



Everywhere I Go:

Affirming Our Rootedness to Zion *and* the Earth
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Fills All the World

וְהָיָה זְרַעְךָ כַּעֲפַר הָאָרֶץ וּפְרֻצַּת יָמָה וּקְדָמָה וְאַחֲרָיָה וְאַחֲרָיָה וְזָרְעֶךָ:

Your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you and your descendants. **Genesis 28:14**

כֹּה אָמַר יי צְבָאוֹת אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְכֹל־הַגּוֹלָה אֲשֶׁר־הִגַּלְתִּי מִירוּשָׁלַם בַּבֶּלֶה: בְּנוּ בָתִּים וְשִׁבוּ וְנִטְעוּ גִּזְתִּים וְאָכְלוּ אֶת־פְּרִיָן: קָחוּ נָשִׁים וְהוֹלִידוּ בָנִים וּבָנוֹת וּקְחוּ לְבָנֵיכֶם נָשִׁים וְאֶת־בָּנוֹתֵיכֶם תָּנוּ לְאִנְשִׁים וְתִלְדְּנָה בָנִים וּבָנוֹת וְרַבּוּ־שָׂם וְאַל־תִּמְעָטוּ: וְדַרְשׁוּ אֶת־שְׁלוֹם הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר הִגַּלְתִּי אֶתְכֶם שָׁמָּה וְהִתְפַּלְלוּ בְּעֵדָה אֵל־יי כִּי בִשְׁלוֹמָה יְהִיֶה לְכֶם שְׁלוֹם:

Thus says the Holy One Tzeva'ot, the God of Israel, to the whole community which I exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters. Multiply there, do not decrease. And seek welfare of the city to which I have exiled you and pray to the Holy One on its behalf; for in its prosperity you shall prosper. **Jeremiah 29:4-7**

אִם־שׁוֹב תִּשְׁבוּ בְּאֶרֶץ הַזֹּאת וּבְנִיתִי אֶתְכֶם וְלֹא אֶהְרַס וְנִטְעַתִּי אֶתְכֶם וְלֹא אֶתּוֹשׁ כִּי נִחַמְתִּי אֶל־הָרַעָה אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי לְכֶם: If you remain in this land [Bavel], I will build you and not overthrow, I will plant you and not uproot; for I regret the punishment I have brought upon you. **Jeremiah 42:10**

וְהָיָה שְׂאֵרִית יַעֲקֹב בְּקֶרֶב עַמִּים רַבִּים כְּטֵל מֵאֵת יי כְּרַבִּיבִים עַל־יַעֲשֵׁב אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִקְוָה לְאִישׁ וְלֹא יִחַל לְבַנֵּי אָדָם: The remnant of Jacob shall be, in the midst of the many peoples, like dew from the Holy One, like droplets on grass— which do not look to any person nor place their hope in mortals. **Micah 5:6**

יִגְדֹל יי מֵעַל לְגִבּוֹל יִשְׂרָאֵל:

Great is the Holy One beyond the borders of Israel. **MALACHI 1:5**

והתחיל מקבץ את גופו של אדם הראשון מארבע רוחות העולם כדי שלא תאמר הארץ אין עפר גופך משלי אם לוקח ממזרח ויפטר במערב כדי שלא תאמר ארץ מערב אין עפר גופך משלי לא אקבלך, ולפיכך נטלו מארבע רוחות העולם כדי שבכל מקום שיפטר שיקבלו הארץ כמו שנאמר (בראשית ג) כי עפר אתה.

God began to gather the body of Adam from the four corners of the world, so that the earth should not say, "The dust of your body does not come from me," so that if he was taken from the east and expires in the west, the western part of the earth should not say, "the dust of your body is not from me, so I am not accepting it." Therefore God took it from the four corners of the world, so wherever he dies, the earth should accept him, as it is stated, *For you are dust (Gn 3:19)*. **Tanhuma, Pekudei 3**

Dwells in Zion

אֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יי אֱלֹהֶיךָ דָרַשׁ אֶתָּה תָּמִיד עֵינַי יי אֱלֹהֶיךָ בֵּה מְרֻשִׁית הַשָּׁנָה וְעַד אַחֲרִית שָׁנָה:

It is a land which the Holy One your God looks after, on which the Holy One your God always keeps an eye, from beginning to year's end. **Deuteronomy 11:12**

עשרה קבים חכמה ירדו לעולם. תשעה נטלה ארץ ישראל ואחד כל העולם כולו.



