

Section 1: The Return

1) P1: *“Come let us return to the Lord; for He has torn [us] and He will heal us; He has smitten [us] and He will bind us up,”* (Hosea 6:1)

2) P2: *“After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up and we shall live in His sight,”* (Hosea 6:2)

3) P1: *“Then shall we know, if we follow the Lord; his going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter [autumnal] and former [spring time] rain unto the earth,”* (Hosea 6:3)

Pause

4) P1: As *“the congregation of Israel,”* (Exodus 12:6b) let us renew our faith by saying...

5) All: *“Hear! Oh Israel the Lord our G-d¹ is one Lord”*

6) P1: Let us remember the words G-d spoke to Moses on the Holy Mount when He commanded, *“You shall have no other gods before [but] me”* (Exodus 20:3)

7) P2: For He is the Lord who is *“a jealous G-d, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate,”* [Him] (Exodus 20:5b)

8) P1: Let us, in humble solemnity [seriousness], listen to the testimony of Moses who clearly warned against the consequences of disobeying divine Torah.

9) P2: Lord, grant us the courage to face searching questions and to discover why, despite all our great ethical and spiritual traditions, we seem to be under the most fearsome curses of the Law. Truly, your own Word testifies against us.

Begin first reading

In this and subsequent readings the Presiding Participant may: -

1. Personally read the passages aloud
2. Deputize someone with a clear, audible voice to perform this task
3. Read the odd numbered verses with the rest of the group reading the even numbered verses.
4. Direct the congregation to read aloud all of the verses

The main point is that each text should be read in a lucid and ready to understand manner with a brief pause following each passage.

Deuteronomy 28:15-67

15. *But it shall come to pass, if you will not hearken unto the voice of the LORD your God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command you this day; that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you:*

16. *Cursed shall you be in the city and cursed shall you be in the field.*

17. *Cursed shall be your basket and your store*

18. *Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the fruit of your land, the increase of your cattle and the flocks of your sheep.*

19. *Cursed shall you be when you come in and cursed shall you be when you go out*

¹ Jewish people regard the Lord's name as being so sacred that out of reverence they don't write it out in full. It's a custom which is followed here, out of respect for their sensibilities.

20. *The LORD shall send upon you cursing, vexation and rebuke, in all that you set your hand unto for to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly; because of the wickedness of your doings, whereby you have forsaken me.*

21. *The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto you until he has consumed you from off the land whither you go to possess it.*

22. *The LORD shall smite you with consumption and with a fever and with an inflammation and with an extreme burning and with the sword and with blasting and with mildew; and they shall pursue you until you perish.*

23. *And your heaven that is over your head shall be brass and the earth that is under you shall be iron.*

24. *The LORD shall make the rain of your land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon you, until you are destroyed.*

25. *The LORD shall cause you to be smitten before your enemies: you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them: and shall be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.*

26. *And your carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air and unto the beasts of the earth and no man shall fray them away.*

27. *The LORD will smite you with the boils of Egypt and with the tumours and with the scab and with the itch, which cannot be healed.*

28. *The LORD shall smite you with madness and blindness and astonishment of heart*

29. *And you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness and you shall not prosper in your ways: and you shall be only oppressed and spoiled evermore and no man shall save you.*

30. *You shall betroth a wife and another man shall lie with her: you shall build a house and you shall not dwell therein: you shall plant a vineyard and shall not gather the grapes thereof.*

31. *Your ox shall be slain before your eyes and you shall not eat thereof: your ass shall be violently taken away from before your face and shall not be restored to you: your sheep shall be given unto your enemies and you shall have none to rescue them.*

32. *Your sons and your daughters shall be given unto another people and your eyes shall look and fail with longing for them all the daylong; and there shall be no might in your hand.*

33. *The fruit of your land and all your labours, shall a nation, which you know not, eat up and you shall be only oppressed and crushed always:*

34. *So that you shall be driven mad by what you shall see with the sight of your eyes.*

35. *The LORD shall smite you in the knees and in the legs, with sore boils that cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot unto the top of your head.*

36. *The LORD shall bring you and your king which you shall set over you, unto a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known; and there shall you serve other gods, wood and stone.*

37. *And you shall become [an object of] astonishment, a proverb and a byword among all nations whither the LORD shall lead you.*

