

# The Land of Israel

By **G-d**

     **12 Ratings**

**G-d's Choice** *In Lands*

One land, chosen by G-d. Flowing with Milk and Honey.

## Top reviews from the Midbar



10 Spies

**You don't want this promise**

הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר עָבְרָנוּ בָּהּ לְתוֹר אֹתָהּ, אֶרֶץ אֹכֶלֶת יוֹשְׁבֶיהָ הִוא, וְכָל-הָעָם  
אֲשֶׁר-רָאִינוּ בְּתוֹכָהּ, אֲנָשִׁי מְדוּת

*The land, through which we have passed to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of stature.*

[Rate Translation](#)



Yohoshua

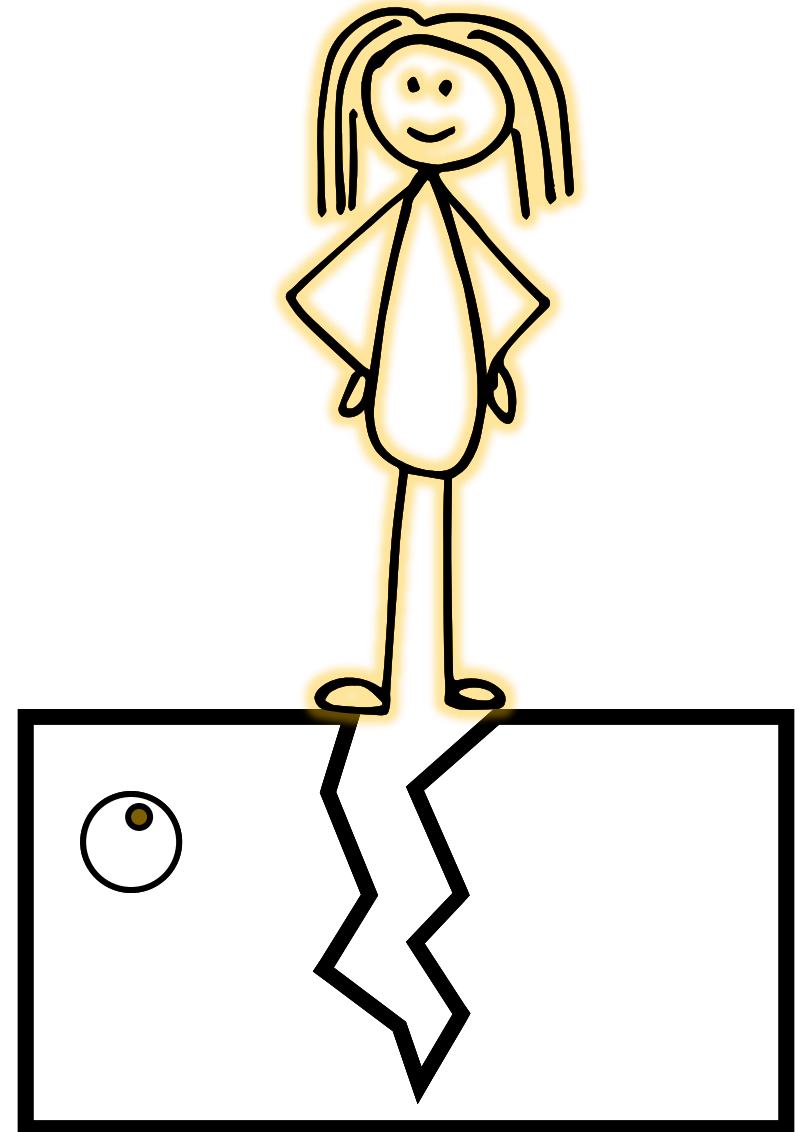


**It isn't that bad, really!**



Joseph Cox

**How can the land  
eat up its  
inhabitants *and* be  
a land in which the  
men have stature?**





**Joseph Cox**

**How is this report  
supposed to  
convince the  
people not to go up  
to the land?**





**Joseph Cox**

**Why do the other spies not want to go up to the land?**



# The Land is ALIVE! in the Torah

It sure seems to have a digestive tract!

