

PARSHAT DEVARIM
DEUTERONOMY 1:1-3:22
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 1:1-27
SHABBAT CHAZON
2 AV 5783/20 JULY 2023



The Luncheon on the Grass
Oil on canvass by Edouard Manet

DEPARTURE POINT:
FROM DIVINE TO HUMAN

1. God said, "Let there be light." (Genesis 1:3)

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהִי-אֹר

These are the words that Moses said to all Israel on the other side of the Jordan...
(Deuteronomy 1:1)

אָלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל

2. Covenants

- Noah
- Abraham
- Sinai
- Deuteronomy

3. Learn to do good.

Aid the wronged.

Uphold the rights of the orphan.

Defend the cause of the widow. (Isaiah 1:17, haftarah for Parshat Devarim)

4. Scripture says: “Drink from your own cistern, running water from your own well.” (Proverbs 5:15). God placed a holy point into the very nature of each creature: a holy soul. It is called “our cistern” for it is attached to the body. The more you take this soul-light upon yourself, drawing your deeds to follow this light, the more the spirit and higher soul is added to you. This opens the wellspring that flows without end; this is “flowing from your well.” (Sefat Emet)

5. The people have to learn to fight their own battles. They must discover God is a force within rather than a force outside that fights their battles for them. They must discern the God who is close – within the camp – and not one who is distant, who performs miracles, liberates the Israelites, brings plagues against the Egyptians, send the people water from a rock and food from heaven, and divides the sea for them....[Deuteronomy] marks the move from divine initiative to human responsibility. (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks)