

Nitzavim: Summary, Torah On Earth and Matrix

Summary

Nitzavim summarizes previous chapters. The scenario of the Hebrew's future-as-past includes God's rescue of the Hebrews from Egypt, their eventual sinning in the land, God's curses, teshuva and eventual restoration. This portion also includes two famous quotes, life/death/blessings/curses and Torah not in heaven.

Torah On Earth

For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not too hard for thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say: 'Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say: 'Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it?' But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it (Deut. 30:11-14, JPS 1917 edition).

Matrix

"I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before thee life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore choose life, that thou mayest live, thou and thy seed" (Deut 30:19, JPS 1917 edition). This teaches a simple theology: life/blessings, death/curses. Earlier line (30:15-16): "See, **I have set before thee** this day **life and good, and death and evil**, in that **I command thee this day to love** the LORD thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances; **then thou shalt live** and multiply, and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest in to possess it" (emphasis added).