



HIS-STORY
Ki Tavo - 2012

Devarim 26:1-4

When you come to the land that G-d your L-rd is giving you as a heritage, occupying it and settling it, you shall take the first of every fruit of the ground produced by the land that G-d your L-rd is giving you. You must place it in a basket, and go to the site that G-d will choose as the place associated with His name. There you shall go to the priest officiating at the time, and say to him, "Today I am affirming to G-d your L-rd that I have come to the land that G-d swore to our fathers to give us." The priest shall take the basket from your hand and place it before the altar of G-d your L-rd.

וְהָיָה, כִּי-תָבוֹא אֶל-הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ, נֹתֵן לְךָ נַחֲלָה; וִירָשְׁתָּהּ, וַיִּשְׁבֶּתָּ בָּהּ. וְלָקַחְתָּ מֵרֵאשִׁית כָּל-פְּרֵי הָאֲדָמָה, אֲשֶׁר תִּבְרֵא מֵאֲרָצְךָ אֲשֶׁר ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ נֹתֵן לְךָ--וּשְׂמַתָּ בַטֵּנָא; וְהִלַּכְתָּ, אֶל-הַמְּקוֹם, אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ, לְשֵׁכֶן שְׁמוֹ שָׁם. וּבָאתָ, אֶל-הַכֹּהֵן, אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה, בַּיָּמִים הֵהָם; וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו, הִגְדַּתִּי הַיּוֹם לַה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ, כִּי-בָאתִי אֶל-הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע ה' לְאֲבֹתַי לָתֵת לָנוּ. וְלָקַח הַכֹּהֵן הַטֵּנָא, מִיָּדְךָ; וְהִנִּיחוּ--לִפְנֵי, מִזְבֵּחַ ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ.

Devarim 26:3

There you shall go to the priest officiating at the time, and say to him, "Today I am affirming to G-d your L-rd that I have come to the land that G-d swore to our fathers to give us."

וּבָאתָ, אֶל-הַכֹּהֵן, אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה, בַּיָּמִים הֵהָם; וְאָמַרְתָּ אֵלָיו, הִגְדַּתִּי הַיּוֹם לַה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ, כִּי-בָאתִי אֶל-הָאָרֶץ, אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע ה' לְאֲבֹתַי לָתֵת לָנוּ.

What is strange about the above verse?
Read the sources below and make a list of different tensions in the understanding of the above text.

Septuagint Devarim 26:3

There you shall go to the priest officiating at the time, and say to him, "Today I am affirming to G-d my L-rd that I have come to the land that G-d swore to our fathers to give us."

Sforno 26:3

It is proper to speak to him [the priest] with deference since when you bring the first fruits to him, it is as though you are offering a gift to G-d, the Exalted One, Who is the owner of the land.

בהיותך מביא אליו את הבכורים כמביא דורון לאל יתעלה שהוא בעל הקרקע ראוי שתדבר עמו בזה דרך כבוד

Hirsch Devarim 26:3

My field and farmland are upon the soil of your G-d. They are mine solely by virtue of the fact that I am a son of His covenant, and it is in witness of this fact that I have brought these fruits here.



Bikurim 1:4

The convert brings [the first fruits] but does not read [the affirmation] since the convert cannot say "that G-d swore to our fathers to give us."	הגר מביא ואינו קורא, שאינו יכול לומר "אשר נשבע ה' לאבותינו לתת לנו"
--	---

Breishit 17:5

No longer shall you be called Abram. Your name shall become Abraham for I have set you up as the father of a horde of nations.	וְלֹא-יִקְרָא עוֹד אֶת-שְׁמֶךָ, אַבְרָם; וְהָיָה שְׁמֶךָ אַבְרָהָם, כִּי אֲבִי-הַמּוֹן גּוֹיִם נִתְּתִיךָ
--	---

Jerusalem Talmud Bikurim 1:4

We learn in the name of R. Yehuda that a convert brings [the first fruits] himself and reads [the affirmation]. What is the reason? "For I have set you up as the father of a horde of nations." Previously you were father to a person. From now on you are father of all the nations. R. Yehoshua Ben-Levi says that the law is according to R. Yehuda.	תני בשם רבי יהודה גר עצמו מביא וקורא מה טעם כי אבי המון גוים נתתיך. לשעבר היית אב לאדם ועכשיו מכאן ואילך אתה אב לכל הגוים. רבי יהושע בן לוי אמר הלכה כרבי יהודה.
---	--

Devarim 17:9

You must approach the levitical priest or the magistrate in charge at the time. When you make inquiry, they will declare to you a legal decision.	וּבָאתָ, אֶל-הַכֹּהֲנִים הַלְוִיִּם, וְאֶל-הַשֹּׁפֵט, אֲשֶׁר יְהִיָּה בַיָּמִים הֵהָם; וְדִרְשָׁתָּ וְהִגִּידוּ לְךָ, אֵת דְּבַר הַמִּשְׁפָּט.
---	--

Rosh Hashana 25b

Can we then imagine that a man should go to a judge who is not in his days? This shows that you must be content to go to the judge who is in your days. It also says; Say not, How was it that the former days were better than these.	ואומר ובאת אל הכהנים הלויים ואל השופט אשר יהיה בימים ההם וכי תעלה על דעתך שאדם הולך אצל הדיין שלא היה בימיו הא אין לך לילך אלא אצל שופט שבימיו ואומר אל תאמר מה היה שהימים הראשונים היו טובים מאלה
--	--

Devarim 26:5

My ancestor was a homeless Aramean.	אֲרָמִי אֲבִד אָבִי
-------------------------------------	---------------------

Devarim 26:10

I am now bringing the first fruit of the land that G-d has given me.	וְעַתָּה, הִנֵּה הֵבֵאתִי אֶת-רֵאשִׁית פְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה, אֲשֶׁר-נָתַתָּה לִי, ה'
--	--