

THE COMMITMENT OF GOD

When HASHEM, your God, will bring you to the Land to which you come to possess it, and He will thrust away many nations from before you – the Hittite, the Girgashite, the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivvite, and the Jebusite – seven nations greater and mightier than you, and HASHEM, your God, will deliver them before you, and you will smite them – you shall utterly destroy them; you shall not seal a covenant with them nor shall you show them favor. You shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughter to his son, and you shall not take his daughter for your son, for he will cause your child to turn away from after Me and they will worship the gods of others; then HASHEM’s wrath will burn against you, and He will destroy you quickly. Rather, so shall you do to them: Their altars shall you break Apart; their pillars shall you smash; their sacred trees shall you cut down; and their carved images shall you burn in fire.

For you are a holy people to HASHEM, your God; HASHEM, your God, has chosen you to be for him a treasured people above all the peoples that are on the face of the earth. Not because you are numerous than all the peoples did HASHEM desire you and choose you, for you are the fewest of all the peoples. Rather, because of HASHEM’s love for you and because He observes the oath that He swore to your forefathers did He take you out with a strong hand and redeem you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. You must know that HASHEM, your God – He is the God, the faithful God, Who safeguards the covenant and the kindness for those who love Him and for those who observe His commandments, for a thousand generations. And He repays His enemies in his lifetime to make him perish; He shall not delay for His enemy – in his lifetime He shall repay him. You shall observe the commandment, and the decrees and the ordinances that I command you today, to perform them.

This shall be reward when you hearken to these ordinances, and you observe and perform them; HASHEM, your God, will safeguard for you the covenant and the kindness that He swore to ur forefathers. He will love you, bless you and multiply you, and He will bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your Land; your grain, your wine, and your oil; the offspring of your cattle and the flocks of your sheep and goats; on the Land that He swore to your forefathers to give you. You will be the most blessed of all peoples; there will be no infertile male or infertile female among you or among your animals. HASHEM will remove from you every illness; and all the bad maladies of Egypt that you knew – He will not put them upon you, but will put them upon all your foes. You will devour all the peoples that HASHEM, your God, will deliver to you; your eye shall not pity them; you shall not worship their gods, for it is a snare for you.

Perhaps you will say in your heart, “These nations are more numerous than I; how will I be able to drive them out?”

Do not fear them! You shall remember what HASHEM, your God, did to Pharaoh and to all of Egypt. The great tests that your eyes saw, and the signs, the wonders, the strong hand, and the outstretched arm with which HASHEM, your God, took you out – so shall HASHEM, your God, do to all the peoples before whom you fear. Also the hornet-swarm will HASHEM, your God, send among them, until the survivors and hidden ones perish before you. You shall not be broken before them, for HASHEM, your God is among you, a great and awesome God.

HASHEM, your God, will thrust these nations from before you little by little; you will not be able to annihilate them quickly, lest the beasts of the field increase against you. HASHEM, your God, will deliver them before you,

and will confound them with great confusion, until their destruction. He will deliver their kings into your hand and you shall cause their name to perish from under the heaven; no man will stand up against you until you have destroyed them. The carved images of their gods you shall burn in the fire; you shall not covet and take for yourself the silver and gold that is on them, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination of HASHEM, YOUR God. And you shall not bring an abomination into your home and become banned like it; you shall surely loathe it and you shall surely abominate it, for it is banned (Deuteronomy: 7: 1-26)