Ex 1:7

וַתִּמְלֵא הָאֲרֶץ, אֹתָם

*The Land filled itself with them*

Lev 26:38

וַאֲבָדְתֶּם, בַּגּוֹיִם;  
וְאָכְלָה אֶתְכֶם, אֶרֶץ  
אֹיְבֵיכֶם

*And ye shall be lost among the  
nations, and the land of your  
enemies shall eat you up.*



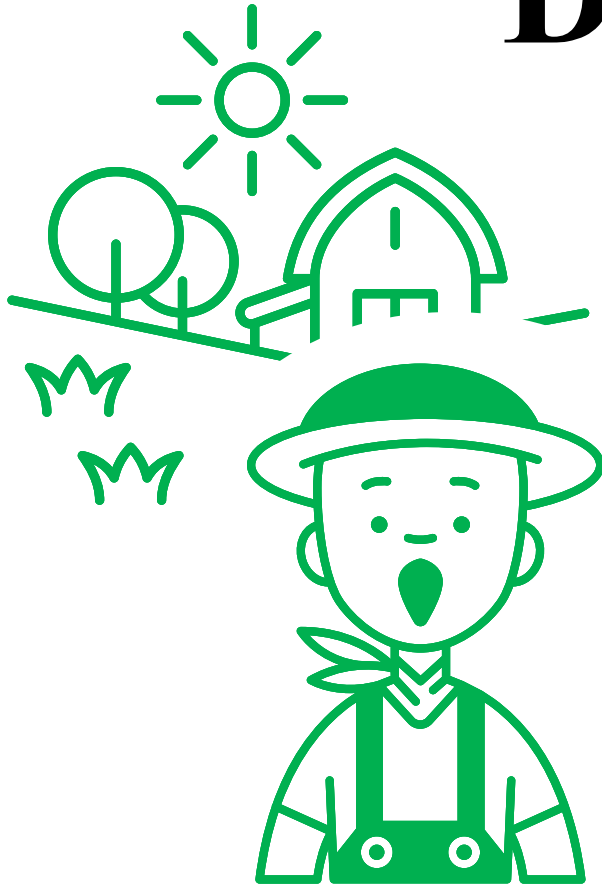
Lev 18:28

וְלֹא-תִקִּיָּא הָאֲרֶץ  
אֶתְכֶם, בְּטִמְאַתְכֶם  
אֹתָהּ, כַּאֲשֶׁר קָאָה  
אֶת-הַגּוֹי, אֲשֶׁר  
לִפְנֵיכֶם

*that the land vomit not you out  
also, when ye defile it, as it  
vomited out the nation that was  
before you.*

# Land (*Often*) Defines Peoples

And Cultures

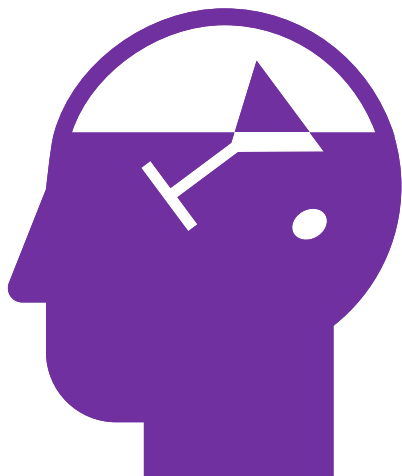


Lev 26:38

וְאֲבַדְתֶּם, בַּגּוֹיִם; וְאָכְלָה  
אֶתְכֶם, אֶרֶץ אֹיְבֵיכֶם

*And ye shall be lost among the nations, and  
the land of your enemies shall eat you up.*

# This land can do more!



Lev 17:11

כִּי נֶפֶשׁ הַבָּשָׂר, בַּדָּם הוּא

*For the life of the flesh is in the blood*

Dev 32:14

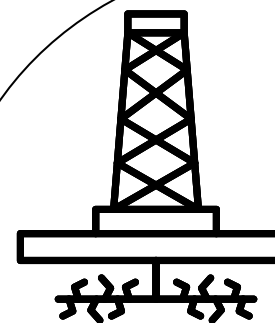
וְדָם - עֵנֶב, תִּשְׁתֶּה - חֶמֶר  
*and of the blood, you drank of the grape plaster.*

Num 13:23

וַיִּכְרְתוּ מִשָּׁם זִמּוּרָה וְאַשְׁכּוּל  
 עֲנָבִים אֶחָד, וַיִּשְׂאֶהוּ בַמּוֹט, בְּשָׁנִים  
*and cut down from there a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bore it upon a pole between two;*

