

## Texts: Jewish Values/Mitzvahs

1. For I have selected him [Abraham]  
so that he may instruct his children and his posterity after him  
to keep God's ways:

to do what is just and right. [Tzedakah U'Mishpat] (Genesis 18:19)

כִּי יָדַעְתִּיו לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר יִצְוֶה אֶת־בְּנָיו וְאֶת־בֵּיתוֹ  
אַחֲרָיו וְשָׁמְרוּ דְרָדְךָ יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט

2. David reigned over all Israel,  
and David executed true justice [Mishpat U'Tzedakah]  
among all his people. (II Samuel 8:15)

וַיִּמְלֹךְ דָּוִד עַל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיְהִי דָוִד עֹשֶׂה מִשְׁפָּט וּצְדָקָה לְכָל־עַמּוֹ:

3. Blessed are You, Lord,  
A King Who loves Tzedakah U'Mishpat. (Siddur)

...מֶלֶךְ אוֹהֵב צְדָקָה וּמִשְׁפָּט

4. There was a man in the land of Uz named Job. That man was blameless and upright; he  
feared God and shunned evil. (Job 1:1)

אִישׁ הָיָה בְּאֶרֶץ־עוּז אִיּוֹב שְׁמוֹ וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ הַהוּא תָם וְיָשָׁר וּיְרָא אֱלֹהִים וְסָר מִרָע:

5. God's Torah is a Torah of innocence;  
It is refreshing to the soul. (Psalm 19:8)

תּוֹרַת יְהוָה תְּמִימָה מְשִׁיבַת נַפְשׁ

6. "Love your neighbor as yourself," (Leviticus 19:18) —  
Rabbi Akiva says,  
"This is the all-encompassing Torah-principle."

Ben Azzai says,

"This is the story of humanity:

[When God created the first human being,

God created that person in the likeness of God]' (Genesis 5:1)

is an even greater principle."

(Sifra, Kedoshim, on Leviticus 19:18)

ואהבת לרעך כמוך

רבי עקיבא אומר זה כלל גדול בתורה.

בן עזאי אומר זה ספר תולדות אדם זה כלל גדול מזה

7. It was taught in the name of Rabbi Yehoshua:

The poor person [standing at the door] does more for the householder than the householder  
does for the poor person. (Leviticus Rabba 34:8)

תני בש"ר יהושע יותר ממה שבעל הבית עושה עם העני הבית  
עושה עם בעל הבית

8. This is the commandment that we were commanded to love each other just as we love ourselves.

That is to say  
that my concern and love for other Jews  
should be the same as my concern and love for myself —  
as far as both possessions and personal needs are involved —  
for whatever the other person's possessions and wishes.

וְכָל מַה-שֶׁאַרְצָה לְעַצְמִי אֲרַצֶּה לוֹ כְּמוֹהוּ

*Whatever I want for myself,  
I want the same for that other person.*

וְכָל-מַה-שֶׁלֹּא אֲרַצֶּה לְעַצְמִי וּלְיָרִידִי  
לֹא אֲרַצֶּה לוֹ בְּשִׁבְלֹו כְּמוֹהוּ

*And whatever I do not want for myself or my friends,  
I do not want for that other person.*

This is the meaning of the verse,  
“And you shall love the other person as yourself.” (Leviticus 19:18)  
(Maimonides, Sefer HaMitzvot, Positive Mitzvah #206)

9. Assuredly, thus says the Lord:  
If you turn back, I shall take you back  
And you shall stand before Me;  
**If you produce what is noble  
Out of the worthless,**  
You shall be My spokesperson.  
They shall come back to you,  
Not you to them. (Jeremiah 15:19)

לְכֵן כִּהְרָאֵמֶר יְהוָה אִם-תָּשׁוּב וְאָשִׁיבְךָ לְפָנַי תֵּעָמֵד  
וְאִם-תּוֹצִיא יָקָר מְזוּלָל כְּפִי תִהְיֶה  
יָשׁוּבוּ הֵמָּה אֵלַיךָ וְאַתָּה לֹא-תָשׁוּב אֲלֵיהֶם: