

Deuteronomy 29:10–30:20

Nitzavim | נִצְבִים

“ones standing”

This life is short. It goes by much more quickly than you might think. One minute you're in the wilderness—and it feels like it's taking forever—the next minute you're about to enter the Land. Are you ready? Have you used your time wisely? Have you turned back to God? In this portion, read just before Rosh Hashanah, the Torah introduces us to meaning of teshuva (30:1-10). One way to understand the concept of sin is that it is an act done in the wrong place. When we sin we cross a boundary, enter a forbidden territory, disturbing the moral order of creation. So, in teshuva, we are turning back to our true home, to the right place, and back to God.

Community Questions:

1. With whom did God make the covenant described in chapter 29?
2. How does the Torah define “choose life” (30:15-20)?
3. What does “sweeping away the overflowing with the thirsty” mean? (29:19)
4. Deut 29:29 mentions the “hidden” and “revealed” things. Where in Daniel are the same two words used?
5. When you have wondered into a forbidden territory—and we all have—how have you experienced God calling, “Where are you?”
6. How has your understanding of teshuva matured over the years?
7. What kinds of “forbidden territories” are you in right now?
8. What would it look like to leave that place and come home to God?

Additional
Resources:

BT:
2019

Rabbi
Jonathan
Sacks

Aleph-
Beta

Torah
Today

