

PARSHAT KI TAVO
DEUTERONOMY 26:1-29:8
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 60:1-22
14 ELUL 5786/27 AUGUST 2026



The Cardsharps
Caravaggio

THE FRUITFULNESS OF STORYTELLING

1. When you enter the land that Adonai your God gives you as a heritage...you shall take some of every first fruit...You shall go to the priest who will be in those days and say to him, “I declare (וְהִגַּדְתִּי) that I have entered the land that God swore to our ancestors to give us...” (Deuteronomy 26:1-3)
2. You shall tell (וְהִגַּדְתָּ) your children, “It is because of what God did for me in my going out from Egypt.” (Exodus 13:8)
3. נָגַד – to be conspicuous; hiphil stem, to declare, tell
נֶגֶד – what is conspicuous, in front of, opposite
מַגִּיד – a teller, announcer, reporter, explainer, interpreter...a story teller
4. מֵאֲחֵרִית (מֵרֵאשִׁית אֶחָרִית) from origin to end, and from beginning that which has not been done... (Isaiah 46:10)

5. Covenant societies don't worship tradition for tradition's sake. They value the past to remind themselves of the collective determination that moved people to create the society in the first place. Covenant societies are not ethnic nations bound by common racial origin. They make room for outsiders, who become part of the society by taking its story and making it their own, as Ruth did. Covenant societies exist to honor a pledge, a moral bond, an ethical undertaking. That is why telling the story is essential to a covenant society. It reminds all citizens of why they are there. (Based on writings by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Ki Tavo 2011)
6. Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...