

Shabbat Chukat

13 July 2024 7 Tammuz 5784

Torah Reading:

Numbers 21:1-20

(1) When the Canaanite, king of Arad, who dwelt in the Negeb, learned that Israel was coming by the way of Atharim,***Atharim** *Meaning of Heb. ha-'atharim uncertain. Targum and other ancient versions render "the way [taken by] the scouts."* he engaged Israel in battle and took some of them captive. (2) Then Israel made a vow to יהוה and said, "If You deliver this people into our hand, we will proscribe***proscribe** *I.e., utterly destroy, reserving no booty except what is deposited in the Sanctuary; see Josh. 6.24. their towns.*" (3) יהוה heeded Israel's plea and delivered up the Canaanites; and they and their cities were proscribed. So that place was named Hormah.***Hormah** *Connected with heherim "to proscribe."* (4) They set out from Mount Hor by way of the Sea of Reeds***Sea of Reeds** *Traditionally, but incorrectly, "Red Sea."* to skirt the land of Edom. But

במדבר כ"א:א-כ'

(א) וַיִּשְׁמַע הַכְּנַעֲנִי מֶלֶךְ-עֲרֹד יָשֵׁב הַנֶּגֶב כִּי בָא יִשְׂרָאֵל דֶּרֶךְ הָאֲתָרִים וַיִּלָּחֶם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשָּׁבֵב מִמֶּנּוּ שְׁבִי: (ב) וַיִּדְרֹשׁ יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶדֶר לַיהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אִם-נָתַן תִּתֵּן אֶת-הָעַם הַזֶּה בְּיָדֵי וְהִחַרְמְתִּי אֶת-עָרֵיהֶם: (ג) וַיִּשְׁמַע יְהוָה בְּקוֹל יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתֵּן אֶת-הַכְּנַעֲנִי וַיַּחְרֶם אֹתָהֶם וְאֶת-עָרֵיהֶם וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם-הַמָּקוֹם חֲרָמָה: {פ} (ד) וַיִּסְעוּ מֵהַר הַהָרִי דֶּרֶךְ יַם-סוּף לְסַבֵּב אֶת-אֶרֶץ אֱדוֹם וַתִּקְצַר נַפְשֵׁי-הָעָם בְּדֶרֶךְ: (ה) וַיְדַבֵּר הָעָם בְּאֱלֹהִים וּבַמִּשְׁפָּה לְמַה הָעֲלִיתָנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם לָמוֹת בְּמִדְבָּר כִּי אֵין לָחֶם וְאֵין מַיִם וְנַפְשֵׁנוּ קֹצֶה בְּלָחֶם הַקָּלֶקֶל: (ו)

the people grew restive on the journey, (5) and the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why did you make us leave Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread and no water, and we have come to loathe this miserable food.” (6) יהוה sent *seraph*seraph* Cf. *Isa. 14.29; 30.6. Others “fiery”; exact meaning of Heb. saraph uncertain. Cf. Deut. 8.15. serpents against the people. They bit the people and many of the Israelites died. (7) The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned by speaking against יהוה and against you. Intercede with יהוה to take away the serpents from us!” And Moses interceded for the people. (8) Then יהוה said to Moses, “Make a *seraph*seraph* See note at v. 6. figure and mount it on a standard. And anyone who was bitten who then looks at it shall recover.” (9) Moses made a copper serpent and mounted it on a standard; and when bitten by a serpent, anyone who looked at the copper serpent would recover. (10) The Israelites marched on and encamped at Oboth. (11) They set out from Oboth and encamped at Iye-abarim, in the wilderness bordering on Moab to the east. (12) From there they set out and encamped at the wadi Zered. (13) From there they set out and encamped beyond the Arnon, that*

הַשָּׂרָפִים וַיִּנְשְׁכוּ אֶת־הָעָם וַיִּמָּת
עַם־רַב מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל: (ז) וַיְבֹא הָעָם
אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמְרוּ חֲטֵאֲנוּ
כִּי־דַבַּרְנוּ בַיהוָה וּבְךָ הַתְּפִלָּה
אֶל־יְהוָה וַיִּסַּר מֵעַלֵינוּ אֶת־הַנֶּחֱשׁ
וַיִּתְּפֹלֵל מֹשֶׁה בְּעַד הָעָם: (ח)
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה עֲשֵׂה לְךָ
שָׂרָף וְשִׂים אֹתוֹ עַל־נֶס וְהָיָה
כָּל־הַנֶּשֶׁךְ וּרְאָה אֹתוֹ וְחָי: (ט)
וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה נְחָשׁ נְחָשֶׁת וַיִּשְׁמְהוּ
עַל־הַנֶּס וְהָיָה אִם־נִשְׁךְ הַנֶּחֱשׁ
אֶת־אִישׁ וְהִבִּיט אֶל־נְחָשׁ
הַנֶּחֱשֶׁת וְחָי: (י) וַיִּסְעוּ בְנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּאֵבֶת: (יא) וַיִּסְעוּ
מֵאֵבֶת וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּעֵיֵי הָעֵבְרִים
בַּמִּדְבָּר אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי מוֹאָב
מִמִּזְרַח הַשָּׁמֶשׁ: (יב) מִשָּׁם נָסְעוּ
וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּנַחַל זֶרֶד: (יג) מִשָּׁם נָסְעוּ
וַיַּחֲנוּ מֵעֵבֶר אַרְנוֹן אֲשֶׁר בַּמִּדְבָּר
הַיְצָא מִגְּבֹל הָאֲמֹרִי כִּי אַרְנוֹן
גְּבוּל מוֹאָב בֵּין מוֹאָב וּבֵין
הָאֲמֹרִי: (יד) עַל־כֵּן יֹאמֶר בְּסֹפֶר
מִלְחָמַת יְהוָה אֶת־זֶהֶב בְּסוּפָה
וְאֶת־הַנְּחָלִים אַרְנוֹן: (טו) וְאֲשֶׁד
הַנְּחָלִים אֲשֶׁר נָטָה לְשַׁבַּת עֹר
וַיִּנְשְׁעוּ לְגְבוּל מוֹאָב: (טז) וּמִשָּׁם
בָּאֵרָה הוּא הַבְּאֵר אֲשֶׁר אָמַר
יְהוָה לְמֹשֶׁה אֶסֶף אֶת־הָעָם
וְאֶתְנָה לָהֶם מַיִם: {ס} (יז)

