

Environment and Animals

ויקח יהוה אלהים, את-הָאָדָם; וַיִּנְחֵהוּ בְּגֵן-עֵדֶן, לְעַבְדָּהּ וּלְשֹׁמְרָהּ.

Now God took the man and God placed him in the Garden of Eden to work it and to guard it.

--Genesis (*Bereshit*) 2:15

אָנִי טָרַם אֲכַלָּה לְדַבֵּר אֶל-לִבִּי, וְהִנֵּה רִבְקָה יֹצֵאת וְכֹדֶה עַל-שִׁכְמָהּ, וְתוֹרֵד הָעֵינָהּ, וְתִשָּׂא; וְאָמַר אֵלֶיהָ, הֲשָׁקִינִי נָא. וְתַמְהָרָה, וְתוֹרֵד בַּדָּהּ מֵעֲלֶיהָ, וְתֹאמַר שְׂתֵהּ, וְגַם-גְּמִלִיךְ אֲשָׁקֶה; וְאִשְׁתִּי, וְגַם הַגְּמִלִים הֲשָׁקֶתָהּ.

“I had scarcely finished praying in my heart, when Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder, and went down to the spring and drew. And I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’ She quickly lowered her jar and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels.”

--Genesis (*Bereshit*) 24:45-46

וּשְׁשׁ שָׁנִים, תִּזְרַע אֶת-אֲרָצְךָ; וְאֶסְפָּתָהּ, אֶת-תְּבוּאָתָהּ. וְהִשְׁבִּיעַת תְּשֻׁמְטָנָהּ וְנִטְשָׁתָהּ, וְאָכְלוּ אֲבִינֵי עֲמֹק, וַיִּתְּרֶם, תֹּאכַל חֵיט הַשָּׂדֶה; בֶּן-תַּעֲשֶׂה לְכַרְמָהּ, לְזֵיתָהּ.

Six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield; but in the seventh you shall let it rest and lie fallow. Let the needy among your people eat of it, and what they leave, let the wild beasts eat. You shall do the same with your vineyards and your olive groves.

--Exodus (*Shemot*) 23:10-11

בִּי-תַצּוֹר אֶל-עִיר יָמִים רַבִּים לְהִלָּחֵם עֲלֶיהָ לְתַפְשָׁהּ, לֹא-תִשְׁחִית אֶת-עֵצָהּ לְנִדַּח עָלָיו גְּרוֹן--כִּי מִמֶּנּוּ תֹאכַל, וְאוֹתוֹ לֹא תִכְרֹת: כִּי הָאָדָם עֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה, לְבֹא מִפְּנֵיךְ בְּמִצּוֹר.

When in your war against a city you have to besiege it a long time in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down. Are trees of the field human to withdraw before you into the besieged city?

--Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 20:19

כִּי יִקְרָא קוֹן-צִפּוֹר לְפָנֶיךָ בְּדַרְכְּךָ בְּכָל-עֵץ אוֹ עַל-הָאָרֶץ, אֲפָרוּחִים אוֹ בִיצִים, וְהָאֵם רֹבֶצֶת עַל-הָאֲפָרוּחִים, אוֹ עַל-הַבִּיצִים--לֹא-תִקַּח הָאֵם, עַל-הַבָּנִים. שְׁלַח תְּשַׁלַּח אֶת-הָאֵם, וְאֶת-הַבָּנִים תִּקַּח-לָךְ, לְמַעַן יִיטַב לָךְ, וְהִאֲרַכְתָּ יָמִים.

If, along the road, you chance upon a bird's nest, in any tree or on the ground, with fledglings or eggs and the mother sitting over the fledglings or on the eggs, do not take the mother together with her young. Let the mother go, and take only the young, in order that you may fare well and have a long life.

--Deuteronomy (*Devarim*) 22:6-7

יומא חד הוה אַזל באורחא, חזייה ליהווא גברא דהוה נטע קרובא, אמר ליה: האי, עד כמה שנין טעין? -- אמר ליה: עד שבעין שנין. -- אמר ליה: פשיטא לך דחייית שבעין שנין? -- אמר ליה: האי [גברא] עלמא בקרובא אשפחתייה, כי היכי דשתלי לי אבהתי -- שתלי נמי לבראי.

One day, [Honi] was walking along the road, and he saw a man planting a carob tree. He asked him, "How long does it take [for this tree] to bear fruit? The man replied, "Seventy years." He asked him further, "Are you certain you will live another seventy years?" The man replied, "I found the world provided with carob trees because my forefathers planted them for me. I am planting them now for my children."

--Babylonian Talmud, Taanit 23a