

# THE WEXNER FOUNDATION

## REFLECT, RENEW, REBOOT NOURISHED BY TORAH

September 4, 2020 | Dr. Mijal Bitton

### Deuteronomy 27, 9-13

וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה וְהַכֹּהֲנִים הַלְוִיִּים אֶל כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר הַסְכֵּת וּשְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה נִהְיִיתָ לְעַם לַה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ: וְשָׁמַעְתָּ בְּקוֹל ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ וַעֲשִׂיתָ אֶת־מִצְוֹתָיו וְאֶת־חֻקָּיו אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְצַוְךָ הַיּוֹם: וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הָעָם בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא לֵאמֹר: אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲמֹדוּ לְבָרֵךְ אֶת־הָעָם עַל־הַר גְּרִזִים בְּעֶבְרָתְכֶם אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן שָׁמְעוֹן וְלֵנִי וַיְהוֹדָה וַיִּשָּׁשְׂבֵר וַיֹּסֵף וּבְנֵי־מִן: וְאֱלֹהֵי יַעֲמֹדוּ עַל־הַקְּלָלָה בְּהַר עֵיבָל רְאוּבֵן גָּד וְאֲשֵׁר וְזַבּוּלֹן גָּן וְנַפְתָּלִי:

Moses and the levitical priests spoke to all Israel, saying: Silence! Hear, O Israel! Today you have become the people of Hashem your God: Heed Hashem your God and observe His commandments and His laws, which I enjoin upon you this day. Thereupon Moses charged the people, saying: After you have crossed the Jordan, the following shall stand on Mount Gerizim when the blessing for the people is spoken: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin. And for the curse, the following shall stand on Mount Ebal: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

### Maimonides, Mishne Torah, Laws of Fasts 5:1

יש שם ימים שכל ישראל מתענים בהם מפני הצרות שארעו בהן כדי לעורר הלבבות לפתח דרכי התשובה ויהיה זה זכרון למעשינו הרעים ומעשה אבותינו שהיה כמעשינו עתה עד שגורם להם ולנו אותן הצרות. שבזכרון דברים אלו נשוב להיטיב...

There are days that all the people of Israel observe as fasts on account of the tragic events which occurred on them, the purpose being to appeal to the hearts and to lay open the paths of repentance. This serves as a reminder of **our evil doings**, and the deeds of our fathers which were like ours now, resulting in the afflictions endured by them and by us. By remembering these things we are likely to repent and **do right**...

## **Eric Klinenberg, Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago**

“The disaster also has a social etiology, which no meteorological study, medical autopsy, or epidemiological report can uncover. The human dimensions of the catastrophe remain unexplored. This book is organized around a social autopsy of the 1995 Chicago heat wave. Just as the medical autopsy opens the body to determine the proximate physiological causes of mortality, this inquiry aims to examine the social organs of the city and identify the conditions that contributed to the deaths of so many Chicago residents that July. If the idea of conducting a social autopsy sounds peculiar, this is largely because modern political and medical institutions have attained monopolistic roles in officially explaining, defining, and classifying life and death, in establishing the terms and categories that structure the way we see and do not see the world.”