

Haftarah DEVARIM | דְּבָרִים

Words

TORAH: DEUTERONOMY 1:1-3:22

HAFTARAH: ISAIAH 1:1-27

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 24:1-22

Name & Meaning

- This week's haftarah is the third of a series of three "haftarot of affliction." These three haftarot are read during the Three Weeks of mourning for Jerusalem, between the fasts of 17 Tammuz and 9 Av.

Isaiah relays to the Jews a G-dly vision he experienced, chastising the residents of Judah and Jerusalem for having rebelled against G-d, criticizing them for repeating their errors and not abandoning their sinful ways — even after having been reprimanded and punished. "Woe to a sinful nation, a people heavy with iniquity, evildoing seed, corrupt children. They forsook G-d; they provoked the Holy One of Israel." Harsh words are employed, comparing the Jewish leaders to the rulers of Sodom and Gomorrah. G-d states his distaste for their sacrifices and offerings which were flavored with pagan customs. "How has she become a harlot, a faithful city; it was once full of justice, in which righteousness would lodge, but now it is a city of murderers..."

Isaiah then speaks gentler words, encouraging the people to repent sincerely and to perform acts of justice and kindness towards the needy, orphans and widows, and promising them the best of the land in return for their obedience. "If your sins prove to be like crimson, they will become white as snow; if they prove to be as red as crimson dye, they shall become as wool." The haftarah concludes with a promise that G-d will eventually reestablish Israel's judges and leaders, when "Zion shall be redeemed through justice and her penitents through righteousness."

Note: The first word of the haftorah is "Chazon" ("The vision [of Isaiah]"). The Shabbat when this haftorah is read, the Shabbat before Tisha b'Av, is thus called "Shabbat Chazon," the "Shabbat of the Vision." According to chassidic tradition, on this Shabbat the soul of every Jew is treated to a "vision" of the third Holy Temple that will be rebuilt with the coming of Moshiach.

https://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/707608/jewish/Haftorah-in-a-Nutshell.htm

- **Shabbat Chazon**

- No inherent connection to this week's parsha. Some parshiot are designed for the calendar, not the portion
- Isaiah, a prophet, priest, and statesman, lived during the last years of the northern kingdom and during the reigns of four kings of Judah: Uzziah (Azariah), Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. He was also a contemporary of the prophets of social justice: Amos, Hosea, and Micah.
- Read note in Stone Chumash on pg 1195
- Sinat Chinam- baseless hatred

Notes

- V. 1- Judah & Jerusalem (southern Kingdom)
- V. 2- heavens and earth
 - *(Mosaic succession)* Deuteronomy 32:1- "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak! Let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
 - CREATION- Gen. 1:1
 - BLESSING of attribution to God (Melchizedek)- Gen. 14:18-20- "Blessed be Abram by El Elyon, Creator of heaven and earth
 - COVENANT PROMISE- Abraham (stars of the sky, sand)
 - OATH- Gen. 14:21-23- Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people—the possessions take for yourself." But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I raise my hand in oath to Adonai, El Elyon, Creator of heaven and earth. Not a thread or even a sandal strap of all that is yours will I take, so you will not say, 'I've made Abram rich!'

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- DREAMS OF PROMISE- Gen. 28:11-13- Jacob's Ladder
 - COVENANT WITNESSES- Deuteronomy 4:25-27- "I call heaven and earth against you"
 - Matthew 5:17-19- "Do not think that I came to abolish the Torah or the Prophets! I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill. 18 Amen, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or serif[a] shall ever pass away from the Torah until all things come to pass. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps and teaches them, this one shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
 - V. 8- "daughter of Zion"
 - <https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/daughter-zion-bat-tzion>
 - Vv. 10-17
 - Proverbs 15:8- The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to Adonai, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.
 - Proverbs 21:27- The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination—how much more when he brings it with evil intent?
 - Proverbs 28:9- One who turns his ear from hearing Torah—even his prayer is an abomination.
 - Abomination- Leviticus 18 & 20



- V. 26- Names of Jerusalem
 - Isaiah 62:12- Then they will call them The Holy People, The Redeemed of Adonai, and you will be called, **Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.**
 - Zechariah 8:3- Thus says Adonai, "I will return to Zion and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the **City of Truth** and the mountain of Adonai-Tzva'ot will be called the **Holy Mountain.**"

- Israel Today Article

- <https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/why-no-gentile-tears-on-tisha-bav/?fbclid=IwAR3ATU0FgOI4K9gURy-8ZPhyDW1SZ2RKgLtGrJmjZUWfXUnU91IBOLM3xx4&fs=e&s=cl>