Ten measures of wisdom descended to the world. The Land of Israel took nine, and all the world took one. Kiddushin 49a

עשרה קבים יופי ירדו לעולם. תשעה נטלה ירושלים ואחד כל העולם כולו.

Ten measures of beauty descended to the world. Jerusalem took nine, and all the world took one. Kiddushin 49b

וקמת ועלית אל-המקום אשר יבחר יי אלהיך. מלמד שבית המקדש גבוה מכל ארץ ישראל, וראץ ישראל גבוה מכל הארצות.

You shall arise and ascend to the place that the Holy One your God will choose (Dt 17:8). This teaches that the Holy Temple is higher than all the rest of the Land of Israel, and that the Land of Israel is higher than all the other lands. Kiddushin 69a

ישיבת ארץ ישראל שקולה כנגד כל המצוות שבתורה.

Dwelling in the Land of Israel is equivalent to all the other commandments of the Torah put together. Sifre Devarim, Piska 80

א"ר יוחנן: כל המהלך בראץ ישראל ד' אמות מובטח לו שהוא בן העולם הבא.

Rabbi Yohanan said, Anyone who walks but four cubits in the land of Israel is assured of inhabiting the Coming World. Midrash Mishlei, Chapter 17

The Land of Israel and the Torah have a closeness and a relationship similar to that of the life-force to the heart.... It is more meritorious to perform the commandments in the Land than outside. Rabbi Moses Cordovero, *Or Ne'erav*, III:5

The Challenge and the Paradox

ובבל הויה רובא דעלמא?

And is Babylonia most of the world? Eruvin 28a

ויהודה הויה רובא דעלמא?

And is Judea most of the world? Kiddushin 6a

ויהודה ועוד לקרא?

Judea in addition to Scripture? Kiddushin 6a

Palestine is not a refuge from the vicissitudes of the Golah; it is the avant-garde of the Golah. Hans Jonas *Memoirs* 118

The establishment of the state of Israel is the most profound modification of the Galut which has occurred, but it is not the end of the Galut; in the religious sense, and perhaps not only in the religious sense, the state of Israel is a part of the Galut. Leo Strauss *Preface to Spinoza's Critique of Religion*, 230

Beyond "Either/Or" to "Both/And"

לאיזה שירצו יעלו.



Those who desire to should go up. Ta'anit 31a

Exile was not exclusively or even primarily a punishment for the past, but rather, and essentially, a constructive measure for the future: the return of the Presence to “her place” — the hearts of all who are in a state of loneliness and solitariness. Rabbi Aaron Samuel Tamares

Zionism declares boldly to the world that Judaism means to preserve its life by not losing its life. It shall be a true and healthy life, with a policy of its own, a religion wholly its own, invigorated by sacred memories and sacred environment, and proving a tower of strength and of unity not only for the remnant gathered within the borders of the Holy Land, but also for those who shall, by choice or necessity, prefer what now constitutes the Galut”.

Solomon Schechter, “Zionism, A Statement”, 1906

Israel

When I think of the liberation of Palestine,
When my eye conceives the great black English line
Spanning the world news of two thousand years,
My heart leaps forward like a hungry dog,
My heart is thrown back on its tangled chain,
My soul is hangdog in a Western chair.
 When I think of the battle for Zion I hear
 The drop of chains, the starting forth of feet
 And I remain chained in a Western chair.
 My blood beats like a bird against a wall,
 I feel the weight of prisons in my skull
 Falling away; my forebears stare through stone.
When I see the name of Israel high in print
The fences crumble in my flesh; I sink
Deep in a Western chair and rest my soul.
I look the stranger clear to the blue depths
Of his unclouded eye. I say my name
Aloud for the first time unconsciously.
 Speak of the tillage of a million heads
 No more. Speak of the evil myth no more
 Of one who harried Jesus on his way
 Saying, Go faster. Speak no more
 Of the yellow badge, secta nefaria.
 Speak the name only of the living land.
 Karl Shapiro, “Israel”