

We the people Now all of the **people** were seeing the thunder-sounds, the flashing-torches, the shofar sound, and the mountain smoking; when the people saw, they faltered and stood far off. They said to Moshe: You speak with us and we will hearken, but let not God speak with us, lest we die! Moshe said to the people: Do not be afraid! For it is to test you that God has come, to have awe of him be upon you, so that you do not sin. The people stood far off, and Moshe approached the fog where God was. (Exodus 20:15-18) **Union:** Rabbi said: How great peace is! Even if the Jews worship idolatry but there is peace and **unity** between them, God says, "As it is, I am not able to bring judgment on them, since they have peace between themselves." As it is written, Ephraim is **united** in idol worship, let them alone (Hoshea 4:17). But when they become divided what does God say? Their heart is divided now they will be found guilty. (Hoshea 10:2) This teaches that Great is peace, Hated is war. Great is peace for in all of [Israel's desert] travels it is written, "They journeyed as many and they set up camp as many." They journeyed in discord, and they set up camp in discord, but when they got to Sinai, they set up camp united as one, as it is written. "And Israel camped there as one." (Exodus 19:2) The Holy One said, Since Israel hates to be divided, and they are lovers of peace--[which they have shown] by camping as one--the time has come to give them My Torah. **Justice justice** shall you pursue in order that you may live and possess the land that the Lord your God is giving you. (Deuteronomy 16:20) Rabbi Hama Bar Oshiya said: When a person is concerned about his eyesight he will pay fortunes to a physician, yet he has no guarantee whether he will be healed. When a person takes a bribe, he blinds his eyes, he destroys **justice** and he causes Israel to be exiled from her land, as it is written: **Justice justice** shall you pursue in order that you may live and possess the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Righteousness and **justice** are the base of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness stand before You. (Psalm 89:15) **Justice** refers to the letter of the law, while righteousness always refers to going inside the letter of the law. (Malbim's commentary on this verse.) **Domestic Tranquility:** Adoniahu was killed because he created quarrels and it is permitted to slander such people, as Nathan the Prophet did for Bath Sheba [when she slandered Adoniahu after he presumed to be king without consulting his father], "...I will come in after you and confirm your words." (Kings I 1:14) And Rebbe said, "Lying is always forbidden except where the purpose is to bring peace between two parties." Bar Kapara said, "How great is peace that even the Torah has stretched the truth in order to bring peace between Abraham and Sarah, as it is written, "And Sarah laughed to herself saying...my master is old..." (Genesis 18) And later it is written, [that she said] "And I am old." (Midrash Derech Eretz

Perek Hashalom) **Common defence:** If one comes to kill you-- arise early to kill him. (Talmud Sanhedrin 72a) **General Welfare:** How great is humility, that the Holy One singles it out to glorify and praise it, as it is written in the Tractate of Megilla (31a) Rabbi Yochanan says: Wherever one finds the might of the Holy One, he also finds His humility. This is found in the Torah and is repeated in the Prophets and repeated again in the Writings of the Bible. In the Torah it is written: For the Lord Your God is the God of gods, and the Lord of lords..." (Deuteronomy 10:7) This verse is followed by, "...who does justice for the orphan and the widow." In the Prophets it is written: For God says High and exalted He dwells forever..." (Isaiah 57:15) This is immediately followed by "...and

the downtrodden and dispirited will be revived..." In the Writings it is written: "...extol him who rides on the clouds; his name is the Lord" (Psalms 68:5) which is followed by father of orphans and judge to the widows. (Menorat Ham'or) And God said to Abram: Go forth from your land, from

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect **Union**, establish **Justice**, insure **domestic Tranquility**, provide for the **common defence**, promote the **general Welfare**, and secure the **Blessings of Liberty** to ourselves and our **Posterity**, do ordain and establish this **Constitution for the United States of America.**

your birthplace and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. And I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you and I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and those who curse you, I will curse.

And all the families of the earth will be **blessed** through you. (Genesis 12:1-3)

And all the **blessings** will come to you and they will take effect. (Deuteronomy 28:2) Rabbi Simcha Bunim said on this verse: All **Blessings** that are truly good must be given at the appropriate time, the appropriate place and in the appropriate way--so that one may truly appreciate the **blessing** and not, God forbid, be harmed from it. For when a person is ill, even if he has plenty to eat, he will gain no pleasure from it, for the food may cause him harm. We have seen many poor people become rich, but they could never enjoy their newfound wealth because they had fallen ill. That is why the Torah states, [the blessing] "should take effect." --That the blessing would come at the appropriate moment. Jacob also exemplified this behavior when he asked for "bread to eat and clothing to wear" for do we need to be told that bread is for eating, and clothing is to be worn? Jacob, however, was asking that the Holy One give him bread and that he be able to eat it. (Kol Mevasser Volume I Parsha Ki Tavo) Hebrew word **DRoR** means **liberty**. How does this word reflect this? Our teachers taught that dror only means **liberty**. It is like one whose home (**DiRah**) is wherever he wishes which makes him free to engage in business throughout the land. (Midrash Torat Kohanim) The essence of being cursed is being enslaved, and the essence of blessing is **liberty**. (Sefat Emet)

Posterity: the crowns of the elderly are the children of children and the glory of children are their parents. (Proverbs 17:6) Generations come and generations go, but the earth will stand forever. (Kohelet 1:4)



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