**GOD IN THE BIBLE AND TALMUD**

**TEXT 1: FROM EXODUS 3-4**

﻿1. And Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock far away into the desert, and came to the mountain of God, to Horeb. 2. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. 3. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. 4. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. 5. And he said, Do not come any closer; take off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground.

6. And he said, I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. 7. And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; 8. And I have come down to save them from the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them out of that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey; to the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9. And therefore, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me; and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10. Come now therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh, that you may bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. 11. And Moses said to God, Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the people of Israel out of Egypt? 12. And he said, Certainly I will be with you; and this shall be a sign to you, that I have sent you; When you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain.

13. And Moses said to God, Behold, when I come to the people of Israel, and shall say to them, The God of your fathers has sent me to you; and they shall say to me, What is his name, what shall I say to them?

14. And God said to Moses, I AM THAT I AM; and he said, Thus shall you say to the people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.

15. And God said moreover to Moses, Thus shall you say to the people of Israel, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you; this is my name forever, and this is my memorial to all generations.

16. Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt;

17. And I have said, I will bring you out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.

18. And they shall listen to your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you shall say to him, The Lord God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now let us go, we beseech you, three days journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.

19. And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, if not by a mighty hand.

20. And I will stretch out my hand, and strike Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.

21. And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall come to pass, that, when you go, you shall not go empty;

22. But every woman shall borrow from her neighbor, and from her who sojourns in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and garments; and you shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and you shall plunder the Egyptians.

﻿1. And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor listen to my voice; for they will say, The Lord has not appeared to you.

2. (K) And the Lord said to him, What is that in your hand? And he said, A rod.

3. And he said, Throw it to the ground. And he threw it to the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.

4. And the Lord said to Moses, Put forth your hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand;

5. That they may believe that the Lord God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.

6. And the Lord said furthermore to him, Put now your hand into your bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom; and when he took it out, behold, his hand was diseased, white as snow.

7. And he said, Put your hand into your bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it from his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh.

8. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe you, nor listen to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

9. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, nor listen to your voice, that you shall take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land; and the water which you take from the river shall become blood upon the dry land.

10. And Moses said to the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither yesterday nor the day before, nor since you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

11. And the Lord said to him, Who has made mans mouth? Who makes the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Is it not I the Lord?

12. Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth, and teach you what you shall say.

13. And he said, O my Lord, send, I beseech you, by the hand of him whom you will send.

14. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he comes forth to meet you; and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

15. And you shall speak to him, and put words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do.

16. And he shall be your spokesman to the people; and he shall be to you instead of a mouth, and you shall be to him instead of God.

17. And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do signs.

18. And Moses went and returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and said to him, Let me go, I beseech you, and return to my brothers who are in Egypt, and see whether they are still alive. And Jethro said to Moses, Go in peace.

19. And the Lord said to Moses in Midian, Go, return to Egypt; for all the men are dead who sought your life.

20. And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt; and Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

21. And the Lord said to Moses, When you go to return to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in your hand; but I will harden his heart, so that he shall not let the people go.

22. And you shall say to Pharaoh, Thus said the Lord, Israel is my son, my firstborn;

23. And I say to you, Let my son go, that he may serve me; and if you refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay your son, your firstborn.

**TEXT 2: DEUT 25:17-19 – THE AMALEKITES**

﻿17. Remember what Amalek did to you by the way, when you came forth out of Egypt;

18. How he met you by the way, and struck at your rear, all who were feeble behind you, when you were faint and weary; and he did not fear God.

19. Therefore it shall be, when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your enemies around, in the land which the Lord your God gives you for an inheritance to possess, that you shall blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget it.

**TEXT 3: FROM THE BOOK OF JOB – FROM CHAPS 1 AND 38**

**﻿**1. There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God, and turned away from evil.

2. And there were born to him seven sons and three daughters.

3. His possessions were seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred female asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

4. And his sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day; and they used to send and call for their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

5. And when the days of the feast would come to their end, Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning, and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

6. Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

7. And the Lord said to Satan, Where are you coming from? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

8. And the Lord said to Satan, Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God, and turns away from evil?

9. Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Does Job fear God for nothing?

10. Have not you made a hedge around him, and around his house, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions are increased in the land.

11. But put forth your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.

12. And the Lord said to Satan, Behold, all that he has is in your power; only upon himself put not forth your hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

[…]

﻿1. (K) Then the Lord answered Job from the stormy wind, and said,

2. Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

3. Gird up now your loins like a man; for I will demand of you, and you will answer me.

4. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if you have understanding.

5. Who determined its measures, do you know? Or who has stretched the line upon it?

6. Upon what are its foundations fastened? Or who laid its corner stone,

7. When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

**TEXT 4: FROM THE TALMUD**

It is taught: On that day R. Eliezer brought forward every imaginable argument, but the Sages did not accept any of them. Finally he said to them: "If the Halakhah (religious law) is in accordance with me, let this carob tree prove it!" Sure enough the carob tree immediately uprooted itself and moved one hundred cubits, and some say 400 cubits, from its place. "No proof can be brought from a carob tree," they retorted.

And again he said to them "If the Halakhah agrees with me, let the channel of water prove it!" Sure enough, the channel of water flowed backward. "No proof can be brought from a channel of water," they rejoined.

Again he urged, "If the Halakhah agrees with me, let the walls of the house of study prove it!" Sure enough, the walls tilted as if to fall. But R. Joshua, rebuked the walls, saying, "When disciples of the wise are engaged in a halakhic dispute, what right have you to interfere?" Hence in deference to R. Joshua they did not fall and in deference to R. Eliezer they did not resume their upright position; they are still standing aslant.

Again R. Eliezer then said to the Sages, "If the Halakhah agrees with me, let it be proved from heaven." Sure enough, a divine voice cried out, "Why do you dispute with R. Eliezer, with whom the Halakhah always agrees?" R. Joshua stood up and protested: "The Torah is not in heaven!" (Deut. 30:12). We pay no attention to a divine voice because long ago at Mount Sinai You wrote in your Torah at Mount Sinai, `After the majority must one incline'. (Ex. 23:2)"

R. Nathan met [the prophet] Elijah [[3]](http://jhom.com/topics/voice/bat_kol_bab.htm%22%20%5Cl%20%223) and asked him, "What did the Holy One do at that moment?" Elijah: "He laughed [with joy], saying, 'My children have defeated Me, My children have defeated Me.'"

**Babylonian Talmud, Bava Metzia 59b**