**The people can lose their  
Nefesh to the land!**

Dev 32:13



וְשֶׁמֶן  
 מִחֶלְמִישׁ  
 צוֹר

*oil out of the  
flinty rock;*

Num 13:32

הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר עָבְרָנוּ בָּהּ לְתוֹר  
 אֶתָּהּ, אֶרֶץ אֹכֶלֶת יוֹשְׁבֶיהָ הִוא,  
 וְכָל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-רָאִינוּ בְּתוֹכָהּ,  
 אֲנָשִׁי מַדּוֹת

*The land, through which we have passed to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of stature.*



**Q1: A land *can* eat up its inhabitants *and* be a land in which the men have stature.**

**A: If the Land is great. The people are ‘borged’ by it. So they become great too!**



# What's the Problem?



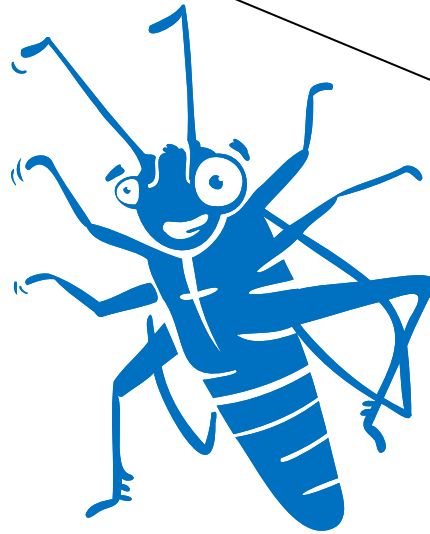
Num 13:33

וַנִּהְיֶה בְּעֵינֵינוּ כַּחֲגָבִים

*we were in our own sight as grasshoppers*

# Grasshopper Characteristics

✓ Oh, and Kinda Small!



Oh Great  
Grasshopper,  
how mighty is  
your will!



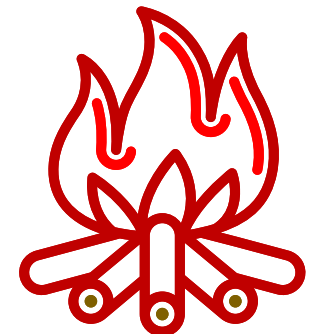
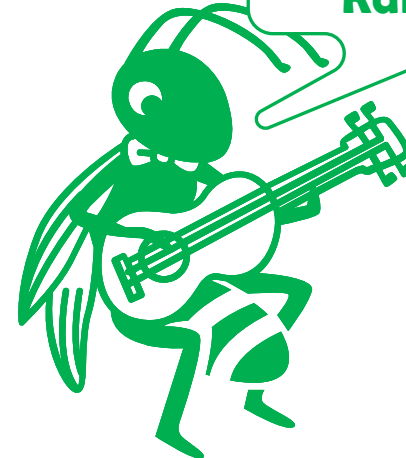
✓ Have jumping legs, representing will. This separating them from bugs that *only* act through reproductive collectives.

✓ Can become locusts and consume everything when they form mobs

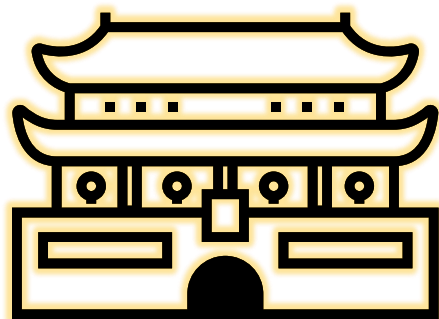
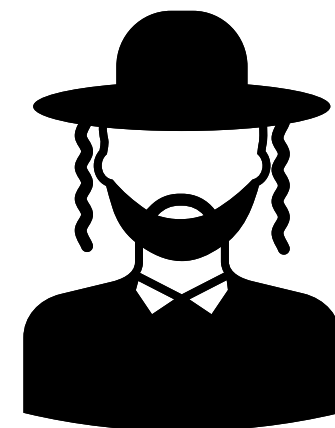
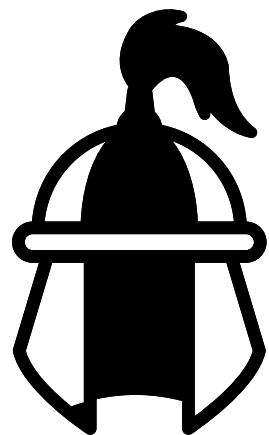


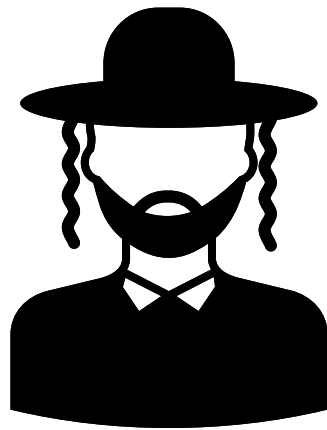
✓ Have no nest, home, or territory!

