

Deuteronomy 31.7–32.47

7 Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him before the eyes of all Israel: “Be strong and be courageous, for it is you who will go with this people to the land that Yahweh swore to their fathers, to give to them, and it is you who will make them inherit it. **8** As for Yahweh, he is the one going before you; it is he who will be with you. He will not let you weaken, and he will not leave you. Don’t be afraid, and don’t be dismayed.”

9 Moses wrote this torah and gave it to the priestly sons of Levi who carried the ark of the covenant of Yahweh and to all the elders of Israel. **10** Moses commanded them: “At the end of every seven years, during the appointed time in the year of release, during the festival of Sukkoth, **11** when all Israel comes in to appear in the presence of Yahweh your god in the place that he will choose, you will read out this torah before all Israel, in their ears. **12** Assemble the people—the men and the women and the children and the migrants of your towns—that they may hear and that they may learn, so that they may revere Yahweh your god and observe the enacting of all the words of this torah **13** —and that their children, who have not known, may hear and learn to revere Yahweh your god, all the days that you live on the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

14 Yahweh said to Moses: “Look, your days are drawing near to death. Summon Joshua and station yourselves in the tent of meeting, that I may command him.”

Moses and Joshua went and stationed themselves in the tent of meeting. **15** Yahweh appeared in the tent as a column of smoke. The column of smoke stood next to the opening of the tent.

16 Yahweh said to Moses: “You are about to lie down with your ancestors, and this people will up and prostitute themselves to the foreign gods of the land that they are entering and leave me and violate my covenant, which I have made with them, **17** and I will get angry with them, on that day, and I will leave them and hide my face from them, and they will waste away,¹ and much evil and distress will find them, and on that day they will say: ‘Is it not because my god is not with me that these evils have found me?’ **18** and I really will hide my face on that day, on account of all the evil that they did when they turned to face toward other gods. **19** Now, write this song for yourselves and teach it to the Israelites. Set it in their mouth, in order that this song may be my witness among/against² the Israelites **20** when I bring them into the land that I swore

1. More literally: *and it/they will be for consuming*.

2. The preposition can bear either meaning.

to their ancestors, flowing with milk and honey, and they eat and get full and fat and face toward other gods and serve them and scorn me and violate my covenant. **21** When much evil and distress finds them, this song will answer/sing³ in their presence as a witness, for it will not be forgotten from the mouth of their progeny. For I know their make, which they are acting out today, while I have yet to bring them into the land that I swore about.”

22 Moses wrote this song on that day and taught it to the Israelites.

23 He commanded Joshua son of Nun and said: “Be strong and courageous—when *you* bring the Israelites into the land that I swore to them, *I* will be with you.”

24 As Moses finished writing the words of this torah on a document, such that they were complete, **25** Moses commanded the Levites, carriers of the ark of Yahweh’s covenant: **26** “Take this document of the torah and set it beside the ark of the covenant of Yahweh your god, that it may be a witness among/against you, **27** for I know your rebelliousness and your stubbornness. See, while I am still alive and with you—today—you have exhibited rebelliousness with Yahweh; surely then, after my death—! **28** Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officials, that I may speak these words in their ears, that I may call the skies and the earth as witness against/concerning them.⁴ **29** For I know, when you exhibit corruption and turn from the way that I commanded you, evil will happen to you in the end of days, when you act out what is evil in the eyes of Yahweh, vexing him by the acts of your hands.”

30 Moses spoke in the hearing of the entire assembly of Israel the words of this song, such that they were complete.

- 1** Give ear, O skies, that I may speak,
and may the earth hear the utterances of my mouth.
- 2** May my teaching drop like rain,
may my utterance drip like dew,
like late rains upon grass,
like early rains upon shrubbery.
- 3** For it’s Yahweh’s name I proclaim.
Ascribe grandeur to our god!
- 4** “The rock, whose action is full of integrity!
—for all his ways are justice.

3. This is a case of homonyms in Hebrew.

4. The skies and the earth will serve as witness, either *against them*, that is, against the Israelites or *concerning them*, that is, concerning the words.

A god of trustworthiness without iniquity,
righteous and straightforward is he.”

5 It turned corrupt on him—not his children at all,
a crooked and perverse generation.

6 Is it Yahweh that you requite with this,
O people that is foolish and not wise?
Isn't he your father and acquirer?
He's the one who made you and established you.

7 Remember the days of old,
think on the years of generation upon generation.
Ask your father that he may tell you,
your elders that they may say (it) to you.

8 “When the high one made the nations (into) inheritances,
when he distributed the sons of men,
he set up the boundaries of the peoples
according to the number of the sons of god.

9 For his people are Yahweh's allotment,
Jacob the boundary-rope of his inheritance.

10 He found him in a land of wilderness
and in a howling, desert emptiness.
He enclosed him, he took thought for him,
he guarded him as the pupil of his eye.

