

PARSHAT KI TAVO
14 ELUL 5780/3 SEPTEMBER 2020



Map, painting by Jasper Johns

I am interested in “the idea of knowing an image rather than just seeing it out of the corner of your eye.”
The map of the United States is too often “seen and not looked at, not examined.”

THIS DAY

1. “...God will set you, in fame and renown and glory, high above all the nations...”
(Deuteronomy 26:19)
2. “You have affirmed (הִיאָמַרְתָּ) this day that Adonai is your God, that you will walk in God’s ways, that you will watch over God’s laws and commandments and rules and listen to God.” (Deuteronomy 26:17)
“And God has affirmed this day that you are, as God promised you, God’s treasured people...” (Deuteronomy 26:18)
3. “**This day**, Adonai, your God, commands you to perform these statutes and laws, and you shall observe them and perform them with all your heart and with all your soul.”
(Deuteronomy 26:16)
But Adonai did not give you a heart to know, or eyes to see, or ears to hear, until **this day**.”
(Deuteronomy 29:3)
“Moses and the Kohanim, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying: ‘Be attentive and hear, O Israel: **This day** you have become a people to Adonai, your God.’” (Deuteronomy 27:9)
On each day, they should be new in your eyes, as if you were commanded regarding them that day. (Rashi, Deuteronomy 27:9)
4. “Covenant societies exist...to honor a pledge, a moral bond, an ethical undertaking....Covenant societies are not *ethnic* nations bound by common racial origin. They make room for outsiders – immigrants, asylum seekers, resident aliens – who become part of the society by taking the story and making it their own...” (Rabbi Jonathan Sacks)

5. “They came here – the exile and the stranger...They made a covenant with this land. Conceived in justice, written in liberty, bound in union, it was meant one day to inspire the hopes of all mankind; and it binds us still. If we keep its terms, we shall flourish.” (Lyndon Baines Johnson, January 20, 1965)