



Con/Text: “The Citizen in a Democracy”

Micah Goodman

October 20, 2020

1.	Genesis 18:17–26	1
2.	Numbers 16:20–22	2
3.	Jeremiah 12:1	2
4.	Babylonian Talmud Sanhedrin 17a	2



**SHALOM HARTMAN מכון
INSTITUTE שלום הרטמן**

The Shalom Hartman Institute is a leading center of Jewish thought and education, serving Israel and North America. Our mission is to strengthen Jewish peoplehood, identity, and pluralism; to enhance the Jewish and democratic character of Israel; and to ensure that Judaism is a compelling force for good in the 21st century.

**Share what you're learning!
#civics2020**



@SHI_america



shalomhartmaninstitute



hartmaninstitute

475 Riverside Dr., Suite 1450
New York, NY 10115
212-268-0300

info@shalomhartman.org | shalomhartman.org

1. Genesis 18:17–26

יִזְ וַיְהִי־הָאָמֵר הַמְּכֻסָּה אֲנִי מֵאַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי עֹשֶׂה׃ יח וְאַבְרָהָם הָיָה לְגוֹי גָדוֹל וְעַצוּם וְנִבְרָכוּ בוֹ כָּל גּוֹיֵי הָאָרֶץ׃ יט כִּי יִדְעַתִּיו לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר יֵצֵא אֶת־בְּנָיו וְאֶת־בֵּיתוֹ אַחֲרָיו וְשָׁמְרוּ דְרָדְךָ׃ יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט לְמַעַן הִבִּיא יְהוָה עַל־אַבְרָהָם אֶת אֲשֶׁר־דִּבַּר עָלָיו׃ כ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה זַעֲקַת סְדֹם וְעִמְרָה כִּי־רָבָה וְחַטָּאתָם כִּי כָבְדָה מְאֹד׃ כא אֲרִדָּה־נָא וְאַרְאֶה הַכְּצַעֲקָתָהּ הַבָּאָה אֵלַי עָשׂוּ כָּלָה וְאִם־לֹא אֲדַעַה׃

כב וַיִּפְּנוּ מִשָּׁם הָאֲנָשִׁים וַיֵּלְכוּ סְדֹמָה וְאַבְרָהָם עֹדְנָו עֹלְמָד לִפְנֵי יְהוָה׃ כג וַיִּגַּשׁ אַבְרָהָם וַיֹּאמֶר הָאֵף תִּסְפָּה צְדִיק עִם־רָשָׁע׃ כד אוֹלֵי יֵשׁ חַמְשִׁים צְדִיקִים בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר הָאֵף תִּסְפָּה וְלֹא־תִשָּׂא לְמָקוֹם לְמַעַן חַמְשִׁים הַצְּדִיקִים אֲשֶׁר בְּקִרְבָּהּ׃ כה חֲלָלָה לָךְ מַעֲשֵׂת כַּדְּבַר הַזֶּה לְהַמִּית צְדִיק עִם־רָשָׁע וְהָיָה כַּצְּדִיק כְּרָשָׁע חֲלָלָה לָךְ הַשֹּׁפֵט כָּל־הָאָרֶץ לֹא יַעֲשֶׂה מִשְׁפָּט׃ כו וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אִם־אֶמְצָא בְּסֹדֶם חַמְשִׁים צְדִיקִים בְּתוֹךְ הָעִיר וְנִשְׂאתִי לְכָל־הַמָּקוֹם בְּעִבּוּרָם...

17 Now the Lord had said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, 18 since Abraham is to become a great and populous nation and all the nations of the earth are to bless themselves by him? 19 For I have singled him out, that he may instruct his children and his posterity to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is just and right, in order that the Lord may bring about for Abraham what He has promised him.” 20 Then the Lord said, “The outrage of Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave! 21 I will go down to see whether they have acted altogether according to the outcry that has reached Me; if not, I will take note.”

22 The men went on from there to Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. 23 Abraham came forward and said, “Will You sweep away the innocent along with the guilty? 24 What if there should be fifty innocent within the city; will You then wipe out the place and not forgive it for the sake of the innocent fifty who are in it? 25 Far be it from You to do such a thing, to bring death upon the innocent as well as the guilty, so that innocent and guilty fare alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?” 26 And the Lord answered, “If I find within the city of Sodom fifty innocent ones, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.”...

2. Numbers 16:20–22

כ וַיִּדְבֹר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל־אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר: כֹּא הִבְדַּלְתֶּם מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה הַזֹּאת וְאֶכְלָה אֹתָם כְּרָגַע: כב וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל אֱלֹהֵי הָרוּחַת לְכֹל־בָּשָׂר הָאִישׁ אֶחָד יִחַטָּא וְעַל כָּל־הָעֵדָה תִּקְצָף:

20 The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, **21** “Stand back from this community that I may annihilate them in an instant!” **22** But they fell on their faces and said, “O God, Source of the breath of all flesh! When one man sins, will You be wrathful with the whole community?”

3. Jeremiah 12:1

צָדִיק אַתָּה יְהוָה כִּי אָרִיב אֵלֶיךָ אֶף מְשֻׁפָּטִים אֲדַבֵּר אוֹתָךְ מִדוּעַ דָּרְךָ רְשָׁעִים צָלְחָה שְׁלוֹ כָּל־בְּגֵדֵי בָגָד:

You will win, O Lord, if I make claim against You, Yet I shall present charges against You: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are the workers of treachery at ease?

4. Babylonian Talmud Sanhedrin 17a

אמר רב יהודה אמר רב אין מושיבין בסנהדרין אלא מי שיודע לטהר את השרץ מן התורה

Rav Yehuda says that Rav says: They place on the Sanhedrin only one who knows how to render a carcass of a creeping animal pure by Torah law.

Listen to TWO great podcasts from the Shalom Hartman Institute



Every week Yehuda Kurtzer invites a different set of fascinating leaders to look behind the news, at the ideas that matter to the Jewish community.



In a new podcast from the iEngage Project, Donniel Hartman, Elana Stein Hain, and Yossi Klein Halevi elevate and illuminate the current debates in Israel and apply a Torah lens to their underlying themes.

Both podcasts available on all major platforms including
iTunes, Spotify, and Soundcloud