11 Like an eagle, he stirred up his nest,
over his young ones he hovered.
He spread his wings, he picked him up,
he carried him on his pinions.

12 YHWH alone led him,
and there was with him no foreign god.

13 He made him ride on the heights of the land,
and he ate the produce of the field.
He suckled him with honey from the cliff
and with oil from the flinty crag,

14 with the curd of cattle and the flock's milk,

alongside the fat of lambs and rams,
 ones from Bashan, and goats,
 with fat of the richest wheat.”
 And for wine you drank the blood of grapes.

15 “Yeshurun grew fat and kicked.”
 You grew fat, you became thick, you were over-fed.
 “He forsook the god who made him,
 and scorned the rock of his salvation.

16 They made him jealous with foreign things,
 with loathsome things they vexed him.

17 They sacrificed to spirits who were not divine,
 gods they had not experienced,
 new ones, recently arrived”
 —whom your fathers had not revered.

18 The rock that begot you you neglected,
 and you forgot the god who was in labor with you.

19 Yahweh saw and felt contempt
 because of the vexation of his sons and daughters,

20 and he said:
 “Let me hide my face from them,
 Let me see what their end will be.
 For they are a generation of reversings,
 children with no reliability in them.

21 *They* made me jealous with a non-god,
 vexed me with their empty things,
 so *I* will make them jealous with a non-people,
 with a foolish nation I’ll vex them.

22 For the fire of my anger is kindled;
 it burns to lowermost Sheol,
 consumes the land and its produce,
 and sets the foundations of the mountains in flame.

23 I will gather evils against them,
 my arrows will I spend against them.

- 24 Ones hungry from famine,
ones fed with plague and bitter destruction,
and the tooth of beasts will I send against them,
along with the fury of dust-crawlers.
- 25 Outside, the sword will bereave,
and indoors—terror!
—for young man and young woman alike,
for the nursing infant and the grey-headed man.
- 26 I said:
‘Let me split them into pieces,
let me put an end to their remembrance among humanity’
- 27 —except that I feared the vexation of the enemy,
lest their adversaries should misconstrue, lest they should say:
‘our hand is exalted,
it is not Yahweh who accomplished all this’.
- 28 For they are a people devoid of counsel,
and there is no understanding in them.
- 29 If only they were wise might they have figured this out,
they might have understood about their end.”
- 30 How could one pursue a thousand,
or two make a multitude flee,
unless their rock had sold them,
Yahweh had closed them in?
- 31 “For their rock is not like our rock,
and our [own] enemies are judges [of it].”
- 32 For their vine is of the vine of Sodom,
from the fields of Gomorrah.
Their grapes are grapes of poison,
they have bitter clusters.
- 33 Their wine is the fury of serpents
and the bitter poison of snakes.
- 34 “Is it not stored up with me,
sealed in my treasuries?”

35 Vengeance and repayment belong to me;
 in time their foot will slip.
 For the day of their calamity is near,
 and the things prepared for them speed onward.”

36 For Yahweh vindicates his people
 and feels for his servants.
 For he sees when the hand is weak,
 when leaders are no more,

37 and he says:
 “Where are their gods,
 the rock in whom they took refuge,
38 the fat of whose sacrifices they eat,
 the wine of whose libation they drink?”
 Let them rise up and come to your aid,
 let him be a hiding place for you.

39 “See now that I—*I* am he,
 that there is no god with me.
 I am the one who kills and keeps alive;
 when I wound, it’s also I who heals;
 and no one can rescue from my hand.

40 When I raise my hand to the skies
 when I say:
 ‘as I live forever,’

41 when I sharpen the lightning of my sword,
 and my hand takes hold in judgment,
 then I take vengeance against my adversaries
 and settle up with those who hate me.

42 I make my arrows drunk with blood
 —and my sword eats flesh—
 with the blood of the slain and of the captive,
 from the long-haired head of the enemy.”

43 O nations, shout out on account of his people,
 for he avenges the blood of his servants;

he takes vengeance against his adversaries
and brings atonement for the land of his people.

44 Moses came and in the hearing of the people spoke all the words of this song, he and Hoshea son of Nun. **45** Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel, **46** and he said to them: “Set your heart toward all the words that I am making witness against/among⁵ you today, such that you command them to your children, to observe the acting out of all the words of this torah. **47** For it is no vain thing for you, it is your life, and through this thing shall you prolong your days on the land that you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of.”

Deuteronomy 6.6–25

6 These words that I am commanding you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall repeat them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

10 Then, when Yahweh your god brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give to you, great and splendid cities that you did not build, **11** and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and hewn cisterns that you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, **12** then watch yourself, that you do not forget Yahweh who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **13** It's Yahweh your god that you shall fear; and him you shall worship and by whose name you shall swear. **14** You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples around you— **15** for Yahweh your god is a jealous god, in your midst—lest the anger of Yahweh your god will be kindled against you, and he will wipe you off the face of the earth.

