד-הָעַם הַזֶּה, וְאַל-תִּשָּׂא
בְּעַדָם רִנָּה וּתְפִלָּה--וְאַל-תִּפְגַּע-בִּי : כִּי-אֵינְנִי שֹׁמֵעַ,
אֶתְדָּ.

16 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to Me; for I will not hear thee.

יז הֲאֵינְךָ רֹאֶה, מָה הֵמָּה עֹשִׂים בְּעָרֵי יְהוּדָה,
וּבְחֻצוֹת, יְרוּשָׁלַם.

17 Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

יח הַבָּנִים מְלַקְטִים עֵצִים, וְהָאָבוֹת מְבַעְרִים אֶת-
הָאֵשׁ, וְהַנְּשִׂאִים, לְשׁוֹת בַּצֶּק : לַעֲשׂוֹת פְּנִינִים לְמִלְכַת
הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְהִסִּיד נְסֻכִים לְאֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים--לְמַעַן,
הַכְּעִסְנִי.

18 The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead the dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink-offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke Me.

יט הֲאֵתִי הֵם מְכַעְסִים, נְאֻם-יְהוָה ; הֲלוֹא אֲתָם,
לְמַעַן בְּשַׁת פְּנֵיהֶם.

19 Do they provoke Me: saith the LORD; do they not provoke themselves, to the confusion of their own faces?

כ לָכֵן כֹּה-אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה, הִנֵּה אֲפִי וְחַמְתִּי נִתְּכַת
אֶל-הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה, עַל-הָאָדָם וְעַל-הַבְּהֵמָה, וְעַל-עֵץ
הַשָּׂדֶה וְעַל-פְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה ; וּבְעָרָה, וְלֹא תִכָּבֵּה. { פ }

20 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD: Behold, Mine anger and My fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the land; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched. { P }

כא כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת,
אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל : עַלּוֹתֵיכֶם סָפוּ עַל-
זְבַחֵיכֶם, וְאָכְלוּ בָשָׂר.

21 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Add your burnt-offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat ye flesh.

כב כִּי לֹא-דִבַּרְתִּי אֶת-אַבוֹתֵיכֶם, וְלֹא
צִוִּיתִים, בְּיוֹם הוֹצִיא (הוֹצִיאִי) אוֹתָם, מִמִּצְרַיִם
מִצְרַיִם--עַל-דְּבָרֵי עוֹלָה, וְזָבַח.

22 For I spoke not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt-offerings or sacrifices;

כג כִּי אִם-אֶת-הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה צִוִּיתִי אוֹתָם
לֵאמֹר, שְׁמַעוּ בְּקוֹלִי--וְהָיִיתִי לָכֶם לְאֱלֹהִים,
וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ-לִי לְעָם ; וְהִלַּכְתֶּם, בְּכָל-הַדְּרָךְ
אֲשֶׁר אֶצְוֶה אֶתְכֶם, לְמַעַן, יֵיטֵב לָכֶם.

23 but this thing I commanded them, saying: 'Hearken unto My voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be My people; and walk ye in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.'

כד וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ, וְלֹא-הִטּוּ אֶת-אָזְנָם, וַיִּלְכוּ
בְּמַעֲצוֹת, בְּשִׁרְרוֹת לִבָּם הָרָע ; וַיִּהְיוּ לְאַחֹר,
וְלֹא לְפָנִים.

24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in their own counsels, even in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward,

כה לְמֹן-הַיּוֹם, אֲשֶׁר יֵצְאוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם מֵאֶרֶץ
 מִצְרַיִם, עַד, הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה--וְאֶשְׁלַח אֵלֵיכֶם אֶת-
 כָּל-עֲבָדַי הַנְּבִיאִים, יוֹם הַשָּׁכֶם וְשָׁלַח.

25 even since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day; and though I have sent unto you all My servants the prophets, sending them daily betimes and often,

כו וְלוֹא שָׁמְעוּ אֵלַי, וְלוֹא הִטּוּ אֶת-אָזְנָם;
 וַיִּקְשׂוּ, אֶת-עַרְפָּם--הֲרֵעוּ, מֵאֲבוֹתָם.

26 yet they hearkened not unto Me, nor inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff; they did worse than their fathers.

כז וְדַבַּרְתָּ אֵלֵיהֶם אֶת-כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה,
 וְלוֹא יִשְׁמְעוּ אֵלַיךָ; וְקִרְאתָ אֵלֵיהֶם, וְלוֹא
 יַעֲנוּכָה.

