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The Memory of Miracles

Micah Goodman

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An Israeli-American Jewish philosopher, Micah Goodman is a leading voice on Judaism, Zionism, the Bible, and the challenges and opportunities facing Israel and contemporary world Jewry.

Micah is the author of three Israeli bestsellers on canonical Jewish texts: *Moses's Final Speech*, *The Dream of the Kuzari*, and *The Secrets of the Guide for the Perplexed*, all published by Kinneret Zmora- Bitan Dvir (2014, 2012 and 2011 respectively). He is one of two recipients of the Marc and Henia Liebhaber Prize for Religious Tolerance in 2014, along with leading Israeli musician Ehud Banai.

Micah directs Ein Prat – The Midrasha, Israel's leading pluralistic Beit Midrash for young adults. With more than 1,750 alumni and some 300 new students each year, Ein Prat strengthens the pluralistic Jewish character of Israel, nurtures connections between Israelis of different backgrounds, and builds a bridge between Israeli young adults and their Diaspora peers.

A thoughtful speaker and teacher, Micah lectures regularly overseas and at Israel's leading universities, think tanks, and cultural venues to audiences that include Israel's political and national leaders. Among other venues, in the past year Micah has lectured and taught at the Knesset, the official residence of Israel's Prime Minister, and the official residence of Israel's President.

Micah has a doctorate in Jewish Thought from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and lectures at his alma mater. Micah is a member of the recently formed Global Forum of the National Library of Israel, serves as a senior fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, and teaches in the Tikvah Project at Princeton University.

1. 2 Kings 23:21-31

- כא** וַיִּצַו הַמֶּלֶךְ, אֶת-כָּל-הָעָם לֵאמֹר, עֲשׂוּ פֶסַח, לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם--כַּכְּתוּב, עַל סֵפֶר הַבְּרִית הַזֶּה.
- 21** And the king commanded all the people, saying: 'Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as it is written in this book of the covenant.'
- כב** כִּי לֹא נַעֲשָׂה, כַּפֶּסַח הַזֶּה, מִימֵי הַשֹּׁפֵטִים, אֲשֶׁר שָׁפְטוּ אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל; וְכֹל, יְמֵי מַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל--וּמַלְכֵי יְהוּדָה.
- 22** For there was not kept such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;
- כג** כִּי, אִם-בְּשִׁמְנֵה עֶשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה, לַמֶּלֶךְ, יֵאֱשָׁיְהוּ: נַעֲשָׂה הַפֶּסַח הַזֶּה, לַיהוָה--בִּירוּשָׁלַם.
- 23** but in the eighteenth year of king Josiah was this passover kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.
- כד** וְגַם אֶת-הָאֲבוֹת וְאֶת-הַיִּדְעָנִים וְאֶת-הַתְּרָפִים וְאֶת-הַגְּלִלִים וְאֶת כָּל-הַשִּׁקְצִים, אֲשֶׁר נִרְאוּ בְּאֶרֶץ יְהוּדָה וּבִירוּשָׁלַם--בָּעַר, יֵאֱשָׁיְהוּ: לְמַעַן הַקִּים אֶת-דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה, הַכְּתוּבִים עַל-הַסֵּפֶר, אֲשֶׁר מָצָא חִלְקִיָהוּ הַכֹּהֵן, בַּיַּת יְהוָה.
- 24** Moreover them that divined by a ghost or a familiar spirit, and the teraphim, and the idols, and all the detestable things that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might confirm the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD.
- כה** וְכַמֹּהוּ לֹא-הָיָה לִפְנֵי מֶלֶךְ, אֲשֶׁר-שָׁב אֶל-יְהוָה בְּכָל-לְבָבוֹ וּבְכָל-נַפְשׁוֹ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדוֹ--כְּכֹל, תּוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה; וְאַחֲרָיו, לֹא-קָם כָּמֹהוּ.
- 25** And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.
- כו** אֲדָּ לֹא-שָׁב יְהוָה, מִחֲרוֹן אַפּוֹ הַגָּדוֹל, אֲשֶׁר-חָרָה אַפּוֹ, בַּיהוּדָה--עַל, כָּל-הַכְּעִסִּים, אֲשֶׁר הִכְעִיסוּ, מִנְּשָׂה.
- 26** Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of His great wrath, wherewith His anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations wherewith Manasseh had provoked Him.
- כז** וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה, גַּם אֶת-יְהוּדָה אֲסִיר מֵעַל פְּנֵי, כַּאֲשֶׁר הִסְרֹתִי, אֶת-יִשְׂרָאֵל; וּמֵאַסְתִּי אֶת-הָעִיר הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר-בְּחַרְתִּי, אֶת-יְרוּשָׁלַם, וְאֶת-הַבַּיִת, אֲשֶׁר אָמַרְתִּי יְהִי שְׁמִי שָׁם.
- 27** And the LORD said: 'I will remove Judah also out of My sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city which I have chosen, even Jerusalem, and the house of which I said: My name shall be there.'

כח וַיֵּתֶר דְּבָרֵי יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ, וְכָל-אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה: הֲלֹא-הֵם כְּתוּבִים, עַל-סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים--לְמֶלֶכִי יְהוּדָה.

28 Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

כט בְּיָמָיו עָלָה פְּרָעָה נֹכַח מֶלֶךְ-מִצְרַיִם, עַל-מֶלֶךְ אַשּׁוּר--עַל-נְהַר-פָּרָת; וַיִּלָּךְ הַמֶּלֶךְ יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ, לִקְרָאתוֹ, וַיִּמִּיתֵהוּ בְּמִגְדוֹ, כְּרָאתוֹ אֹתוֹ.