16 You shall not put the Lord your god to the test, as you tested him at Massah. **17** You shall really keep the commandments of Yahweh your god, and his testimonies and his statutes that he has commanded you. **18** You shall do what is right and good in the sight of Yahweh, that it may be well with you and that you may go in and possess the good land that Yahweh swore to your fathers, **19** driving out all your enemies from before you, as Yahweh has spoken.

20 When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What are these testimonies and the statutes and the judgments that Yahweh our god commanded you?’ **21** then you shall say to your

5. As at 31.21, the preposition can bear either meaning.

son, 'We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and Yahweh brought us out from Egypt with a mighty hand. **22** Moreover, Yahweh showed great and distressing signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household; **23** but as for us, he brought us out from there in order to bring us, to give us the land that he had sworn to our fathers.' **24** So Yahweh commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear Yahweh our god for our good always and for our survival, as is the case today. **25** It will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before Yahweh our god, just as he commanded us.

Deuteronomy 8.1–20

1 The whole commandment that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and grow numerous and go in and possess the land that Yahweh swore to your fathers. **2** You shall remember all the way along which Yahweh your god has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that he might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandment or not. **3** He humbled you and let you be hungry and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you understand that no one subsists on bread alone; rather, on whatever proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh does a person subsist. **4** Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. **5** Thus you are to know in your heart that Yahweh your god was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son. **6** Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of Yahweh your god, to walk in his ways and to fear Him. **7** For Yahweh your god is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; **8** a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; **9** a land where you will eat food without scarcity, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. **10** When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless Yahweh your god for the good land that he has given you.

11 Watch yourself, that you do not forget Yahweh your god by not keeping his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes that I am commanding you today; **12** lest you eat and become satisfied, build good houses and live there, **13** your herds and your flocks multiply, your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, **14** and your heart become exalted and you forget Yahweh your god who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, **15** who led you through the great and terrible wilderness—fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water—who brought water for you out of the rock of flint, **16** who fed you manna in the wilderness, which your fathers did not know, that he might humble

you and that he might test you, to do good for you in the end, **17** and you say in your heart, ‘It is my own power and the strength of my own hand that made me this wealth.’ **18** You shall remember Yahweh your god, for it is he who gives you power to make wealth, in order to confirm the covenant that he swore to your fathers, as is the case today. **19** It shall come about if you do ever forget Yahweh your god and go after other gods and serve them and bow down to them—I testify against you today that you will surely perish. **20** Like the nations that Yahweh makes to perish before you, so you shall perish, as a result of you not listening to the voice of Yahweh your god.

Deuteronomy 11.1–25

1 You shall therefore love Yahweh your god, and always keep his charge, his statutes, his ordinances, and his commandments. **2** Know this day that it’s not with with your sons [that I am speaking], who have not known and who have not seen the discipline of Yahweh your god—his greatness, his mighty hand and his outstretched arm, **3** and his signs and his works that he did in the midst of Egypt to Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to all his land; **4** and what he did to Egypt’s army, to its horses and its chariots, when he made the water of the Red Sea to engulf them while they were pursuing you, and Yahweh completely destroyed them; **5** and what he did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place; **6** and what he did to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben, when the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, their households, their tents, and every living thing that followed them, among all Israel— **7** but it’s your own eyes that have seen all the great work of Yahweh that he did.

8 You shall therefore keep every commandment that I am commanding you today, so that you may be strong and go in and possess the land into which you are about to cross to possess it; **9** so that you may prolong your days on the land that Yahweh swore to your fathers to give to them and to their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. **10** For the land, into which you are entering to possess it, is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you used to sow your seed and water it with your foot like a vegetable garden. **11** But the land, into which you are about to cross to possess it, a land of hills and valleys, drinks water from the rain of heaven, **12** a land for which Yahweh your god cares; the eyes of Yahweh your god are always on it, from the beginning even to the end of the year.

13 It shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments that I am commanding you today, to love Yahweh your god and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul, **14** that he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil. **15** He will give grass in your fields for your

cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. **16** Beware that your hearts are not deceived, and that you do not turn away and serve other gods and worship them. **17** Or Yahweh's anger will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its fruit; and you will perish quickly from the good land that Yahweh is giving you.

18 You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul; and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead.

19 You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up. **20** You shall write them on

the doorposts of your house and on your gates, **21** so that your days and the days of your sons may be multiplied on the land that Yahweh swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens *remain* above the earth. **22** For if you are careful to keep all this commandment that I am

commanding you to do, to love Yahweh your god, to walk in all his ways and hold fast to him, **23** then Yahweh will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess nations

greater and mightier than you. **24** Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours; your border will be from the wilderness to Lebanon, and from the river, the river Eu-

phrates, as far as the western sea. **25** No one will be able to stand before you; Yahweh your god will lay the dread of you and the fear of you on all the land on which you set foot, as he has spo-

ken to you.