♪ Bug on the  
Range ♪

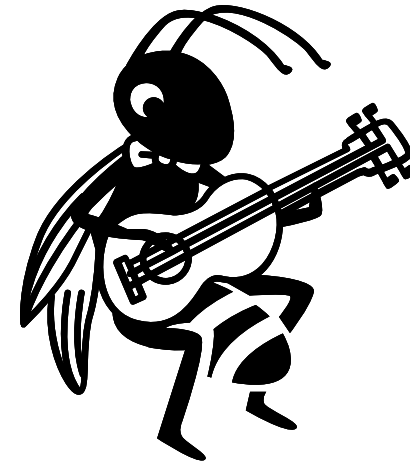


# Consumption by the Land





=



- ✓ Have jumping legs, representing will. This separating them from bugs that *only* act through reproductive collectives.

- ✓ Have no nest, home, or territory!

- ✓ Can become locusts and consume everything when they form mobs  
(a common antisemitic trope)

- ✓ Oh, and Kinda Small!

# A Perfect Lose-Lose Situation

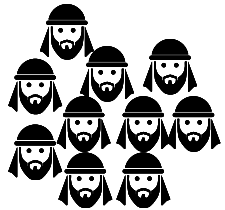
**We can win!**



Num 13:30

וַיַּחֲסֵם כָּלֵב אֶת-הָעָם, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה; וַיֹּאמֶר, עֲלֵה נָעֲלֶה וְנִרְשְׁנוּ אֹתָהּ--כִּי-יָכוֹל נוֹכַל, לָהּ.

*And Caleb stilled the people toward Moses, and said: 'We should go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.'*



**No we can't!**

Num 13:31

וְהָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר-עָלוּ עִמּוֹ, אָמְרוּ, לֹא נוֹכַל, לַעֲלֹת אֶל-הָעָם: כִּי-חָזָק הוּא, מִמֶּנּוּ.

*But the men that went up with him said: 'We are not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.'*

## And even if we win, the land will consume us!

Num 13:32

וַיַּצִּיאוּ דִבַּת הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר תָּרוּ אֹתָהּ, אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, לֵאמֹר: הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר עָבְרָנוּ בָּהּ לְתוֹר אֹתָהּ, אָרֶץ אֲכָלֶת יוֹשְׁבֶיהָ הוּא, וְכָל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-רָאִינוּ בְּתוֹכָהּ, אֲנָשִׁי מְדוֹת.

*And they spread an evil report of the land which they had spied out unto the children of Israel, saying: 'The land, through which we have passed to spy it out, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature.'*

# The people buy in totally

Dying in the wilderness is better than dying in trying to conquer the land

Num 14:3-4

*'Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore doth the LORD bring us unto this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will be ???...'*

לו-מִתְּנוּ בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, אוֹ  
בַּמִּדְבָּר הַזֶּה, לוֹ-מִתְּנוּ. וְלָמָּה  
יָקוּץ מִבִּיא אֶתְנוּ אֶל-הָאֶרֶץ הַזֹּאת,  
לִנְפֹל בַּחֶרֶב--נָשֵׁינוּ וְטַפֵּנוּ, יִהְיוּ לְבָז;



*And Judah said' :Let her take it, lest we be put to shame;*

Gen 38:23

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹדָה תִּקַּח-לָהּ, פֶּן נִהְיָה לְבָז; הִנֵּה שְׁלַחְתִּי הַגָּדִי הַזֶּה, וְאַתָּה לֹא מַעֲצָתָהּ.

