



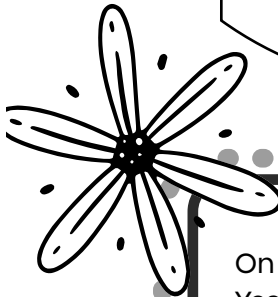
Od ha-Yom be-Nor



Haftarah for Eighth Day of Pesah

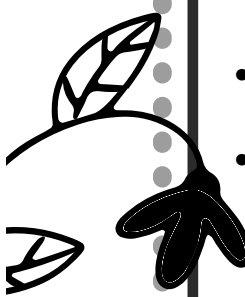


HADAR
Children & Families



On the eighth day of Pesah, we read the Haftarah from the book of Yeshayahu. In it, Yeshayahu the prophet describes a time in the future when life will be better for Benei Yisrael and for all people who live in the world.

Yeshayahu promises that these things will happen:

- There will be a new leader from the family of King David. This leader will have the spirit of God, and will judge all people fairly and with justice (Yeshayahu 11:1-2).
 - There won't be any jealousy within Benei Yisrael about the leader, and the rivalry that Efrayim and Yehudah used to have will no longer exist (11:13).
 - God will gather all of Benei Yisrael from the four corners of the earth and return them to Eretz Yisrael (11:12).
 - Animals will all live in peace with one another, even animals like the wolf and the lamb (11:6-8).
 - Benei Yisrael will thank God for comforting them and will praise God to all of the world (12:1-6).
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How is this connected to the eighth day of Pesah?

The Pesah story is about Benei Yisrael experiencing גְּאֻלָּה (ge'ulah, redemption). This means that God saves them and changes their reality to one that is much, much better. Though our ancestors experienced redemption when leaving מִצְרַיִם (Mitzrayim, Egypt), we live in a world where there is still slavery, jealousy, violence, and fear. Yeshayahu's prophecy promises an ultimate redemption sometime in the future, when all of these problems will be repaired and all creatures will live in peace with one another. (Some communities also read this Haftarah on Yom ha-Atzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day, because they understand that day to be a celebration of another kind of redemption.)

(check it out!

ישעיה יא:ו-ח Yeshayahu 11:6-8

וְגַר זֶאֵב עִם כֶּבֶשׂ
וְנָמֵר עִם גְּדִי יִרְבֹּץ
וְעֵגֶל וְכִפִּיר וּמְרִיא יַחְדָּו
וְנֶעֱר קָטָן נִהְגָּ בָם:
וּפָרָה וְדֹב תִרְעִינָה
יַחְדָּו יִרְבְּצוּ יִלְדֵיהֶן
וְאַרְיֵה כִבְקֹר יֹאכֵל תִּבְנָן:
וְשִׁעְשַׁע יוֹנֵק עַל חֹר פֶּתֶן
וְעַל מְאוֹרֵת צִפְעוֹנִי גִמּוּל
יְדוּ הֶדְהָ:

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the baby goat;
the calf, the young lion, and the fat sheep will be together,
with a little child to herd them.
The cow and the bear will graze,
their young will lie down together;
and the lion, like the ox, will eat straw.
A baby will play over a cobra's hole,
and an infant will pass their hand over
a poisonous snake's den.

Questions:

1. What do you notice? What are you wondering about?
2. What kinds of animals do these pesukim pair together? What's unusual about saying that these animals will be together? Why is this part of redemption?
3. Do you think Yeshayahu is describing something that literally will happen, or are the animals a metaphor that represents some bigger ideas? If they're a metaphor, what ideas do they represent? What does it mean that the lion will eat straw, like the ox? What is this saying about meat-eaters?
4. Where are children mentioned in these pesukim? What are their roles? Are these surprising activities for kids? Why or why not?
5. We don't yet live in a world of complete peace and harmony. Can you think of some things you can do to help make Yeshayahu's vision of redemption a reality?
 - Try playing with a friend who is different from you and getting to know them better. What holidays do they celebrate? Who is part of their family? Where does their family come from?
 - Practice listening to someone that has different opinions than you. What's it like to see the world from their perspective?