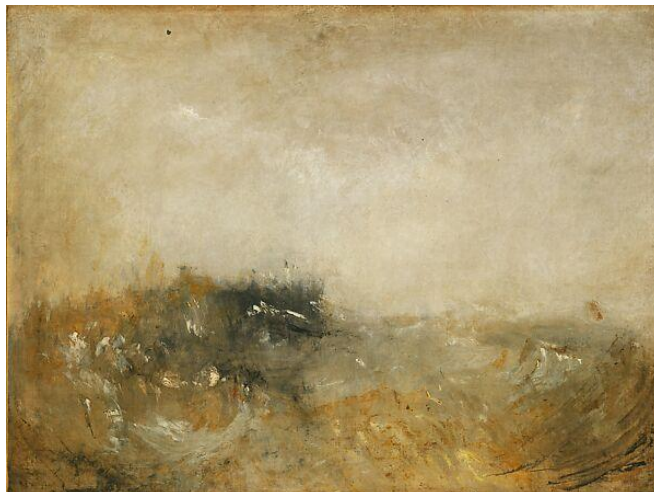


PARSHAT NITZAVIM-VAYEILECH
DEUTERONOMY 29:9-31:30
HAFTARAH ISAIAH 61:10-63:9
21 ELUL 5786/3 SEPTEMBER 2026



Rough Sea
Joseph Mallord William Turner

PRIEST OF THE INVISIBLE

1. Moses wrote this song on that day and taught it to the people of Israel. (Deuteronomy 31:22)
2. We have to understand how the Torah could be called a poem, because after all, it is not written in poetic language. However, it has the nature and character of poetry, for it is speech in enigmatic language... (Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Yehudah Berlin, the Netziv)
3. Poetry can break open locked chambers of possibility, restore numbed zones to feeling, recharge desire. (Adrienne Rich, *What is Found There: Notebooks on Poetry and Politics*)
4. God has sent me as a herald of joy to the humble. To bind up the wounded of heart. To proclaim release to the captives, liberation to the imprisoned...To provide for the mourners of Zion, to give them splendor instead of ashes, oil of joy instead of mourning, a cloak of praise instead of a dim spirit...They will rebuild ancient ruins, restore wastelands of old. They will renew ruined cities, generations of desolation. (Isaiah 61:1-4, haftarah for Parshat Nitzavim)
5. You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. (Exodus 19:6)

6. The poet is the priest of the invisible. (Wallace Stevens)
7. Moses said, “Oh, let me behold Your Presence”...God answered, “You cannot see My face, for a human cannot see Me and live.” (Exodus 33:18-20)