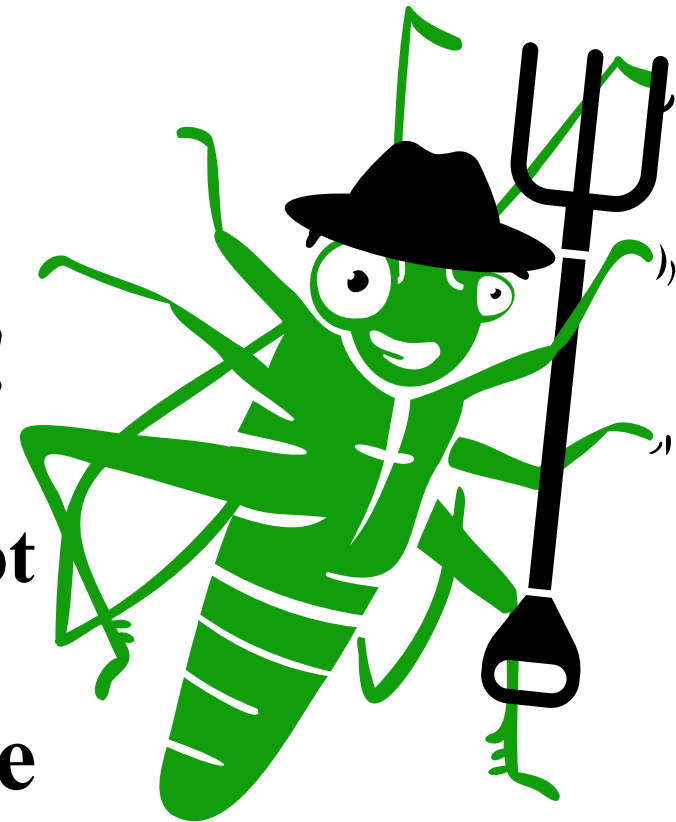
Dying in conquest will lead to **shame** – because the people are grasshoppers who tried to move beyond their proper station

✓ **Q2: How is this report supposed to convince the people not to go up to the land?**

**A: The people are afraid of losing who they really are – in fact, we always have been!**

✓ **Q3: Why do the other spies not want to go up to the land?**

**A: They are leaders in the desert. They are afraid of losing their position when the people change.**



Num 13:11

לַמִּטָּה יוֹסֵף, לַמִּטָּה  
מִנְשֵׁה—גַּדִּי, בֶּן—סוּסִי.

*Of the **tribe of Joseph**, namely, of the  
tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi*

**Only reference to the tribe of Yosef in the  
Torah – and Yohoshua is not connected to it.**

**Why?**



# Yosef was the perfect GrassFarmer<sup>17</sup>



**An outsider among the Egyptians**

**Yet, unrecognizable to his brothers**

**Even before they left, these spies  
could never have truly belonged!**

\* The mat'e of the '*children* of Yosef' is mentioned later. This is in a reference only to Menashe; half of whom made themselves outsiders by living across the Jordan. They made themselves outsiders, reinforcing the concept that Yosef never quite belonged.

# Some tried to conquer the land

Num 13:45

וַיֵּרֶד הָעַמְלִיקִי וְהַכְנַעֲנִי, הַיֹּשֵׁב בְּהַר הַחֹמָה; וַיַּכּוּם וַיַּכְתּוּם, עַד-הַחֹמָה

even unto  
Choremah  
[literally  
Cherem or  
Ostracism].

and smote them  
and beat them  
down

who *dwelt in that*  
*mountain [like Lot did]*

Then came down the  
Amalekite and the  
Canaanite

Num 13:32

אֶרֶץ אֹכֶלֶת יוֹשְׁבֶיהָ הִוא  
*a land that eats up its*  
*inhabitants*

Num 14:4

נָשִׁינוּ וְטַפֵּנוּ, יִהְיוּ לְבֹז

Our wives and our little ones will be  
*embarrassed*

But they did not belong and those  
'eaten by the land' destroyed (and  
embarrassed) them



**So do we  
belong or  
not?**

# A New Paradigm

Num 14:21

וַיִּמְלֵא כְבוֹד-יְקֹוֹק, אֶת-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ

*"All the earth shall be filled with the glory of Hashem."*

Num 14:9

אֶךְ בִּיהוָה, אֶל-תִּמְרְדוּ, וְאַתֶּם אֵל-תִּירְאוּ  
אֶת-עַם הָאָרֶץ, כִּי לַחֲמֵנוּ הֵם;

*Only rebel not against the LORD, neither fear ye the land-people;  
for they are bread for us;*

