

Ezra's Aliyah from Bavel

For Torah in Motion class #13 / by Menachem Leibtag -

I. Opening verses of chapter 7 in Ezra [after the 'gap' since Darius]

עֶזְרָא 7 Chapter Ezra

א וְאַחַר הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה, 1 Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, בְּמַלְכוּת אֲרַתַּחְשֶׁסְתָּא מְלָךְ- פָּרְס--עֶזְרָא, בֶּן-שְׂרָיָה, בֶּן-עֶזְרָיָה, בֶּן-חִלְקִיָּה....

ה בֶּן-אַבִּישׁוּעַ, בֶּן-פִּינְחָס בֶּן-אֶלְעָזָר, בֶּן-אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן, 5 the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest-- הָרֵאשִׁי.

ו הוּא עֶזְרָא, עָלָה מִבָּבֶל, 6 this Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the Law of Moses, which the LORD, the God of Israel, had given; and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of the LORD his God upon him. {P} וְהוּא-סֹפֵר מְהִיר בְּתוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה, אֲשֶׁר-נָתַן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל; וַיִּתֵּן-לוֹ הַמֶּלֶךְ, כְּיַד-יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו עָלָיו--כֹּל, בְּקִשְׁתּוֹ. {פ}

ז וַיַּעֲלוּ מִבְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל וּמִן- 7 And there went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinim, unto Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king. הַכֹּהֲנִים וְהַלְוִיִּם וְהַמְשֻׁרְרִים וְהַשְּׁעָרִים, וְהַנְּתִינִים--אֶל-יְרוּשָׁלַם : בְּשָׁנַת-שֶׁבַע, לְאַרְתַּחְשֶׁסְתָּא הַמֶּלֶךְ.

ח וַיָּבֹא יְרוּשָׁלַם, בַּחֹדֶשׁ 8 And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. הַחֲמִישִׁי : הִיא שְׁנַת הַשְּׁבִיעִית, לְמֶלֶךְ.

ט כִּי, בְּאֶחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן--
הוּא יָסַד, הַמַּעֲלָה מִבָּבֶל;
וּבְאֶחָד לַחֹדֶשׁ הַחֲמִישִׁי, בָּא
אֶל-יְרוּשָׁלַם, כִּיד-אֱלֹהָיו,
הַטּוֹבָה עָלָיו.

9 For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him.

י כִּי עֲזָרָא הֵכִין לִבּוֹ,
לְדַרֵּשׁ אֶת-תּוֹרַת יְהוָה
וְלַעֲשׂוֹת, וּלְלַמֵּד
בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, חֻק וּמִשְׁפָּט.

10 For Ezra had set his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and ordinances. {S}

SEE TEHILIM 78

יא וְזֶה פֶּרֶשׁוֹן הַנְּשֻׁתָּן, אֲשֶׁר
נָתַן הַמֶּלֶךְ אֲרִתַחְשֶׁתָּא,
לְעֲזָרָא הַכֹּהֵן, הַסֹּפֵר: סֵפֶר
דְּבָרֵי מִצְוֹת-יְהוָה, וְחֻקָּיו--עַל-
יִשְׂרָאֵל. {פ}

11 Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto Ezra the priest, the scribe, even the scribe of the words of the commandments of the LORD, and of His statutes to Israel: {

12"Artaxerxes, king of the kings, to Ezra the priest, the scholar who has mastered the Book of the Law of the God of heaven, and Ke'eneth.

13An order is issued by me that whoever of my kingdom of the people of Israel, its priests and Levites, who volunteers to go to Jerusalem with you, may go.

14 Because of this, before the king and his seven advisors you are sent to search out Judea and Jerusalem according to the law of your God, which is in your hand.

15 And to bring silver and gold that the king and his advisors donated to the God of Israel, Whose habitation is in Jerusalem.

16 And all the silver and gold that you will find in the entire province of Babylon, with the donation of the people and the priests, which they are donating to the House of their God, which is in Jerusalem.

17 Because of this, you shall quickly purchase with this money bulls, rams, lambs, and their meal-offerings, and their libations, and offer them up on the altar of the House of your God, which is in Jerusalem.

18 And what pleases you and your brethren to do with the rest of the silver and gold, as your God wishes, you shall do.....

21 And from me-I, King Artaxerxes is issued forth an edict to all the treasurers who are on the other side of the river, that whatever Ezra, the priest, the scholar of the Law of the God of heaven, requests of you shall be done quickly.

22 Until a hundred talents of silver, and until a hundred kors of wheat, and until a hundred baths of wine, and until a hundred baths of oil, and salt, [whose amount] is not written.

23 Whatever is with the authorization of the God of heaven shall be done with a seal for the House of the God of heaven, for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?

24 And we are making known to you that [as regards] all the priests, and the Levites, the musicians, the gatekeepers, the Nethinites, and those who serve in this House of God-no one should be empowered to levy the king's due, the head tax, or the meal tax upon them.

25 And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God, which is in your hand, appoint judges and magistrates who will judge all the people beyond the river, all who know the laws of your God, and whoever does not know, you shall teach them.

26 And whoever does not fulfill the law of your God and the law of the king promptly-judgment shall be inflicted upon him; whether to be executed, uprooted, fined, or tortured."

27 Blessed be the Lord, the God of our forefathers, Who put such a thought into the king's heart, to glorify the House of the Lord, which is in Jerusalem.

28 And upon me He extended kindness before the king and his advisers, and to all the mighty officers of the king, and I strengthened myself according to the hand of the Lord my God upon me, and I gathered from Israel chiefs to go up with me.