- 38.** *You shall carry much seed out into the field and shall gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it.*
- 39.** *You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but shall neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.*
- 40.** *You shall have olive trees throughout all your coasts, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olive shall cast its fruit.*
- 41.** *You shall beget sons and daughters, but you shall not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity.*
- 42.** *All your trees and the fruit of your land shall the locust consume.*
- 43.** *The stranger that is within you shall get up above you very high; and you shall come down very low.*
- 44.** *He shall lend to you and you shall not lend to him: he shall be the head and you shall be the tail.*
- 45.** *Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and shall pursue you and overtake you, till you are destroyed; because you hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes, which he commanded you:*
- 46.** *And they shall be upon you for a sign and for a wonder and upon your seed.*
- 47.** *Because you served not the LORD your God with joyfulness and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;*
- 48.** *Therefore shall you serve your enemies which the LORD shall send against you, in hunger and in thirst and in nakedness and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon your neck, until he has destroyed you;*
- 49.** *The LORD shall bring a nation against you from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies; a nation whose tongue you shall not understand;*
- 50.** *A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favour to the young:*
- 51.** *And he shall eat the fruit of your cattle and the fruit of your land, until you are destroyed: which also shall not leave you corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of your cattle, or flocks of your sheep, until he has destroyed you.*
- 52.** *And he shall besiege you in all your gates, until your high and fenced walls come down, which you trusted, throughout all your land: and he shall besiege you in all your gates throughout all your land, which the LORD your God has given you.*
- 53.** *And you shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters, which the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and in the famished misery, wherewith your enemies shall distress you:*
- 54.** *So that the man that is tender among you and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother and toward the wife of his bosom and toward the remnant of his children, which he shall leave:*

55. *So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he has nothing left him in the siege and in the famished misery, wherewith your enemies shall distress you in all your gates.*

56. *The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness; her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom and toward her son and toward her daughter,*

57. *And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and famished misery, wherewith your enemy shall distress you in your gates.*

58. *If you will not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD YOUR GOD;*

59. *Then the LORD will make your plagues wonderful and the plagues of your seed, even great, long-lasting plagues and sore long-lasting sicknesses.*

60. *Moreover he will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt, which you were afraid of; and they shall cleave unto you.*

61. *Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon you, until you be destroyed.*

62. *And you shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God*

63. *And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and to bring you to nought; and you shall be plucked from off the land whither you go to possess it.*

64. *And the LORD shall scatter you among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known, even wood and stone.*

65. *And among these nations shall you find no ease, neither shall the sole of your foot have rest: but the LORD shall give you there a trembling heart and failing of eyes and sorrow of mind:*

66. *And your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you shall fear day and night and shall have none assurance of your life:*

67. *In the morning you shall say, 'Would God it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Would God it were morning!' For you shall fear what you see with the sight of your eyes.*

Pause: to allow people time to realise the extent to which the Mosaic curses are being applied

10) P1: Have not these curses come true, both in our past history and at the present time?

11) P2: Yes, they have!

12) P1: Are not these curses coming true today in our Nation?

13) P2: Yes, they are!

14) P1: Do we not, for the sake of our families and loved ones have a responsibility to discover why these curses keep on happening?

15) P2: Yes, we do!

16) P1: Moreover, in this hour of destruction, do we not also have a responsibility to confess our sins in obedience to the Law of Moses? (Numbers 5:5:5-7)

17) P2: Yes, we do!

18) P1: Then let us bring our sins before G-d, trusting that, as with Abraham of old, G-d will provide His way of Atonement [covering of sin] (Genesis 22:1-17)

Begin second reading

Psalm 51

1. *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your loving kindness: according to the multitude of your tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

2. *Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

3. *For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.*

4. *Against you, you only, have I sinned and done this evil in your sight: that you might be justified when you speak and be clear when you judge.*

5. *Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

6. *Behold, you desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part you shall make me to know wisdom.*

7. *Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean: wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.*

8. *Make me hear joy and gladness; that the bones, which you have broken may rejoice.*

9. *Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.*

10. *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

11. *Cast me not away from your presence; and take not your holy spirit from me.*

12. *Restore unto me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me with your free spirit.*

13. *Then will I teach transgressors your ways; and sinners shall be converted unto you.*

14. *Deliver me from bloodguilt, O God for you are the God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of your righteousness.*

15. *O Lord, open my lips; and my mouth shall show forth your praise.*

16. *For you desire not sacrifice else would I give it: you delight not in burnt offering.*

17. *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

18. *Do good in your good pleasure unto Zion: build the walls of Jerusalem.*

19. *Then shall you be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon your altar.*