**The people will not be  
eaten by the land.**



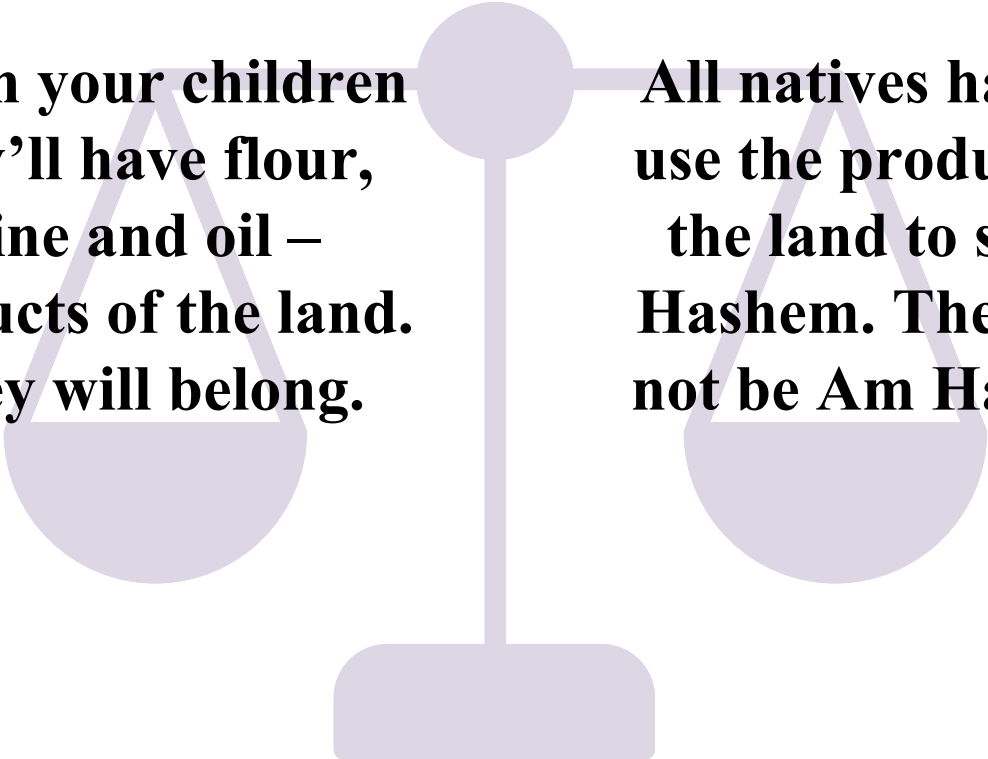
**The land will be a tool to serve the glory of Hashem.**

# **The Paradigm Expressed**

Num 15:2-13

כִּי תֵבֹאוּ, אֶל-אֶרֶץ מוֹשְׁבֵיכֶם ... הַקָּרִיב הַמִּקְרִיב  
 קֶרְבָּנוֹ, לִיקוֹן--מִנְחָה, סֵלֶת עֶשְׂרוֹן, בָּלוּל, בְּרִבְעִית הַהֵין  
 שֶׁמֶן. וַיֵּין לְנֶסֶךְ, שְׁלִשִּׁית הַהֵין ... כָּל-הָאֲזָרָח יַעֲשֶׂה-כָכָה,  
 אֶת-אֱלֹהֵי, לְהַקְרִיב אִשָּׁה רֵיחַ-נִיחֹחַ, לִיקוֹן

*When ye are come into the land of your habitations, which I give unto you... then shall he that bringeth his offering present unto the LORD a meal-offering of a tenth part of an ephah of **fine flour** mingled with the fourth part of a hin of **oil**; and for the drink-offering thou shalt present the third part of a hin of **wine**... All that are home-born shall do these things after this manner, in presenting an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.*



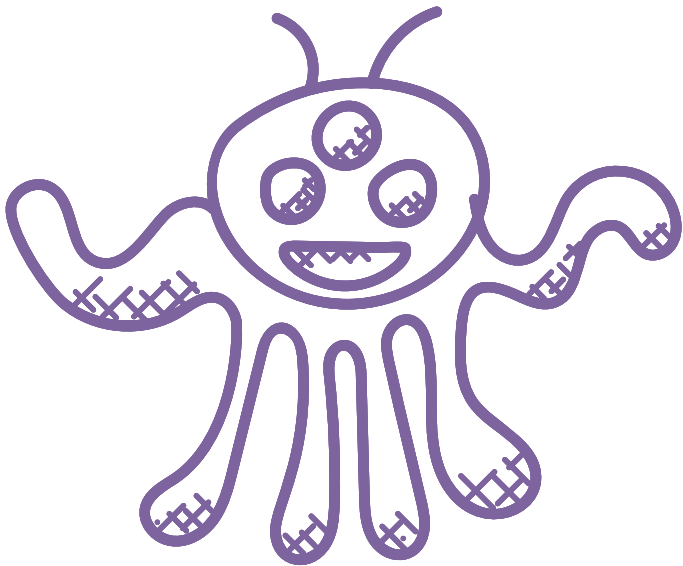
**Teach your children  
 they'll have flour,  
 wine and oil –  
 products of the land.  
 They will belong.**