is, in the wilderness that extends from the territory of the Amorites. For the Arnon is the boundary of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites. (14) Therefore the Book of the Wars of יהוה speaks of**The quotation that follows is a fragment; its text and meaning are uncertain.*

“...Waheb in Suphah, and the wadis: the Arnon (15) with its tributary wadis, stretched along the settled country of Ar, hugging the territory of Moab...” (16) And from there to Beer,**Beer Lit. “well.”* which is the well where יהוה said to Moses, “Assemble the people that I may give them water.” (17) Then Israel sang this song:

Spring up, O well—sing to it—

(18) The well which the chieftains dug,

Which the nobles of the people started

With maces, with their own staffs.

And from Midbar**Midbar*

Septuagint “the well” (= Beer); cf. v. 16.

to Mattanah, (19) and from

Mattanah to Nahaliel, and from

Nahaliel to Bamoth, (20) and from

Bamoth to the valley that is in the

country of Moab, at the peak of

Pisgah, overlooking the

wasteland.**wasteland Or*

“*Jeshimon.*”

אֲזַ יִשְׁרָאֵל אֶת־הַשִּׁירָה
הַזֹּאת עָלַי בְּאֵר עֵנוֹלָה: (יח)
בְּאֵר חֲפְרוֹהַ שְׁרִים כְּרוֹהַ נְדִיבֵי
הָעָם בְּמַחֲקָק בְּמַשְׁעֲנֹתָם
וּמִמְדָּבָר מִתְנָה: (יט) וּמִמְתָּנָה
נַחֲלֵי־אֵל וּמִנַּחֲלֵי־אֵל בְּמֹת: (כ)
וּמִבְּמֹת הַגִּיאֵ אֲשֶׁר בְּשֵׁדָה
מוֹאָב רֹאשׁ הַפְּסִגָה וְנִשְׁקָפָה
עַל־פְּנֵי הַיְּשִׁימֹן: {פ}

Haftarah :

II Kings 18:1-8

(1) In the third year of King Hoshea son of Elah of Israel, Hezekiah son of King Ahaz of Judah became king. (2) He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years; his mother's name was Abia daughter of Zechariah. (3) He did what was pleasing to GOD, just as his forefather David had done. (4) He abolished the shrines and smashed the pillars and cut down the sacred post. He also broke into pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until that time the Israelites had been offering sacrifices to it; it was called Nehushtan. (5) He trusted only in the ETERNAL the God of Israel; there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those before him. (6) He clung to GOD; he did not hesitate to be directed, but kept the commandments that GOD had given to Moses. (7) And GOD was always with him; he was successful wherever he turned. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and

מלכים ב י"ח:א-ח'

(א) וַיְהִי בַשָּׁנָה שְׁלֹשׁ לְהוֹשֵׁעַ
בֶּן־אֵלָה מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל מֶלֶךְ חֲזַקְיָהוּ
בֶּן־אֲחִיז מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה: (ב)
בֶּן־עֶשְׂרִים וַחֲמִשׁ שָׁנָה הָיָה
בְּמִלְכוֹ וַעֲשָׂרִים וַתִּשַׁע שָׁנָה מֶלֶךְ
בִּירוּשָׁלַם וְשֵׁם אִמּוֹ אֲבִי
בֶּת־זְכַרְיָה: (ג) וַיַּעַשׂ הַיֵּשֶׁר
בְּעֵינָי יְהוָה כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה דָוִד
אָבִיו: (ד) הוֹאֵה הַסִּיר
אֶת־הַבַּמֹּת וְשִׁבַר אֶת־הַמִּצְבֹּת
וְכָרַת אֶת־הָאֲשֵׁרָה וְכָתַת נְחֹשׁ
הַנְּחֹשֶׁת אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה מִשֶּׁה כִּי
עַד־הַיָּמִים הַהֵמָּה הָיוּ
בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מְקַטְרִים לוֹ
וַיִּקְרָאוּ לוֹ נְחֹשֶׁתָן: (ה) בֵּיהוָה
אֱלֹהֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּטַח וְאֲחָרָיו
לֹא־הָיָה כָמוֹהוּ בְּכָל מַלְכֵי יְהוּדָה
וְאֲשֶׁר הָיוּ לְפָנָיו: (ו) וַיִּדְבֹק
בֵּיהוָה לֹא־סָר מֵאַחֲרָיו וַיִּשְׁמַר
מִצְוֹתָיו אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה יְהוָה
אֶת־מֹשֶׁה: (ז) וְהָיָה יְהוָה עִמּוֹ
בְּכָל אֲשֶׁר־יֵצֵא יִשְׁכָּל וַיִּמְרֹד
בְּמֶלֶךְ־אַשּׁוּר וְלֹא עָבְדוּ: (ח)

would not serve him. (8) He overran Philistia as far as Gaza and its border areas, from watchtower to fortified town.

הוֹאִי־הָכָה אֶת־פְּלִשְׁתִּים עַד־עֵזָה
 וְאֶת־גְּבוּלֶיהָ מִמְּגִדֵּל נֹצְרִים
 עַד־עִיר מְבֻצָּר: {פ}