

SIDRA OF THE WEEK : חוקת

THE SONG OF THE WELL — שִׁירַת הַבְּאֵר

- 21 : 10 Then the Children of Israel set forward from Mount Hor
and travelled to Tsalmonah,
and from there to Poonon,
and they travelled from there
continuing round the land of Edom
and they encamped on the northeast of the land of Edom
at Ovos. כ"א י וַיִּסְעוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
וַיַּחֲנוּ
בְּאֵבֶת :
- 11 Then they travelled from Ovos
and they encamped at Iyyay in the mountain passes
in that wilderness which lies before the land of Mo'av,
on the southeast, on the side where the sun rises. י"א וַיִּסְעוּ מֵאֵבֶת
וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּעֵי הָעֲבָרִים
בַּמִּדְבָּר אֲשֶׁר עַל פְּנֵי מוֹאָב
מִמְזֻרַח הַשָּׁמֶשׁ :
- 12 From there they set forward
and travelled to the place later known as Divvon God,
and they camped at Divvon God,
there in the Valley of Zerred which then formed the
border between the land of Mo'av and the land of Edom. י"ב מִשָּׁם נָסְעוּ
וַיַּחֲנוּ
בְּנַחַל זֶרֶד :
- 13 From there they set forward
— in the thirty-eighth year —
and travelled northwards towards Almon Divlosoymoh,
skirting round the southeast of the land of Mo'av
and they encamped there on the other side of the Brook of Arnon
that is, on the side of the wilderness which is
on the northeast side of the Arnon, in that wilderness
which juts out י"ג מִשָּׁם נָסְעוּ
וַיַּחֲנוּ מֵעֵבֶר אַרְנוֹן
אֲשֶׁר בַּמִּדְבָּר
הַיָּצֵא
מִגְּבֹל הָאֱמֹרִי
כִּי אַרְנוֹן
גְּבוּל מוֹאָב
בֵּין מוֹאָב וּבֵין הָאֱמֹרִי :
- from the boundary of the land of the Emorites:
But the Brook of Arnon itself
formed the new boundary which belonged to Mo'av,
between the land of Mo'av and the Emorites, and the
Jewish People were not to take territory from Mo'av.

- 14 Concerning these travels and conquests by the Jewish People
 it is told in that ancient Book of the Wars of G-d
 how Vohayv, which is called Divvon God (and which originally
 belonged to Mo'av) was taken by Si'chon the king of the Emorites
 in the storm of battle between Si'chon and Mo'av —
 and thus did HaShem prepare this land of Mo'av
 that it should pass to the Jewish People
 as were, later, the brooklands in the
 Arnon region called Almon Divlosoymoh,
 which also were taken in those battles from Mo'av by Si'chon and
 which thus passed over into the possession of the Jewish People.
- 15 And also the slopes of the Brook of Arnon
 on the east of the Avvorrim Mountains
 which run into those brooklands,
 that is, the slopeland that inclines
 till Shevves-Orr, which was all taken from Mo'av by Si'chon
 and was then given by HaShem as a possession to the
 Jewish People: all that land, up till the Brook of Arnon
 which continues from there on its way
 till it comes up to the boundary
 between Mo'av and the Emorites.
- 16 From there they travelled
 to the place later called Almon Divlosoymoh
 where the Well was for a short time lost from sight,
 but HaShem caused it again to travel with them;
 that is the same miraculous Well
 concerning which HaShem had said
 to Mosheh, so many years before,
 “Gather the people together
 and I will give to them water” — and this Well
 had accompanied them till now through all their travels.
- 17 Then, in appreciation of the great miracle of the
 Travelling Well, the Elders and the People of Israel sang
 this song responsively — with the Elders
 exhorting the People to respond with the refrain:
“Spring up, O Well!”
- י' עַל בֵּן
 יֹאמֶר בְּסֵפֶר מִלְחָמַת יי
 אֶת וְהַב
 בְּסוֹפָה
 וְאֵת הַנְּחָלִים אֲרִנוֹן :
 טו וְאֲשֶׁר הַנְּחָלִים
 אֲשֶׁר נָטָה
 לְשֶׁבֶת עַר
 וְנִשְׁעַן
 לְגִבּוֹל מוֹאָב :
 טז וּמִשָּׁם
 בְּאֵרָה
 הוּא הַבְּאֵר
 אֲשֶׁר אָמַר יי לְמֹשֶׁה
 אֶסַּף אֶת הָעָם
 וְאֶתְּנָה לָּהֶם מַיִם :
 יז אָז יִשִּׁיר יִשְׂרָאֵל
 אֶת הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת
 עָלַי בְּאֵר עֲנֵנוּ לָה :