27 And thou shalt speak all these words unto them, but they will not hearken to thee; thou shalt also call unto them, but they will not answer thee.

כח וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלֵיהֶם, זֶה הַגּוֹי אֲשֶׁר לוֹא-שָׁמְעוּ
 בְּקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו, וְלוֹא לָקְחוּ, מוֹסֵר; אַבְדָּה,
 הָאֱמוּנָה, וְנִכְרְתָה, מִפִּיהֶם. {ס}

28 Therefore thou shalt say unto them: This is the nation that hath not hearkened to the voice of the LORD their God, nor received correction; faithfulness is perished, and is cut off from their mouth. {S}

The Covenant at Mount Sinai - to become God's nation /Shmot 19:3-6

<p>The Proposition:</p> <p>3 And Moses went up unto God, and Hashem called unto him out of the mountain, saying: 'Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 4 You have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Myself</p> <p>5 Now therefore, if you will hearken unto My voice, and keep My covenant, [then] you shall be Mine own treasure from among all peoples; for [because/even though] all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be for Me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. <i>These are the words which you shall speak</i></p>	<p>ג וּמֹשֶׁה עָלָה, אֶל-הָאֱלֹהִים; וַיִּקְרָא אֵלָיו יְהוָה, מִן-הָהָר לֵאמֹר: כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבֵית יַעֲקֹב, וְתַגִּיד לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. ד אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם, אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי לְמִצְרַיִם; וְאֲשָׂא אֶתְכֶם עַל-כַּנְּפֵי נְשָׁרִים, וְאָבֵא אֶתְכֶם אֵלַי.</p> <p>ה. וְעַתָּה, אִם-שָׁמוּעַ תִּשְׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹלִי, וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם, אֶת-בְּרִיתִי--וְהֵייתֶם לִי סֻגְלָה מִכָּל-הָעַמִּים, כִּי-לִי כָּל- הָאָרֶץ. ו וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיוּ-לִי מְמַלְכֶת כְּהֹנִים, וְגוֹי קָדוֹשׁ: אֵלֶּה, הַדְּבָרִים, אֲשֶׁר תְּדַבֵּר...,,</p>
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II. From Brit Keshet to Brit Milah- to Brit Sinai

A. Rainbow Covenant - brit ha'keshet Breishit chapter 9

א וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹקִים, אֶת-נֹחַ וְאֶת-בְּנָיו; וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ...
ח וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹקִים אֶל-נֹחַ וְאֲנִי, הִנְנִי מְקִים אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם...
יא וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם... וְלֹא-יְהִי עוֹד מַבּוּל, לְשַׁחַת הָאָרֶץ.
יב וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹקִים זֹאת אֹת-הַבְּרִית אֲשֶׁר-אֲנִי נֹתֵן בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם... אֶת-
קִשְׁתִּי, נֹתַתִּי בְּעָנָן; וְהָיְתָה לְאוֹת בְּרִית, בֵּינִי וּבֵין הָאָרֶץ.

B. Brit Milah - Covenant of Circumcision Breishit chapter 17

א ...וַיֵּרָא ה' אֶל-אַבְרָם, וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲנִי-א-ל שְׂדֵי-
הַתְּהִלָּה לְפָנַי, וְהָיָה תָמִים.
ב וְאַתְּנָה בְרִיתִי, בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ; וְאַרְבָּה אוֹתָךְ בְּמֵאֵד מְאֹד.
ג וְהִפְרַתִּי אִתְּךָ בְּמֵאֵד מְאֹד, וְנִתְתִּיךָ לְגוֹיִם; וּמְלָכִים, מִמֶּךָ יֵצְאוּ.
ד וְהִקְמַתִּי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינֶךָ, וּבֵין זְרַעֲךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ לְדוֹרֹתָם--לְבְרִית
עוֹלָם: לְהִיזוֹת לְךָ לְאֱלֹקִים, וּלְזַרְעֲךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ.
ה וְנִתְתִּי לְךָ וּלְזַרְעֲךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ... אֵת כָּל-אָרֶץ כְּנַעַן... וְהָיְתִי לָהֶם
לְאֱלֹקִים.. וְנִמְלַתְּם, אֵת בְּשַׂר עַרְלַתְכֶם; וְהָיָה לְאוֹת בְּרִית בֵּינִי
וּבֵינֵיכֶם.