29 In his days Pharaoh-nechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates; and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him.

ל וַיִּרְכְּבֵהוּ עַבְדָּיו מֵת, מִמִּגְדוֹ, וַיְבִאֵהוּ יְרוּשָׁלַם, וַיִּקְבְּרֵהוּ בְּקִבְרֹתוֹ; וַיִּקַּח עִם-הָאָרֶץ, אֶת-יְהוֹאָחָז בֶּן-יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ, וַיִּמְשָׁחוּ אֹתוֹ וַיִּמְלִיכּוּ אֹתוֹ, תַּחַת אָבִיו. {פ}

30 And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulcher. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead. {P}

לא בֶּן-עֶשְׂרִים וּשְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנָה, יְהוֹאָחָז בְּמָלְכוֹ, וּשְׁלֹשָׁה חֳדָשִׁים, מָלַךְ בִּירוּשָׁלַם; וְשֵׁם אִמּוֹ, חַמוּטַל בַּת-יִרְמְיָהוּ מִלְּבָנָה.

31 Jehoahaz was twenty three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

2. Exodus 20:7-10

ז זְכוֹר אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת, לְקַדְּשׁוֹ.

7 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

ח שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד, וְעָשִׂיתָ כָּל-מְלֶאכֶתְךָ.

8 Six days shall you labor, and do all your work;

ט וַיּוֹם, הַשְּׁבִיעִי--שַׁבָּת, לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: לֹא-תַעֲשֶׂה כָּל-מְלֶאכֶת אֲתָהּ וּבִנְךָ וּבִתְךָ, עַבְדְּךָ וְאִמְתְּךָ וּבַהֲמַתְךָ, וְגֵרְךָ, אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ.

9 but the seventh day is a Sabbath unto the LORD your God, in it you shall not do any manner of work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your man-servant, nor your maid-servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates;

י כִּי שֵׁשֶׁת-יָמִים עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֶת-הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת-הָאָרֶץ, אֶת-הַיָּם וְאֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-בָּם, וַיָּנַח, בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי; עַל-כֵּן, בֵּרַךְ יְהוָה אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת--וַיְקַדְּשֵׁהוּ. {ס}

10 for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day; wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. {S}

3. Deuteronomy 5:11-14

- יא** שְׁמוֹר אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת, לְקַדְּשׁוֹ, כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּךְ, יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ.
- יב** שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד, וְעָשִׂיתָ כָּל-מְלֹאכֶתֶךָ.
- יג** וַיּוֹם, הַשְּׁבִיעִי--שַׁבָּת, לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: לֹא תַעֲשֶׂה כָל-מְלֹאכָה אֹתָהּ וּבִנְךָ-וּבִתֶּךָ וְעַבְדְּךָ-וְאִמָּתְךָ וְשׁוֹרְךָ וְחֹמְרְךָ וְכָל-בְּהֵמָתְךָ, וְגֵרְךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ--לְמַעַן יָנוּחַ עַבְדְּךָ וְאִמָּתְךָ, כָּמוֹךָ.
- יד** וְזָכַרְתָּ, כִּי עֶבֶד הָיִיתָ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, וַיֹּצִיאֲךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִשָּׁם, בְּיָד חֲזָקָה וּבְזֵרַע נְטוּיָה; עַל-כֵּן, צִוָּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, לַעֲשׂוֹת, אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת. {ס}
- 11** Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD thy God commanded thee.
- 12** Six days shall you labor, and do all your work;
- 13** but the seventh day is a Sabbath unto the LORD your God, in it you shall not do any manner of work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your man-servant, nor your maid-servant, nor your ox, nor your ass, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates; that your man-servant and your maid-servant may rest as well as you.
- 14** And you shall remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day. {S}

4. Exodus 21:1-2

- א** וְאֵלֶּה, הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים, אֲשֶׁר תִּשְׁמַע, לִפְנֵיהֶם.
- ב** כִּי תִקְנֶה עֶבֶד עִבְרִי, שֵׁשׁ שָׁנִים יַעֲבֹד; וּבִשְׁבַעַת--יֵצֵא לְחֹפְשִׁי, חֲנָם.
- 1** Now these are the ordinances which you shall set before them.
- 2** If you buy a Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve; and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing.

5. Deuteronomy 15:12-15

- יב** כִּי-יִמְכַר לְךָ אֲחִיךָ הָעִבְרִי, אוֹ הָעִבְרִיָּה--וְעַבְדְּךָ, שֵׁשׁ שָׁנִים; וּבִשְׁנָה, הַשְּׁבִיעִת, תִּשְׁלַחְנוּ חֹפְשִׁי, מֵעִמָּךְ.
- יג** וְכִי-תִשְׁלַחְנוּ חֹפְשִׁי, מֵעִמָּךְ--לֹא תִשְׁלַחְנוּ, רִיקָם.
- 12** If your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years; and in the seventh year you shall set him free.
- 13** And when you set him free, you shall not let him go empty-handed;

יד העניק תעניק, לו, מצאנך, ומגנך ומיקבך : אשר ברכך יהוה אלהיך, ותתן-לו. **14** you shall furnish him liberally out of your flock, and out of your threshing-floor, and out of your winepress; of that wherewith the LORD your God has blessed you, you shall give to him.

טו וזכרת, כי עבד היית בארץ מצרים, ויפדך, יהוה אלהיך ; על-כן אנכי מצוך, את-הדבר הזה--היום. **15** And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this thing to-day.

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