- 18 “This is the Well that princes dug, saying —”
“Spring up, O Well!”
 “Which the nobles of the People scooped out, praying —”
“Spring up, O Well!”
 “Not with digging implements but with G-dly sceptre
 and with guiding staff they dug it, calling —”
“Spring up, O Well!”
 “This Well, a gift from the arid wilderness,
 they brought forth, declaring —”
“Spring up, O Well!”
- 19 “It travelled with the People, this gift,
 till the brooklands of Arnon,
 when they decreed — ”
“Spring up, O Well!”
 “It merged with the streams of those lands
 and proclaimed His miracles for His People,
 for He did command —”
“Spring up, O Well!”
 “And from there it accompanied them on their travels,
 even up the heights of the conquered territory of Mo’av,
 when they directed — ”
“Spring up, O Well!”
- 20 “From those heights it followed them down
 into the valleys of the countryside of Mo’av,
 for it was told — ”
“Spring up, O Well!”
 “It journeyed with them without interruption,
 even up the peaks of the highlands,
 for they had said — ”
“Spring up, O Well!”
 “And from there it looks down
 upon that desolate wilderness
 from where it was taken,
 when they did enjoin — ”
“Spring up, O Well!”
- 21 Then Yisroel sent messengers
 to Si’chon, the king of the Emorites, saying:

כ' בְּאֵר חֲפְרוּהָ שְׂרִים

בְּרוּהָ נְדִיבֵי הָעָם

בְּמַחֲקֵק בְּמִשְׁעָנָתָם

וּמִמְדָּבָר מִתְּנָה :

ט' וּמִמְתְּנָה נַחְלֵי־אֵל

וּמִנַּחְלֵי־אֵל

בְּמוֹת :

כ' וּמִבְּמוֹת

הַגֵּיאִ אֲשֶׁר בְּשָׂדֵה מוֹאָב

רֹאשׁ הַפְּסָגָה

וְנִשְׁקָפָה עַל פְּנֵי הַיְשִׁימֹן :

כ"א וַיִּשְׁלַח יִשְׂרָאֵל מְלָאכִים

אֶל סִיחֹן מֶלֶךְ הָעַמֹּרִי לֵאמֹר :

- 22 “Give us leave to pass through your land:
We will not turn aside into field or vineyard
nor will we drink of the water of the Well.
Along the king’s highway will we go
until we will have passed your borders.”
- 23 But Si’chon did not allow Yisroel
to pass through his borders,
but Si’chon assembled all his people
and came out against Yisroel
to the wilderness
and he came to Yahatz
and did battle with Yisroel.
- 24 And Yisroel smote him with the edge of the sword
and took possession of his land —
from the River Arnon, on the south of his land,
until the River Yabbok, to the north,
up till the land of the people of Ammon
and so Yisroel took possession of all the land on the
west which had belonged to Mo’av, but no further,
for the border held by the people of Ammon was strong,
and their land was not taken by Si’chon when he
conquered Mo’av, and therefore it was not allowed
to be taken from Ammon by Yisroel.
- 25 And Yisroel took all these cities held by Si’chon
and Yisroel dwelt in the cities
that were taken by the Emorites
and in Cheshbon and in all its daughter-cities.
- 26 Thus Cheshbon, though originally a Mo’avite city,
had become the capital city of the king of the Emorites
for he had waged battle
- כב אַעְבְּרָה בְּאַרְצֶךָ
לֹא נָטָה בְּשָׂדֵה וּבְכַרְם
לֹא נִשְׁתָּה מִי בְּאֵר
בְּדֶרֶךְ הַמֶּלֶךְ גִּלְדָּךְ
עַד אֲשֶׁר נַעְבֹּר גְּבֻלְךָ :
- כג וְלֹא נָתַן סִיחֹן אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל
עָבַר בְּגִבְלוֹ
וַיֵּאַסֵּף סִיחֹן אֶת כָּל עַמּוֹ
וַיֵּצֵא לִקְרַאת יִשְׂרָאֵל
הַמִּדְבָּרָה
וַיָּבֵא יְהֻצָּה
וַיִּלָּחֶם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל :
- כד וַיַּבְהוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל לְפִי חֶרֶב
וַיִּירֶשׁ אֶת אֶרְצוֹ
מֵאַרְנוֹן
עַד יַבֹּק
עַד בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן
כִּי עַז גְּבוּל בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן :
- כה וַיִּקַּח יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת כָּל הָעָרִים הָאֵלֶּה
וַיֵּשֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּכָל עָרֵי הָאֱמֹרִי
בְּחֶשְׁבּוֹן וּבְכָל בְּנֹתֶיהָ :
- כו כִּי חֶשְׁבּוֹן
עִיר סִיחֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאֱמֹרִי הוּא
וְהוּא גִלְדָּה

against the previous king of Mo'av
and had taken all his land out of his possession —
up till the River Arnon
thus allowing these lands to later be taken by Yisroel,
for Yisroel were not allowed to take the lands
directly from Ammon nor from Mo'av.

בְּמֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב הָרִאשׁוֹן
וַיִּקַּח אֶת כָּל אֶרְצוֹ מִיַּדוֹ
עַד אַרְנוֹן:

27 About those events and battles
do the recounters of sagas say:
“Come, all of you, to Cheshbon,
to that city which once belonged to Mo'av!
“It is now rebuilt and re-established
“As a city of Si'chon!

כּו עַל בֵּן
יֹאמְרוּ הַמְשֻׁלִּים
בֵּאוּ חֶשְׁבוֹן
תִּבְנֶה וְתִבְנוֹן
עִיר סִיחֹן:

28 “But then, when the fire of battle went forth from Cheshbon
“When the flame of destruction
“Broke out from this new citadel of Si'chon —
“It consumed the city of Orr of Mo'av
“with the Mo'avites on the Heights of Arnon
— and defeated them!

כח כִּי אֵשׁ יִצְאָה מִחֶשְׁבוֹן
לְהִבָּה
מִקְרִית סִיחֹן
אֶכְלָה עַר מוֹאָב
בְּעַלְי בְּמוֹת אַרְנוֹן:

29 “Woe to you, Mo'av!
“How you are confounded,
“O, you people of the god Khemosh!
“Your god has made his sons fugitives
“And his daughters captives
“To the king of the Emorites —
“To Si'chon!”

כט אוֹי לְךָ מוֹאָב
אֲבִדְתָּ
עִם כְּמוֹשׁ
נָתַן בְּנָיו פְּלִיטִים
וּבְנֹתָיו בְּשָׁבִית
לְמֶלֶךְ אֱמֹרִי
סִיחֹן:

30 And the recounters of sagas say further:
”And after that conquest of Mo'av by Si'chon
“Si'chon's own rule was overthrown and Cheshbon was made desolate!
“All that land, till Divvon —
“It was all laid waste, up till Nofach
“Reaching up to Maydevoh — all of it was taken
by the Jewish People in the battle of Si'chon!”

ל וְנִירָם
אֲבַד חֶשְׁבוֹן
עַד דִּיבֹן
וְנָשִׂים עַד נֹפַח
אֲשֶׁר עַד מִידְבָּא:

- 31 And so Yisroel dwelled לא וַיֹּשֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל
in that land, after they had conquered Si'chon the king of the Emorites. בְּאֶרֶץ הָאֱמֹרִי :
- 32 Then Mosheh sent men to spy out לב וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה לְרַגֵּל
the land of Ya'azayr אֶת יַעֲזָר
and they captured its daughter-cities וַיִּלְכְּדוּ בְּנֹתֶיהָ
and they drove out the Emorites וַיִּזְרֹשׁ אֶת הָאֱמֹרִי
that were there. אֲשֶׁר שָׁם :
- 33 They turned and went up northwards, towards Yericho, לג וַיִּפְּנוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ
going up the road to the Boshon region, דֶּרֶךְ הַבְּשָׁן
when Og the king of the Boshon came out וַיֵּצֵא עֹג מֶלֶךְ הַבְּשָׁן
against the Children of Israel, לְקִרְאָתָם
he and all his people, הוּא וְכָל עַמּוֹ
to wage battle, at Edre'i. לְמִלְחָמָה אֲדָרְעִי :
- 34 Then HaShem said to Mosheh: לד וַיֹּאמֶר יי אֵל מֹשֶׁה
“Do not fear him אֵל תִּירָא אֹתוֹ
for into your hand have I given him כִּי בְיָדְךָ נָתַתִּי אֹתוֹ
and all his people and his land וְאֶת כָּל עַמּוֹ וְאֶת אֶרְצוֹ
and you shall do to him וַעֲשִׂיתָ לוֹ
as you did בְּאֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתָ
to Si'chon the king of the Emorites לְסִיחֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאֱמֹרִי
who used to dwell at Cheshbon.” אֲשֶׁר יוֹשֵׁב בְּחֶשְׁבֹּן :
- 35 And so they smote him and his sons לה וַיַּכּוּ אֹתוֹ וְאֶת בָּנָיו
and all his people וְאֶת כָּל עַמּוֹ
till there was none left to him remaining עַד בְּלֹתִי הַשָּׂאִיר לוֹ שְׂרִיד
and they took his land as possession. וַיִּזְרְשׁוּ אֶת אֶרְצוֹ :
- 22 : 1 Then the Children of Israel travelled כב : א וַיִּסְעוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
and encamped in the Plains of Mo'av וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּעַרְבוֹת מוֹאָב
on the east side of the River Yardayn מֵעֵבֶר לְיַרְדֵּן
opposite the city of Yericho. יְרֵחוֹ :