C. Intro to the Tochacha, from 'Har Sinai'/ Sefer Vayikra chapter 26

ט וּפְגַיְתִי אֲלֵיכֶם--וְהִפְרִיתִי אִתְּכֶם, וְהִרְבִּיתִי אִתְּכֶם; וְהִקְיַמְתִּי אֶת-
בְּרִיתִי, אִתְּכֶם. י וְאֶכְלַתְּם יֶשֶׁן, נוֹשָׁן... יב וְהִתְהַלַּכְתִּי, בְּתוֹכְכֶם,
וְהָיְתִי לָכֶם, לְאֱלֹקִים; וְאַתֶּם, תִּהְיוּ-לִי לְעָם.

D. Commandment to keep Shabbat [after the Mishkan]

שמות פרק לא

יג וְאָתָּה דִּבַּר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, לֵאמֹר אֲדָאֵת-שַׁבָּת־תִּי תִשְׁמְרוּ:

כִּי אֹתָהּ הוּא בֵּינִי וּבֵינֵיכֶם, לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם-

-לְדַעַת, כִּי אֲנִי יְהוָה מְקַדְּשֵׁיכֶם....

טו וְשָׁמְרוּ בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-הַשַּׁבָּת, לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת-הַשַּׁבָּת לְדֹרֹתָם, בְּרִית עֹלָם. יז בֵּינִי וּבֵין בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל--אֹתָהּ הוּא, לְעֹלָם כִּי-שִׁשַּׁת יָמִים...

III. This progression of covenant in Sefer Yirmiyahu

Chapter 33:

יד הִנֵּה יָמִים בָּאִים, נְאֻם-יְהוָה; וְהִקְמֹתִי אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַטּוֹב, אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתִּי אֶל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַל-בֵּית יְהוּדָה.

14 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah.

טו בַּיָּמִים הֵהֵם וּבָעֵת הַהִיא, אֶצְמִיחַ לְדָוִד צֶמַח צְדָקָה; וְעָשָׂה מִשְׁפָּט וּצְדָקָה, בְּאֶרֶץ.

15 In those days, and at that time, will I cause a shoot of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

טז בַּיָּמִים הֵהֵם תִּישָׁע יְהוּדָה, וִירוּשָׁלַם תִּשְׁכֹּן לְבֶטֶח; וְזֶה אֲשֶׁר-יִקְרָא-לָהּ, יְהוָה צְדָקְנוּ. {ס}

16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely; and this is the name whereby she shall be called, the LORD is our righteousness. {S}

יז כִּי-כֹה, אָמַר יְהוָה: לֹא-יִכָּרֵת לְדָוִד--אִישׁ, יֹשֵׁב עַל-כִּסֵּא בֵּית-יִשְׂרָאֵל.

17 For thus saith the LORD: There shall not be cut off unto David a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel;

יח וְלֹכְהָנִים, הַלְוִיִּם, לֹא-יִכָּרֵת אִישׁ, מִלִּפְנֵי: מַעֲלָה עֹלָה וּמִקְטִיר מִנְחָה, וְעָשָׂה זָבַח--כָּל-הַיָּמִים. {פ}

18 neither shall there be cut off unto the priests the Levites a man before Me to offer burnt-offerings, and to burn meal-offerings, and to do sacrifice continually. {P}

יט וַיְהִי, דְּבַר-יְהוָה, אֶל-יִרְמְיָהוּ, לֵאמֹר.

19 And the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, saying:

**כ כֹּה, אָמַר יְהוָה, אִם-תִּפְרוּ אֶת-
בְּרִיתִי הַיּוֹם, וְאֶת-בְּרִיתִי הַלַּיְלָה;
וּלְבַלְתִּי הֵיئֶת יוֹמִם-וַלַּיְלָה, בְּעֵתָם.**

20 Thus saith the LORD: If ye can break My covenant with the day, and My covenant with the night, so that there should not be day and night in their season;

**כא גַם-בְּרִיתִי תִכַּר אֶת-דָּוִד עַבְדִּי, מִהָיֹת-
לוֹ בֶן מַלְכָּךְ עַל-כִּסֵּאוֹ; וְאֶת-הַלְוִיִּם הַכֹּהֲנִים,
מִשְׁרֵתִי.**

21 Then may also My covenant be broken with David My servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, My ministers.

**כב אֲשֶׁר לֹא-יִסְפָּר צְבֹא הַשָּׁמַיִם, וְלֹא יִמַּד
חֹל הַיָּם--כִּן אֲרַבֶּה, אֶת-זֶרַע דָּוִד עַבְדִּי,
וְאֶת-הַלְוִיִּם, מִשְׁרֵתִי אִתִּי. {ס}**

22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured; so will I multiply the seed of David My servant, and the Levites that minister unto Me. {S}

כג וַיְהִי, דְבַר-יְהוָה, אֶל-יִרְמְיָהוּ, לֵאמֹר.

