

FOUR MODES OF RELATION BETWEEN MAN AND GOD

I. GOD AS CONTRACTUALLY INDEBTED TOWARDS ISRAEL

A. DEUTERONOMY 7:12-7:15

① 12. Wherefore shall it come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the Lord thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy father; 13. And he shall love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee. 14. Thou shalt be blessed above all peoples: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle; 15. And the lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.

B. DEUTERONOMY 8:18-8:20

② 18. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day; 19. And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish; 20. As the nations which the Lord destroyeth before your face, so ye shall perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord your God.

C. DEUTERONOMY 9:5-9:6

③ 5. Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the Lord sware unto thy fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; 6. Understand therefore, that the Lord thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou art a stiff-necked people

II. GOD AS DOMINEERING PARENT

A. DEUTERONOMY 8:2 - 8:5

④ 2. And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.; 3. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live; 4. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years; 5. Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee.

5 **B. DEUTERONOMY 1:31** "The Lord thy God bore you as a man bears his son."

6 **COMPARE:** "When are you His children ? When you obey him." Abba Ben Kahana. *Tanhuma, Ekev.*

7 **CONTRAST:** "When a father complains that his son has taken to the evil path, what should he do ? Love him more than ever." Proverb ascribed to the Baal Shem Tov

III. GOD AS ALTRUISTIC FACILITATOR/MODEL FOR ISRAEL'S SELF-ACTUALIZATION

A. DEUTERONOMY 10:12 - 10:19

8 12. And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul; 13. To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good ?; 14. Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.; 15. Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people as it is this day; 16. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked; 17. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, not taketh reward; 18 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment; 19. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

9 **COMPARE: MICAH 6:6-6:8**

6. Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God ? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old ?; 7. Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil ? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul ?; 8. He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.

ISAIAH 1:11-1:18

10 11. To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me ? Saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats; 12. When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts ? ; 13. Bring no more vain oblations; incense of abomination they are unto me; new moons and sabbaths proclaim no more to be holy convocations; I cannot bear iniquity and solemn meeting; 14. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to hear them; 15. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you; yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood; 16. Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine