

PARSHAT KI TEITZEI
DEUTERONOMY 21:10-25:19
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 54:1-10
10 ELUL 5785/3 SEPTEMBER 2025



Impression, Sunrise
Oil on canvass by Claude Monet

AFTER A JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

1. When you go out (*ki teitzei*)... (Deuteronomy 21:10)

Remember what Amalek did to you on your way of going out from Egypt (*zeitchem mimitzrayim*) (Deuteronomy 25:17)

You shall tell your children: “It is because of what God did for me in my going out from Egypt (*b’zeiti mimitzrayim*) (Exodus 13:8)

2. “When you go out” is followed by a listing of more laws than in any other portion, including about: captive women; lost objects; forbidden mixtures; construction of a rooftop fence; rape; collateral; workers’ wages.
3. When Adonai your God grants you safety from all your enemies around you in the land that Adonai your God is giving you as a hereditary portion, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget. (Deuteronomy 25:19)

4. 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. *The Christian Faith*)

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. (Dustin Crowe)

5. When you go out to paint, try to forget what objects you have before you, a tree, a house, a field or whatever. Merely think here is a little square of blue, here an oblong of pink, here a streak of yellow, and paint it just as it looks to you, the exact color and shape. (Claude Monet)
6. [In Marcel Proust’s seminal novel *In Search of Lost Time*, a fictional Impressionist painter, Elstir, showed off a canvas of a beautiful ocean view where the sea was indistinguishable from the sky. It was impossible to tell where one ended and the other began.]

Elstir argued that he was presenting “what we actually see rather than what information tells us that we see.”

“We do not receive wisdom, we must discover it for ourselves, after a journey through the wilderness which no one else can make for us ...” (In Search of Lost Time by Marcel Proust)

7. *Yetziat mitzrayim* is the endeavor to rise above all that inhibits the soul, whether imposed by an outside force or by the physical, psychological or spiritual limitations imposed by habit and nature. (Yanki Tauber, based on the teachings of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson)