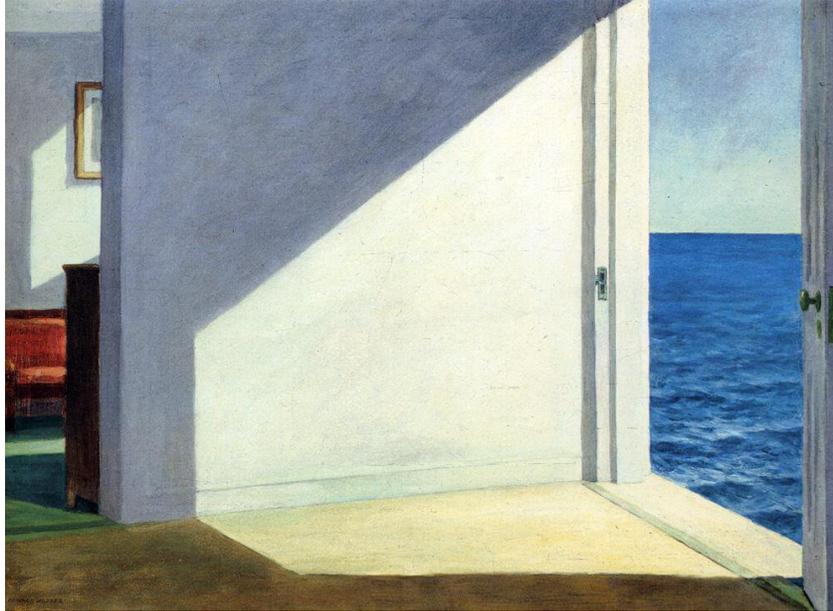


PARSHAT SHOFTIM
DEUTERONOMY 16:18-21:9
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 51:12-52:12
4 ELUL 5785/28 AUGUST 2025



Rooms by the Sea
Oil on canvass by Edward Hopper

TO UNDERSTAND THE FUTURE
IN SPITE OF THE PRESENT

1. He shall not keep many horses...he shall not have many wives...nor shall he amass silver and gold to excess. (Deuteronomy 17:16-17)
2. Lest the avenger of the blood pursue the slayer while his heart is hot and overtake him...and strikes him to death, yet he was not deserving of death....That is why I command you: set aside three cities. (Deuteronomy 19:6-7)
3. When in your war against a city you have to besiege it a long time in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees... (Deuteronomy 20:19)
4. I have put My words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of My hand, to plant heavens and establish earth. (Isaiah 51:16, haftarah for Parshat Shoftim)
5. Rabbi Shimon opened, "I have put My words in your mouth..." How vital it is for a human being to engage in Torah day and night! For the blessed Holy One listens to the voice of

those who occupy themselves with Torah, and every word innovated in Torah fashions a heaven....They descend upon the earth, which is renewed and transformed into a new earth. As it is written, "As the new heavens and the new earth that I am making endure before Me... (Isaiah 66:22). [Zohar on Breishit]

6. The message of Second Isaiah is of no age. It is prophecy tempered with human tears, mixed with a joy that heals all scars, clearing a way for understanding the future in spite of the present. (Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Prophets*)