23 And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying:

**כד הֲלוֹא רָאִיתָ, מָה-הָעַם הַזֶּה דִּבְרוּ
לֵאמֹר, שְׁתִּי הַמְשַׁפְּחוֹת אֲשֶׁר בָּחַר יְהוָה
בָּהֶם, וַיִּמְאַסֵם; וְאֶת-עַמִּי, יִנְאַצּוּן, מִהָיֹת
עוֹד, גּוֹי לִפְנֵיהֶם. {ס}**

24 'Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying: The two families which the LORD did choose, He hath cast them off? and they contemn My people, that they should be no more a nation before them. {S}

**כה כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה, אִם-לֹא בְרִיתִי יוֹמִם
וַלַּיְלָה--חֻקֹּת שָׁמַיִם וָאָרֶץ, לֹא-שִׁמַּתִּי.**

25 Thus saith the LORD: If My covenant be not with day and night, if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;

**כו גַם-זֶרַע יַעֲקֹב וְדָוִד עַבְדִּי אֲמַאֵס,
מִקַּחַת מִזֶרְעוֹ מִשְׁלִים, אֶל-זֶרַע אַבְרָהָם,
יִשְׁחַק וַיַּעֲקֹב: כִּי-אֲשׁוּב (אָשִׁיב) אֶת-
שְׁבוֹתָם, וְרַחֲמַתִּים.**

Note how Yirmiyahu connects the theme of nature not changing for ever – as an "eternal brit" / similar to God's covenant with Am Yisrael being chosen forever!

[discuss concept of a 'catholic marriage']

IV. Chapter 22 -/ key theme based on Breishit 18:18-19]

Similar to our discussion of chapter 1 of Isaiah

- כֹּה אָמַר יְהוָה, יָרַד בַּיַּת-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 : אֵתָהּ וְעַבְדֶּיךָ וְעַמֶּךָ, הַבָּאִים בַּשְּׁעָרִים 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 עֲשׂוֹק; וְגַר יִתּוֹם וְאַלְמָנָה אֶל-תְּנוּ, אֶל-תַּחֲמוּסוֹ, וְדָם נָקִי, אֶל-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-עָשׂוּ תַעֲשׂוּ, אֶת-הַדְּבָר הַזֶּה-- וּבָאוּ בַשְּׁעָרֵי 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.
- ה וְאִם לֹא תִשְׁמְעוּ, אֶת-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה-- בִּי נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי נְאֻם-יְהוָה, כִּי-לְחָרְבָהּ יִהְיֶה הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה. {פ}
- 5 But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by Myself, saith the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation. {P}
- יג הוּי בְּנֵה בַיִתוֹ בְּלֹא-צְדָקָה, וְעַלְיוֹתָיו 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, אֲבִנֶּה-לִּי בַיִת מְדוֹת, וְעַלְיוֹת, מְרוּחִים; וְקָרַע לוֹ, חֲלוֹנָי, וְסָפוֹן בְּאַרְזֵי, 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 הַתְּמַלֵּךְ, כִּי אַתָּה מִתְחַרָּה בְּאֲרָז; אָבִיךָ הֲלוֹא אָכַל וְשָׁתָה, וְעָשָׂה מִשְׁפָּט וְצִדְקָה-- אִז, 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-עֲנִי וְאֲבִיוֹן, אִז טוֹב; הֲלוֹא-
הִיא הַדַּעַת אֶתִּי, 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 וְלִבֶּךָ, כִּי אִם-עַל-
בְּצַעֲךָ; וְעַל דַּם-הַנֶּקִּי לְשֹׁפוֹד, וְעַל-
הַעֲשָׂק וְעַל-הַמְרוּצָה לַעֲשׂוֹת. {ס}

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. {S}

יח לָכֵן כֹּה-אָמַר יְהוָה, אֶל-יְהוֹיָקִים
בֶּן-יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה, לֹא-יִסְפְּדוּ לוֹ,
הוּי אַחִי וְהוּי אָחוֹת; לֹא-יִסְפְּדוּ לוֹ, הוּי
אָדוֹן וְהוּי הַדָּה.

18 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: They shall not lament for him: 'Ah my brother!' or: 'Ah sister!' They shall not lament for him: 'Ah lord!' or: 'Ah his glory!'

יט קְבוּרַת חֲמוֹר, יִקָּבֵר; סָחוּב וְהִשְׁלָךְ,
מִהַלְאָה לְשַׁעְרֵי יְרוּשָׁלַם. {ס}

19 He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem. {S}