**All natives have to  
 use the products of  
 the land to serve  
 Hashem. They will  
 not be Am Haaretz**

Num 15:16

תֹּרֶה אֶחָת וּמִשְׁפָּט אֶחָד,  
יְהִיָּה לָכֶם, וְלִגֵּר, הַגֵּר אֹתְכֶם.

*One law and one ordinance shall be both for you,  
and for the *alien* that sojourneth with you.*



**The relationship to Hashem is what matters.**

*Not* whether you are ‘of the land’

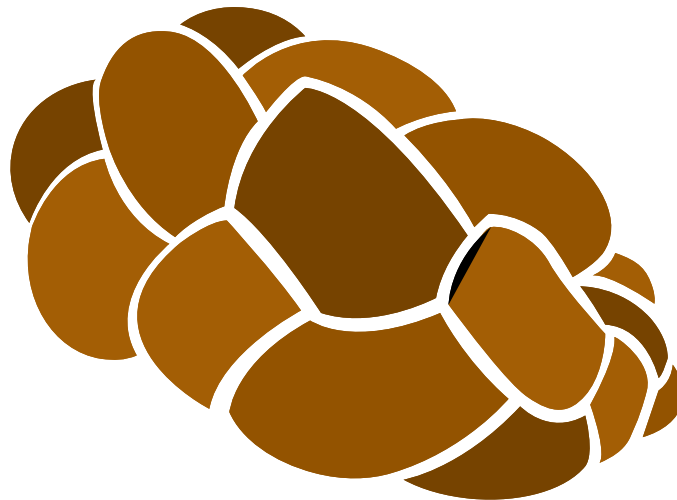
**You are not ‘Am Haaretz’,  
but Am Hashem in Eretz Hashem**

Num 15:17-18

*When ye come into the land  
whither I bring you, then it  
shall be, that, when ye eat of  
the bread of the land, ye shall  
set apart a portion for a gift  
unto the LORD.*

בְּבֹאֲכֶם, אֶל-הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר אָנִי  
מְבִיא אֲתֶכֶם, שָׁמָּה. וְהָיָה,  
בְּאֲכֹלְכֶם מִלֶּחֶם הָאָרֶץ--  
תִּרְיֹמוּ תְרוּמָה, לַיְקוֹן

**The Land is a tool for service.  
We remember it with every meal.**





# G-d's Justification for Condemning the People<sup>25</sup>

Num 15:22-28

וְכִי תִשְׁגּוּ--וְלֹא תַעֲשׂוּ, אֶת כָּל-הַמִּצְוֹת  
הָאֵלֹהִים... וְכִפֹּר הַכֹּהֵן, עַל-הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַשֹּׁגְגָה  
בַּחֲטָאָה בַּשִּׁגָּה--לִפְנֵי יְקֹוֹק: לְכַפֵּר עָלָיו,  
וְנִסְלַח לוֹ...

*And when ye shall **err**, and not observe all these  
commandments... And the priest shall make atonement for the  
soul that erreth, when he sinneth through error, before the  
LORD, to make atonement for him; and he shall be forgiven,*



Num 15:30

וְהַנֶּפֶשׁ אֲשֶׁר-תַּעֲשֶׂה בְיָד רְמָה, מִן-הָאֶזְרָח  
וּמִן-הַגֵּר--אֶת-יְקֹוֹק, הוּא מַגִּיד; וְנִכְרְתָה  
הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהִוא, מִקֶּרֶב עַמָּה

*But the soul that doeth aught with a **high hand**,  
whether he be home-born or a stranger, the same  
blasphemeth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut  
off from among his people.*



Num 14:4-10

וַיֹּאמְרוּ, אִישׁ אֶל-אָחִיו: נִתְּנָה רֹאשׁ,  
 וְנָשׁוּבָה מִצְרֵימָה... וַיֹּאמְרוּ, כָּל-הָעֵדָה,  
 לְרַגֹּם אֹתָם, בְּאֲבָנִים!

