

Weekly Torah Gatherings - Week of 4/21

"What's past is prologue" is a quotation by William Shakespeare from his play The Tempest. The phrase was originally used in The Tempest, Act 2, Scene I. Antonio uses it to suggest that all that has happened before that time, the "past", has led Sebastian and himself to this opportunity to do what they are about to do: commit murder, or make another choice.

The phrase was originally used in The Tempest, Act 2, Scene I. Antonio uses it to suggest that all that has happened before that time, the "past," has led Sebastian and himself to this opportunity to do what they are about to do: commit murder. In the context of the preceding and next lines, "(And by that destiny) to perform an act, Whereof what's past is prologue; what to come, In yours and my discharge," Antonio is in essence rationalising to Sebastian and the audience that he and Sebastian are fated to act by all that has led up to that moment, the past has set the stage for their next act, as a prologue does in a play. It can also be taken to mean that everything up until now has merely set the stage for Antonio and Sebastian to make their own destinies.

Ecclesiastes 1:5-9

ה וְזָרַח הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ, וּבָא הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ; וְאֵל-מְקוֹמוֹ--שׁוֹאֵף זֹרֵחַ הוּא, שָׁם.	5 The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he ariseth.
ו הוֹלֵךְ, אֶל-דָּרוֹם, וְסוֹבֵב, אֶל-צָפוֹן; סוֹבֵב סָבִב הוֹלֵךְ הַרוּחַ, וְעַל-סְבִיבֹתָיו שָׁב הַרוּחַ.	6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it turneth about continually in its circuit, and the wind returneth again to its circuits.
ז כָּל-הַנְּחָלִים הֹלְכִים אֶל-הַיָּם, וְהַיָּם אֵינָנוּ מְלֵא; אֶל-מְקוֹם, שֶׁהַנְּחָלִים הֹלְכִים--שָׁם הֵם שׁוֹבִים, לָלֶכֶת.	7 All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; unto the place whither the rivers go, thither they go again.
ח כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים יִגְעִים, לֹא-יֹכֵל אִישׁ לְדַבֵּר; לֹא-תִשְׁבַּע עֵין לִרְאוֹת, וְלֹא-תִמְלֵא אָזן מִשְׁמַע.	8 All things toil to weariness; man cannot utter it, the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.
ט מִה-שֶׁהָיָה, הוּא שֶׁיְהִיָּה, וּמִה-שֶׁנַּעֲשָׂה, הוּא שֶׁיַּעֲשֶׂה; וְאֵין כָּל-חֲדָשׁ, תַּחַת הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ.	9 That which hath been is that which shall be, and that which hath been done is that which shall be done; and there is nothing new under the sun.

Numbers Chapter 9 **בְּמִדְבַּר**
Second Chances -- are they even possible?

<p>א וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַּר-סִינַי בַּשָּׁנָה הַשְּׁנִיָּת לְצֵאתָם מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם, בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן-- לֵאמֹר.</p>	<p>1 And the LORD spoke unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt, saying:</p>
<p>ב וַיַּעֲשׂוּ בְנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-הַפֶּסַח, בְּמוֹעֲדוֹ.</p>	<p>2 'Let the children of Israel keep the passover in its appointed season.</p>
<p>ג בַּאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר-יוֹם בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַזֶּה בֵּין הָעֶרְבִים, תַּעֲשׂוּ אֹתוֹ--בְּמוֹעֲדוֹ; כְּכֹל-חֻקֹּתָיו וְכָכֹל-מִשְׁפָּטָיו, תַּעֲשׂוּ אֹתוֹ.</p>	<p>3 In the fourteenth day of this month, at dusk, ye shall keep it in its appointed season; according to all the statutes of it, and according to all the ordinances thereof, shall ye keep it.'</p>
<p>ד וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, לַעֲשׂוֹת הַפֶּסַח.</p>	<p>4 And Moses spoke unto the children of Israel, that they should keep the passover.</p>
<p>ה וַיַּעֲשׂוּ אֶת-הַפֶּסַח בְּרִאשׁוֹן בַּאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר יוֹם לַחֹדֶשׁ, בֵּין הָעֶרְבִים--בְּמִדְבַּר סִינַי: כָּכֹל אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה, אֶת-מֹשֶׁה--כִּן עָשׂוּ, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.</p>	<p>5 And they kept the passover in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at dusk, in the wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel.</p>
<p>ו וַיְהִי אֲנָשִׁים, אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ טְמֵאִים לְנֶפֶשׁ אָדָם, וְלֹא-יָכְלוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת הַפֶּסַח, בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא; וַיִּקְרְבוּ לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה, וּלְפְנֵי אַהֲרֹן--בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא.</p>	<p>6 But there were certain men, who were unclean by the dead body of a man, so that they could not keep the passover on that day; and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day.</p>
<p>ז וַיֹּאמְרוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים הַהֵמָּה, אֵלָיו, אֲנַחְנוּ טְמֵאִים, לְנֶפֶשׁ אָדָם; לָמָּה נִגְרַע, לְבַלְתִּי הַקְרִיב אֶת-קֹרְבָנוּ יְהוָה בְּמוֹעֲדוֹ, בְּתוֹךְ, בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.</p>	<p>7 And those men said unto him: 'We are unclean by the dead body of a man; wherefore are we to be kept back, so as not to bring the offering of the LORD in its appointed season among the children of Israel?'</p>
<p>ח וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם, מֹשֶׁה: עֲמְדוּ וְאִשְׁמַעְהָ, מֵה-יִצְוָה יְהוָה לָכֶם. {פ}</p>	<p>8 And Moses said unto them: 'Stay ye, that I may hear what the LORD will command concerning you.' {P}</p>
<p>ט וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה, אֶל-מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר.</p>	<p>9 And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying:</p>
<p>י דַּבֵּר אֶל-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, לֵאמֹר: אִישׁ אִישׁ כִּי-יְהִיֶּה טְמֵא לְנֶפֶשׁ אוֹ בְּדֶרֶךְ רַחֲקָה לָכֶם, אוֹ לְדֶרֶתֵיכֶם, וְעָשָׂה פֶסַח, לִיהוָה.</p>	<p>10 'Speak unto the children of Israel, saying: If any man of you or of your generations shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or be in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD;</p>
<p>יא בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁנִי בַּאַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר יוֹם, בֵּין הָעֶרְבִים-- יַעֲשׂוּ אֹתוֹ: עַל-מִצּוֹת וּמִרְרִים, יֹאכְלֵהוּ.</p>	<p>11 in the second month on the fourteenth day at dusk they shall keep it; they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs;</p>

<p>יב לא־ישאִירוּ מִמֶּנּוּ עַד־בֶּקֶר, וְעֶצֶם לֹא יִשְׁבְּרוּ־בוֹ; כָּכֹל־חֻקַּת הַפֶּסַח, יַעֲשׂוּ אֹתוֹ.</p>	<p>12 they shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break a bone thereof; according to all the statute of the passover they shall keep it.</p>
<p>יג וְהָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־הוּא טָהוֹר וּבִדְרֹךְ לֹא־הָיָה, וְחָדַל לַעֲשׂוֹת הַפֶּסַח--וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהוּא, מֵעַמִּיהָ: כִּי קָרְבַּן יְהוָה, לֹא הִקְרִיב בְּמַעַדוֹ--חֲטָאוּ יִשְׂא, הָאִישׁ הַהוּא.</p>	<p>13 But the man that is clean, and is not on a journey, and forbeareth to keep the passover, that soul shall be cut off from his people; because he brought not the offering of the LORD in its appointed season, that man shall bear his sin.</p>