Baba Kamma 82a

עשרה תקנות תיקן עזרא :

שקורין במנחה בשבת - וקורין בשני ובחמישי

ודנין בשני ובחמישי

ומכבסים בחמישי בשבת...

שיהו קוראין במנחה בשבת משום יושבי קרנות.

ושיהו קוראין בשני ובחמישי עזרא תיקן - ?? והא מעיקרא הוה מיתקנא - דתניא {שמות ט"ו:כ"ב} וילכו שלשת ימים במדבר ולא מצאו מים- דורשי רשומות אמרו **אין מים אלא תורה** שנאמר {ישעיהו נ"ה:א} הוי כל צמא לכו למים....

Sanhedrin 21b

תניא רבי יוסי אומר: ראוי היה עזרא שתינתן תורה על ידו לישראל אילמלא (לא) קדמו משה

במשה הוא אומר {שמות י"ט:ג} "ומשה עלה אל האלהים"

בעזרא הוא אומר {עזרא ז'ו'} **הוא עזרא עלה מבבל** –

מה עלייה האמור כאן תורה -אף עלייה האמור להלן תורה.

במשה הוא אומר {דברים ד':י"ד} "ואותי צוה ה' בעת ההיא ללמד אתכם חקים ומשפטים"

בעזרא הוא אומר {עזרא ז':י'} "כי עזרא הכין לבבו לדרוש את תורת ה' (אלהיו) ולעשות וללמד בישראל חוק ומשפט-"

ואף על פי שלא ניתנה תורה על ידו נשתנה על ידו הכתב...

III. PSALM 78

א מִשְׁפִּיל, לְאֶסֶף: הֶאֱזִינָה עַמִּי, תוֹרָתִי;
הִטּוּ אָזְנוֹכֶם, לְאִמְרֵי-פִי...

ד לא נִכְחַד, מִבְּנֵיהֶם-- לְדוֹר אַחֲרוֹן, מְסַפְּרִים תְּהִלּוֹת יְהוָה....
ז וְנִשְׁיִמוּ בֵאלֹהִים, כְּסֹלֶם: וְלֹא יִשְׁכַּחוּ, מַעֲלָלֵי-אֵל; וּמִצְוֹתָיו יִנְצְרוּ.

ח וְלֹא יִהְיוּ, כְּאֲבוֹתָם-דוֹר סוֹרֵר וּמָרָה:
דוֹר לֹא-הֵכִין לְבוֹ; וְלֹא-נֶאֱמְנָה אֶת-אֵל רוּחוֹ

....■

6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children that should be born; who should arise and tell them to their children, 7 That they might put their confidence in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments:

8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.

....לב בְּכֹל-זֹאת חֲטֹאוּ-עוֹד וְלֹא-הֶאֱמִינוּ, בְּנִפְלְאוֹתָיו.

לג וַיִּכְל-בְּהֶבֶל יְמֵיהֶם; וַיִּשְׁנוּתֶם, בְּבִהְלָה.

לד וְלִבָּם, לֹא-נָכוֹן עָמוּ; וְלֹא נֶאֱמְנוּ, בְּבָרִיתוֹ.

לה וְהוּא רַחוּם, יִכַּפֵּר עוֹן-וְלֹא-יִשְׁחִית: וְהִרְבָּה, לְהִשָּׁיב

אָפוּ; וְלֹא-יַעִיר, כָּל-חַמַּתּוֹ.

לט וַיִּזְכֹּר, כִּי-בָשָׂר הֵמָּה; רוּחַ הוֹלֵךְ, וְלֹא יִשׁוּב.

מ כַּמָּה, יִמְרוּהוּ בַמִּדְבָּר; יַעֲצִיבוּהוּ, בְּיִשִּׁימוֹן. מֵא וַיִּשׁוּבוּ וַיִּנְסוּ אֵל; וַיִּקְדוּשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל הַתְּנוּ.

מב לֹא-זָכְרוּ אֶת-יְדוֹ; יוֹם, אֲשֶׁר-פָּדַם מִנִּי-צָר מִג אֲשֶׁר-שָׂם בְּמִצְרַיִם, אֶתוֹתָיו; וּמוֹפְתָיו...

מד וַיַּהֲפֹךְ לְדָם, יְאֲרִיהֶם; וַנְּזַלִּיהֶם, בַּל-יִשְׁתַּיִן.

מה יִשְׁלַח בָּהֶם עָרֵב, וַיֹּאכְלֵם; וַצַּפְרָדַע, וַתִּשְׁחִיתֵם.

מו וַיִּתֵּן לְחֹסִיל יְבוּלִם; וַיִּגִּיעֵם, לְאֲרָבָה.

מז יִהְרַג בַּבָּרָד גִּפְנָם; וַשְׁקִמוּתֶם, בַּחֲנַמְל. מח וַיִּסְגֵּר לְבָרָד בְּעֵירִם; וּמִקְנֵיהֶם, לְרִשְׁפִּים.

מט יִשְׁלַח-בָּם, חֲרוֹן אָפוּ--עֲבָרָה וְזַעַם וְצָרָה; מִשְׁלַחַת, מִלְּאֲכֵי רָעִים.

נ יִפְלֹס נְתִיב, לְאָפוּ: לֹא-חֲשָׂךְ מִמּוֹת נַפְשָׁם; וַחִיתֵם, לְדָבָר הַסְּגִיר.

נא וַיִּךְ כָּל-בְּכוֹר בְּמִצְרַיִם;