*And they said one to another: 'Let us make a captain,  
 and **let us return into Egypt.**' But all the congregation  
 bade **stone them with stones***



# A Case Study

Num 15:32

וַיְהִיו בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל, בַּמִּדְבָּר;  
וַיִּמְצְאוּ, אִישׁ מִקְשֵׁשׁ  
עֵצִים--בְּיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת

*And while the children of Israel were  
in the wilderness, they found a man gathering  
sticks upon the sabbath day.*

Ex 5:7

הֵם, יֵלְכוּ, וְקָשְׁשׁוּ  
לָהֶם, תֶּבֶן.

*Let them go and gather  
straw for themselves.*

**A symbolic expression of a desire to  
return to Egyptian slavery**

**Not an error – a real dafkanik**

*But points for creativity!*

# Bringing it all together!

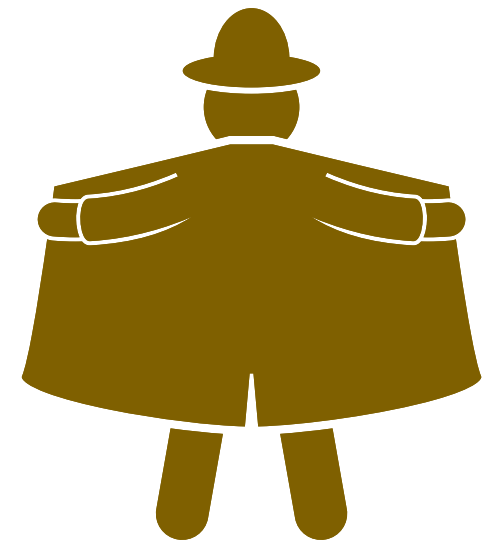
28

Num 15:38

וְנָתַנוּ עַל-צִיצֵת הַכֶּנֶף, פֶּתִיל תְּכֵלֶת

*they put with the fringe of each corner a thread of **tchelet**.*

**Tchelet** is the color of the sky  
+ Our continual **use of fabric**  
= A constant reminder that we  
are Am Hashem, not Am  
Haaretz (or grasshoppers)



Even he has clothes on!

# Bringing it all together!

29

Num 15:38

וְנָתַנוּ עַל-צִיצֵת הַכֹּפֶּה, פֶּתִיל תְּכֵלֶת

*they put with the **fringe** of each corner a thread of tchelet.*

Ex 28:36-38

וַעֲשֵׂיתָ צִיץ... וְהָיָה, עַל-  
מִצַּח אַהֲרֹן, וְנָשָׂא אַהֲרֹן אֶת-  
עֹן הַקִּדְּשִׁים

*And thou shalt make a **plate**... And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall **bear the spiritual burden of the holy things***

**We carry a spiritual burden. We can't reject the land or Hashem.**

Num 17:23

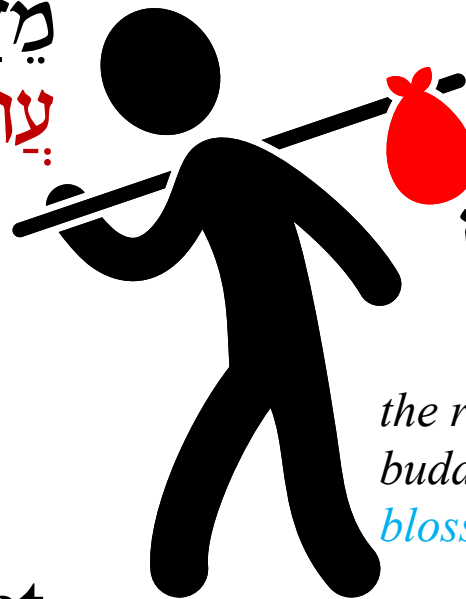
וְהָיָה פֶּרֶחַ מִטֶּה-אַהֲרֹן,  
לְבֵית לֵוִי; וַיֵּצֵא פֶּרֶחַ וַיֵּצֵן  
צִיץ, וַיִּגְמַל שְׁקָדִים

*the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and put forth buds, and bloomed **blossoms**, and bore ripe almonds.*

**The blossom is the first flowering of the future.**

**A future of divine representation\*.**

\*We'll get to this next week!



**If we have blossoms, then we are trees**  
**We are trees that bear spiritual fruit (techelet)**

**We are not planted in the soil.**  
**We are planted in the garden of Hashem**  
**(and sustained by His land)**

