

SHVAT: A TIME TO GROW

Shprintzee Rappaport

1) BEREISHIT 2:15

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

טוֹיַקָּח יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם
וַיִּנְחֵהוּ בְּגֶן־עֵדֶן לַעֲבֹדָה
וּלְשֹׁמְרָהּ:

2) BEREISHIT 9:20

20And Noah began to be a master of the soil, and he planted a vineyard.

כַּיֵּחַל נֹחַ אִישׁ הָאֲדָמָה וַיִּטֵּעַ
כֶּרֶם:

3) SHOFTIM 20:19

When you besiege a city for many days to wage war against it to capture it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an ax against them, for you may eat from them, but you shall not cut them down. Is the tree of the field a man, to go into the siege before you?

יִטְכִּי־תַצּוֹר אֶל־עִיר יָמִים רַבִּים
לְהִלָּחֵם עָלֶיהָ לְתַפְשָׁהּ לֹא־
תִשְׁחִית אֶת־עֵצָהּ לְנֹחֶת עָלֶיהָ
גִּרְזָן כִּי מִמֶּנּוּ תֹאכֵל וְאִתּוֹ לֹא
תִכְרֹת כִּי הָאָדָם עֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה לְבָא
מִפְּנֵיךְ בַּמָּצוֹר:

4) Pirkei d'Rabbi Eliezer chapter 34:

Six voices go from one end of the world to the other and the sound is not audible... When a fruit-bearing tree is cut down the voice cries out from one end of the world to the other, and its sound is not audible... When the soul departs from the body the voice goes out from one end of the world to the other, and its sound is not audible....

5) KOHELET 3:2

A time to give birth and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot that which is planted.

בְּעֵת לֵלֶדֶת וְעֵת לָמוּת עֵת
לִטְעוֹת וְעֵת לַעֲקוֹר נָטוּעַ:

6) YEVAMOT 63

א"ר אלעזר כל אדם שאין לו אשה אינו אדם שנאמר בראשית ה' ב (זכר ונקבה בראם ויקרא את שמם אדם

ואמר רבי אלעזר כל אדם שאין לו קרקע אינו אדם שנא' תהלים קטו, טז (השמים שמים לה' והארץ נתן לבני אדם

R. Eleazar said: Any man who has no wife is no proper man; for it is said, *Male and female created He them and called their name Adam.*⁴

R. Eleazar further stated: Any man who owns no land is not a proper man; for it is said, *The heavens are the heavens of the Lord; but the earth hath he given to the children of men.*

7) BAVA KAMMA 91b

R. Hanina said: Shibhath "my son did not pass away except for having cut down a fig tree before its time". In this light, it should be noted that *Sifri* counts the prohibition of cutting down fruit-bearing trees as both an *aseh* (positive commandment) as well as a *lo ta'aseh*.

8) ZECHARIAH 3:8

Hearken, now, O Joshua the High Priest-you and your companions who sit before you, for they are men worthy of a miracle-for, behold! I bring My servant, the Plant.

חִשְׁמַע-נָא יְהוֹשֻׁעַ | הַכֹּהֵן הַגָּדוֹל
אֶתְּהוּ וְרֵעֵיךְ הַיֹּשְׁבִים לְפָנֶיךָ כִּי-
אֲנִשִּׁי מוֹפֶת הַמָּה כִּי-הִנְנִי מְבִיא
אֶת-עַבְדִּי צִמְח: