

Texts for Scriptural Reasoning

5. Land

The Scriptural Reasoning Society

Introduction

As citizens, we all share 'land' as a topographical reality. And given the scarcity of space for everyone to live and pursue their vision of the good life in the UK, this can be troublesome enough. 'Land', which for many of us translates probably best into square meters on the umpteenth floor of a building owned by someone else tellingly called a landlord, is all too often a mere commodity. How then can we hope to make London our 'home'?

Within the Abrahamic faiths, 'land' obviously has other connotations, and a relatively small stretch of land at the Eastern end of the Mediterranean is awash with claims and stakes that baffle onlookers and excite communities all over the world. While it is important to separate the question of the 'Holy Land' from our inter-community relations in the UK, it would be naïve to ignore it. To be sure, Scriptural Reasoning cannot heal rifts that are often too deep to fathom. But it is good that the laws of this land allow us meet and be different, and being accepting of difference is what SR is about. To be able to speak as friends about the open wounds of our communities is then a way of making the land right here under our feet, if I may use a rather hackneyed and trite interfaith term in its original meaning, our common ground.

Karsten van Sander

ויקרא ט:ט-יד

ט וּבִקְצֹרְכֶם אֶת-קְצִיר אֲרָצְכֶם, לֹא תִכְלֶה פֶּאת שְׂדֵךְ לַקָּצֵר; וְלִקְט קְצִירְךָ, לֹא תִלְקֹט.
י וְכִרְמֶךָ לֹא תַעֲזֹל, וּפְרֹט כִּרְמֶךָ לֹא תִלְקֹט: לְעֵנִי וְלִגְר תַּעֲזֹב אֹתָם, אֲנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם.
יא לֹא, תִגְנֹבוּ; וְלֹא-תִכְחָשׁוּ וְלֹא-תִשְׁקְרוּ, אִישׁ בְּעֵמִיתוֹ.
יב וְלֹא-תִשָּׁבְעוּ בְשֵׁמִי, לְשֹׁקֵר: וְחָלַלְתָּ אֶת-שֵׁם אֱלֹהֶיךָ, אֲנִי יְהוָה.
יג לֹא-תַעֲשֶׂק אֶת-רֵעֶךָ, וְלֹא תִגְזֹל; לֹא-תִלִּין פְּעֻלַּת שְׂכִיר, אִתְּךָ--עַד-בִּקְרָא.
יד לֹא-תִקְלַל חֵרֶשׁ--וְלִפְנֵי עֹר, לֹא תִתֵּן מִכְשָׁל; וְיִרְאֵת מֵאֱלֹהֶיךָ, אֲנִי יְהוָה.

Leviticus 19:9-14

9 “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest.
10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God.
11 Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another.
12 Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.
13 Do not defraud your neighbour or rob him. Do not hold back the wages of a hired man overnight.
14 Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the LORD.

דברים ל:א-י

א וְהָיָה כִּי-יָבֹאוּ עֲלֵיךָ כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה, הַבְּרָכָה וְהַקְּלָלָה, אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי, לְפָנֶיךָ; וְהִשְׁבַּתְתָּ, אֶל-לִבְבְּךָ, בְּכָל-הַגּוֹיִם, אֲשֶׁר הִדִּיחְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ שָׁמָּה.
ב וְשָׁבַת עַד-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, וְשָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹלוֹ, כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר-אָנֹכִי מְצַוְךָ, הַיּוֹם: אֹתָהּ וּבְנֶיךָ, בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ.
ג וְשָׁב יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶת-שְׁבוּתְךָ, וְרַחֲמֶךָ; וְשָׁב, וְקִבְּצְךָ מִכָּל-הָעַמִּים, אֲשֶׁר הִפִּיעְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, שָׁמָּה.
ד אִם-יִהְיֶה נִדְחֶךָ, בְּקִצְהַ שְׁמַיִם--מִשָּׁם, יִקְבְּצֶךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, וּמִשָּׁם, יִקְחֶךָ.
ה וְהִבִּיאֶךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-יִרְשׁוּ אֲבֹתֶיךָ--וְיִרְשָׁתָהּ; וְהִיטַבְּךָ וְהִרְבֶּךָ, מֵאֲבֹתֶיךָ.
ו וּמַל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶת-לִבְבְּךָ, וְאֶת-לִבְבֵי זֵרְעֶךָ: לֹא-תִהְיֶה אֶת-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ--לְמַעַן חַיֶּיךָ.
ז וְנָתַן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, אֶת כָּל-הָאֱלוֹת הָאֵלֶּה, עַל-אֵיבֶיךָ וְעַל-שֹׂנְאֶיךָ, אֲשֶׁר רָדְפוּךָ.
ח וְאֹתָהּ תִּשׁוּב, וְשָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹל יְהוָה; וְעָשִׂיתָ, אֶת-כָּל-מִצְוֹתָיו, אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְךָ, הַיּוֹם.
ט וְהוֹתִירְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂה יָדְךָ, בְּפָרִי בָטָן וּבְפָרִי בְּהִמָּתֶךָ וּבְפָרִי אֲדָמָתְךָ--לְטָבָה: כִּי יֵשׁוּב יְהוָה, לְשׁוּשׁ עֲלֵיךָ לְטוֹב, כַּאֲשֶׁר-שָׁשׂ, עַל-אֲבֹתֶיךָ.
י כִּי תִשְׁמַע, בְּקוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, לְשָׁמֵר מִצְוֹתָיו וְחֻקֹּתָיו, הַכְּתוּבָה בְּסֵפֶר הַתּוֹרָה הַזֶּה: כִּי תִשׁוּב אֶל-יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ, בְּכָל-לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל-נַפְשְׁךָ. { ס }

Deuteronomy 30:1-10

1 When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come upon you and you take them to heart wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations,

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- 2 and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today,
- 3 then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.
- 4 Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back.
- 5 He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.
- 6 The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.
- 7 The LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies who hate and persecute you.
- 8 You will again obey the LORD and follow all his commands I am giving you today.
- 9 Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your fathers,
- 10 if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

תהלים כד

- א לָדוֹד, מִזְמוֹר :
לִיהוָה, הָאֶרֶץ וּמְלוֹאָהָ ; תִּבְלֵ, וַיִּשְׁבֵי בָּהּ .
- ב כִּי-הוּא, עַל-גַּמִּים יִסְדָּהָ ; וְעַל-נְהַרֹת, יִכּוֹנְנָהּ .
- ג מִי-יַעֲלֶה בְּהַר-יְהוָה ; וּמִי-יִקּוֹם, בְּמִקּוֹם קִדְשׁוֹ .
- ד נִקְי כַּפַּיִם, וּבֵר-לֵבָב :
אֲשֶׁר לֹא-נִשְׂא לִשְׂוֹא נַפְשִׁי ; וְלֹא נִשְׁבַּע לְמַרְמָה .
- ה יִשָּׂא בְרָכָה, מֵאֵת יְהוָה ; וּצְדָקָה, מֵאֱלֹהֵי יִשְׁעוֹ .
- ו זֶה, דוֹר דָּרָשׁוֹ ; מִבְּקִשֵׁי פְּנֵיךְ יַעֲקֹב סָלָה .
- ז שְׂאוּ שְׁעָרִים, רְאשֵׁיכֶם, וְהַנְּשֹׂאוּ, פִּתְחֵי עוֹלָם ;
וַיְבֹאוּ, מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד .
- ח מִי זֶה, מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד :
יְהוָה, עֲזוּז וְגִבּוֹר ; יְהוָה, גִּבּוֹר מִלְחָמָה .
- ט שְׂאוּ שְׁעָרִים, רְאשֵׁיכֶם, וַיְבֹאוּ, פִּתְחֵי עוֹלָם ;
וַיְבֹאוּ, מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד .
- י מִי הוּא זֶה, מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד :
יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת -- הוּא מֶלֶךְ הַכְּבוֹד סָלָה .

Psalm 24

- 1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
 - 2 for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.
 - 3 Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?
 - 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.
 - 5 He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Saviour.
 - 6 Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
- Selah*

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7 Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

10 Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty — he is the King of glory. *Selah*

Κατα Ματθαιον 28:16-20

16 Οἱ δὲ ἑνδεκα μαθηταὶ ἐπορεύθησαν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν εἰς τὸ ὄρος οὗ ἐτάξατο αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς,

17 καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν προσεκύνησαν, οἱ δὲ ἐδίστασαν.

18 καὶ προσελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐλάλησεν αὐτοῖς λέγων, Ἐδόθη μοι πᾶσα ἐξουσία ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ [τῆς] γῆς.

19 πορευθέντες οὖν μαθητεύσατε πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, βαπτίζοντες αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος,

20 διδάσκοντες αὐτοὺς τηρεῖν πάντα ὅσα ἐνετειλάμην ὑμῖν: καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ μεθ' ὑμῶν εἰμι πάσας τὰς ἡμέρας ἕως τῆς συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος.

Matthew 28:16-20

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

سورة النمل ٦١

أَمَّنْ جَعَلَ الْأَرْضَ قَرَارًا وَجَعَلَ خِلَالَهَا أَنْهَارًا وَجَعَلَ لَهَا رَوَاسِيًا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ حَاجِزًا
أَلَيْهَ مَعَ اللَّهِ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ٦١

Quran 27:61

61 Or, Who has made the earth firm to live in; made rivers in its midst; set thereon mountains immovable; and made a separating bar between the two bodies of flowing water? (can there be another) god besides Allah. Nay, most of them know not.

سورة الزمر ٥

خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ يُكَوِّرُ اللَّيْلَ عَلَى النَّهَارِ وَيُكَوِّرُ النَّهَارَ عَلَى اللَّيْلِ وَسَخَّرَ
الشَّمْسَ وَالْقَمَرَ كُلٌّ يَجْرِي لِأَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى أَلَا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفَّارُ ٥

Quran 39:5

5 He created the heavens and the earth in true (proportions): He makes the Night overlap the Day, and the Day overlap the Night: He has subjected the sun and the moon (to His law): Each one follows a course for a time appointed. Is not He the Exalted in Power - He Who forgives again and again?

سورة الإسراء ١-٨

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا
حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ ١
وَآتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلْنَاهُ هُدًى لِّبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَلَّا يَتَّخِذُوا مِن دُونِي وَكِيلًا ٢
ذُرِّيَّةً مِّنْ حَمَلْنَا مَعَ نُوحٍ إِنَّهُ كَانَ عَبْدًا شَكُورًا ٣
وَقَضَيْنَا إِلَى بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ فِي الْكِتَابِ لَتُفْسِدُنَّ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَّتَيْنِ وَلَتَعْلُنَّ عُلُوًّا كَبِيرًا ٤
فَإِذَا جَاء وَعْدُ أُولَاهُمَا بَعَثْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ عِبَادًا لَّنَا أُولِي بَأْسٍ شَدِيدٍ فَجَاسُوا خِلَالَ الدِّيَارِ وَكَانَ
وَعْدًا مَّفْعُولًا ٥

ثُمَّ رَدَدْنَا لَكُمُ الْكَرَّةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَمْدَدْنَاكُمْ بِأَمْوَالٍ وَبَنِينَ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ أَكْثَرَ نَفِيرًا ٦
إِنَّ أَحْسَنَكُمْ أَحْسَنْتُمْ لِأَنْفُسِكُمْ وَإِنْ أَسَأْتُمْ فَلَهَا فَإِذَا جَاء وَعْدُ الْآخِرَةِ لِيَسُوءُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ
وَلِيَدْخُلُوا الْمَسْجِدَ كَمَا دَخَلُوهُ أَوَّلَ مَرَّةٍ وَلِيُتَبِّرُوا مَا عَلَوْا تَتْبِيرًا ٧
عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَنْ يَرْحَمَكُمُ وَإِنْ عُدتُّمْ عُدْنَا وَجَعَلْنَا جَهَنَّمَ لِلْكَافِرِينَ حَصِيرًا ٨

Quran 17:1-8

1 Glory to ((Allah)) Who did take His servant for a Journey by night from the Sacred Mosque to the farthest Mosque, whose precincts We did bless,- in order that We might show him some of Our Signs: for He is the One Who heareth and seeth (all things).

2 We gave Moses the Book, and made it a Guide to the Children of Israel, (commanding): "Take not other than Me as Disposer of (your) affairs."

3 O ye that are sprung from those whom We carried (in the Ark) with Noah! Verily he was a devotee most grateful.

4 And We gave (Clear) Warning to the Children of Israel in the Book, that twice would they do mischief on the earth and be elated with mighty arrogance (and twice would they be punished)!

5 When the first of the warnings came to pass, We sent against you Our servants given to terrible warfare: They entered the very inmost parts of your homes; and it was a warning (completely) fulfilled.

6 Then did We grant you the Return as against them: We gave you increase in resources and sons, and made you the more numerous in man-power.

7 If ye did well, ye did well for yourselves; if ye did evil, (ye did it) against yourselves. So when the second of the warnings came to pass, (We permitted your enemies) to disfigure your faces, and to enter your Temple as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power.

8 It may be that your Lord may (yet) show Mercy unto you; but if ye revert (to your sins), We shall revert (to Our punishments): And we have made Hell a prison for those who reject (all Faith).