

## A Jewish Identity in Three Texts

### From Genesis Chapter 18

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה זַעֲקַת סְדֹם וְעֹמֹרָה כִּי רַבָּה וְחַטָּאתָם כִּי כְבֹדָה מְאֹד: אֶרְדָּה־נָּא וְאֶרְאֶה  
הַכְּצַעֲקָתָהּ הַבָּאָה אֵלַי עָשׂוּ כָלָה וְאִם־לֹא אֶדְעָה: וַיִּפְּנוּ מִשָּׁם הַיְּהוּדִים וַיֵּלְכוּ סְדֹמָה  
וְעֹמֹרָה עֹדְנֵי עֵינָם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה: וַיִּגַּשׁ אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הֲאֵף תִּסְפֶּה צְדִיק עִם־רָשָׁע: אוֹלֵי  
יֵשׁ חֲמִשִּׁים צְדִיקִים בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר הֲאֵף תִּסְפֶּה וְלֹא־תִשָּׂא לְמָקוֹם לְמַעַן חַמְשִׁים הַצְּדִיקִים  
אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבָּהּ: חֲלָלָה לָךְ מַעֲשֵׂת כַּדְּבַר הַזֶּה לְהַמִּית צְדִיק עִם־רָשָׁע וְהָיָה כְּצְדִיק כְּרָשָׁע  
חֲלָלָה לָךְ הַשֵּׁפֶט כָּל־הָאָרֶץ לֹא יַעֲשֶׂה מִשְׁפָּט: ...

20. And the Eternal One said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave;

21. I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry, which has come to me; and if not, I will know.

22. And the men turned their faces from there, and went toward Sodom; but Abraham still stood before the Eternal One.

23. And Abraham drew near, and said, Will you also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

24. Perhaps there are only fifty righteous inside the city; will you also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous who are in it?

25. Be it far from you to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked; and that the righteous should be as the wicked, be it far from you; Shall not the Judge of all the earth act justly?

26. And the Eternal One said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous inside the city, then I will spare the whole place for their sakes.

27. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak to the Eternal One, I who am but dust and ashes;

28. Perhaps there shall lack five of the fifty righteous; will you destroy the whole city for lack of five? And God said, If I find there forty five, I will not destroy it.

29. And he spoke to God yet again, and said, Perhaps there shall be forty found there. And God said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

30. And he said to God, Oh let not the Eternal One be angry, and I will speak; Perhaps there shall thirty be found there. And God said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there.

31. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak to the Eternal One; Perhaps there shall be twenty found there. And God said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.

32. And he said, Oh let not the Eternal One be angry, and I will speak yet but this once; Possibly ten shall be found there. And God said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

33. And the Eternal One went away, having finished talking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

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### From Deuteronomic Version of the 10 Commandments, 5:12-15

שְׁמֹר אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת לְקַדְּשׁוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים תַּעֲבֹד וְעָשִׂיתָ  
כָּל-מְלַאכְתֶּךָ: וַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שַׁבָּת לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא-תַעֲשֶׂה כָל-מְלָאכָה אַתָּה וּבִנְךָ וּבִתֶּךָ  
וְעַבְדְּךָ וְאִמְתֶּךָ וְשׂוֹרְךָ וְחֹמְרֶךָ וְכָל-בְּהֵמָתֶךָ וְגֵרְךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ לְמַעַן יָנוּחַ עַבְדְּךָ וְאִמְתֶּךָ  
כָּמוֹךָ: וְזָכַרְתָּ כִּי עֶבֶד הָיִיתָ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם וַיֹּצִיאֲךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִשָּׁם בְּיַד חֲזָקָה וּבְזֹרֶעַ  
נְטוּיָה עַל-כֵּן צִוָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת-יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת:

12. Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the Eternal One your God has commanded you.

13. Six days you shall labour, and do all your work;

14. But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Eternal One your God; in it you shall not do any work, you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your ox, nor your ass, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is inside your gates; that your manservant and your maidservant may rest as well as you.

15. And remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Eternal One your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and with a stretched out arm; therefore the Eternal One your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

### Deuteronomy 6:4-9

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד: וְאַהֲבַת אֵת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ  
וּבְכָל-מְאֹדֶךָ: וְהָיוּ הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי מְצַוְּךָ הַיּוֹם עַל-לִבְבְּךָ: וְשָׁנַנְתָּם לְבִנְיָךָ  
וְדַבַּרְתָּ בָם בְּשַׁבְּתֶךָ בְּבֵיתֶךָ וּבְלֶכְתְּךָ בַדֶּרֶךְ וּבְשֹׁכְבְּךָ וּבְקוּמְךָ: וְקָשַׁרְתָּם לְאוֹת עַל-יָדֶיךָ וְהָיוּ  
לְטוֹטְפוֹת בֵּין עֵינֶיךָ: וְכָתַבְתָּם עַל-מְזוֹזוֹת בֵּיתֶךָ וּבְשַׁעְרֶיךָ:

**4. Hear, O Israel; The Eternal One is our God, the Eternal God is One.**

5. And you shall love the the Eternal One your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

6. And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart;

7. And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.

8. And you shall bind them for a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

9. And you shall write them upon the posts of your house, and on your gates.