

PARSHAT KI TEITZEI
DEUTERONOMY 21:10-25:19
12 ELUL 5782/8 SEPTEMBER 2022



The Sower at Sunset
Painting by Vincent Van Gogh

A NEW WAY OF SEEING

1. “Remember (*zachor*) what Amalek did to you on your journey...delete the remembrance of Amalek...Do not forget (*lo tishkach*).” (Deuteronomy 25:17-19)
2. In our Western (Greek) intellectual heritage, “remembering” means “recollecting”: recalling to mind something that is no longer a present reality. Nothing could be further from a Jewish conception. In the Jewish liturgy, “remembering” means participating here and now in certain defining events in the past and also in the future. (Michael Horton)
3. In the Bible, a call to remember is a vibrant, powerful, and participatory concept where we recalibrate our lives according to what’s being remembered....The Puritan John Flavel distinguished between two types of remembering. The first is speculative and transient, and the second is affectionate and permanent. (Dustin Crowe)
4. Memory is dialogic and arises not only from direct experience but from the intercourse of many minds...Remembering is not the re-excitation of innumerable fixed, lifeless and fragmentary traces. It is an imaginative reconstruction, or construction, built out of the relation of our attitude towards a whole active mass of organized past reactions or experience. (Oliver Sacks)

We are what we remember....We are how we remember. The act of recollection is fundamentally a creative act as well as an existential act; it is at once self-expression and self-constitution. (Scott Burnham, *Schubert and the Sound of Memory*)

5. Shabbat Zachor, maftir Deuteronomy 25:17-19
6. “Zachor” is an active connection we make to our past. It is the legacy we are born into, our inheritance. “Lo Tishkach” refers to the legacy we will leave for future generations. (Reb Mimi Feigelson)
7. Remember by Joy Harjo

Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star's stories.
Remember the moon, know who she is.
Remember the sun's birth at dawn, that is the
strongest point of time. Remember sundown
and the giving away to night.
Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give you form and breath. You are evidence of
her life, and her mother's, and hers.
Remember your father. He is your life, also.
Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth
brown earth, we are earth.
Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their
tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them,
listen to them. They are alive poems.
Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the
origin of this universe.
Remember you are all people and all people
are you.
Remember you are this universe and this
universe is you.
Remember all is in motion, is growing, is you.
Remember language comes from this.
Remember the dance language is, that life is.
Remember.

8. My destination is no longer a place, but a new way of seeing. (Marcel Proust)