



FIGHTING POVERTY  
*with faith*  
A WEEK OF ACTION

*The Ezyon Within Our Gates*

דברים 14-15: 24

Thou shalt not oppress a hired servant, the poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates. In the same day thou shalt give him his hire, neither shall the sun go down upon it; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it: lest he cry against thee unto the Lord and it be sin in thee.

לא-תעשק שכיר, עני ואֶבְיֹן,  
מֵאֲחִיךָ, אוֹ מִגֵּרְךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּאַרְצְךָ  
בְּשַׁעֲרֶיךָ. בְּיוֹמוֹ תִּתֵּן שְׂכָרוֹ וְלֹא-  
תָבוֹא עָלָיו הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ, כִּי עָנִי הוּא,  
וְאֶלָּיו, הוּא נִשְׂא אֶת-נַפְשׁוֹ;  
וְלֹא-יִקְרָא עָלֶיךָ אֶל־ה', וְהָיָה בְּךָ  
חַטָּא

### ישעיהו 41:17

The poor and needy seek water and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst; I the LORD will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

הָעֲנִיִּים וְהָאֲבִיּוֹנִים מִבְּקָשִׁים  
מִים, וְאִין--לְשׁוֹנָם, בְּצִמָּא נִשְׁתָּה;  
אֲנִי ה' אֲעֲנֶם, אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא  
אֲעֲזֹבֶם

### ישעיהו 14:30

And the first-born of the poor shall feed, and the needy shall lie down in safety; and I will kill thy root with famine, and thy remnant shall be slain.

וְרָעוּ בְּכוֹרֵי דָלִים, וְאֲבִיּוֹנִים לָבֶטַח  
יִרְבְּצוּ; וְהִמַּתִּי בְרָעַב שְׂרִשְׁךָ,  
וְשִׂאֲרִיתֶךָ יִהְרַג.

### ירמיה 20:13

Sing unto the LORD, praise ye the LORD; for He hath delivered the soul of the needy from the hand of evil-doers.

שִׁירוּ, לַה' --הַלְלוּ, אֶת-ה': כִּי הֲצִיל  
אֶת-נַפְשׁ אֲבִיוֹן, מִיַּד מְרָעִים.

Some guiding questions for these texts:

1. Who is the evyon?
2. What does the evyon need?
3. What is God's relationship to the evyon?

## יחזקאל 18:13

Whereas he himself had not done any of these things, for he hath even eaten upon the mountains, and defiled his neighbour's wife, hath wronged the poor and needy, hath taken by robbery, hath not restored the pledge, and hath lifted up his eyes to the idols, hath committed abomination.

וְהוּא, אֶת-כָּל-אֱלֹהִים לֹא עָשָׂה--כִּי גַם  
אֶל-הַהָרִים אָכַל, וְאֶת-אִשְׁתּוֹ רָעָהוּ,  
טָמֵא. עָנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן, הוֹנָה--גְּזֹלוֹת גָּזַל,  
חָבַל לֹא יָשִׁיב; וְאֶל-הַגְּלוּלִים נָשָׂא  
עֵינָיו, תּוֹעֵבָה עָשָׂה.

## ישעיהו 32:7

The instruments also of the churl are evil; he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying words, and the needy when he speaketh right.

וְכָלֵי, כְּלֵי רָעִים; הוּא, זְמוֹת יַעֲזֹץ,  
לְחַבֵּל עֲנוּיִם (עֲנִיִּים) בְּאִמְרֵי-שָׁקֶר,  
וּבְדַבַּר אֶבְיוֹן מִשְׁפָּט.

## עמוס 5:12

For I know how manifold are your transgressions, and how mighty are your sins; ye that afflict the just, that take a ransom, and that turn aside the needy in the gate.

כִּי יָדַעְתִּי רַבִּים פְּשָׁעֵיכֶם, וְעֲצָמִים  
חַטָּאתֵיכֶם; צָרְרִי צָדִיק לְקַחֵי כֶּפֶר,  
וְאֶבְיוֹנִים בְּשַׁעַר הַטּוֹ.

Some guiding questions for these texts:

1. Who or what are the prophets speaking about here?
2. What new information about the evyon can we learn?
3. What modern day comparisons can you draw from these texts?

## ישעיהו 16:49

Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom: pride, fulness of bread, and careless ease was in her and in her daughters; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

הִנֵּה-זֶה הָיָה, עֲוֹן סְדֹם אַחֹתֶךָ:  
גָּאוֹן שְׂבֻעַת-לֶחֶם וְשִׁלּוֹת הַשֶּׁקֶט,  
הָיָה לָּהּ וּלְבָנוֹתֶיהָ, וַיֵּד-עָנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן,  
לֹא הִחְזִיקָה.

## יחזקאל 22:29

The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have wronged the poor and needy, and have oppressed the stranger unlawfully.

עַם הָאָרֶץ עָשְׂקוּ עֶשְׂקוּ, וְגָזְלוּ גָזְלוּ;  
וְעָנִי וְאֶבְיוֹן הוֹנוּ, וְאֶת-הַגֵּר עָשְׂקוּ  
בְּלֹא מִשְׁפָּט.

## עמוס 2:6-7

Thus saith the Lord: For three transgressions of Israel, yea, for four, I will not reverse it: because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes;

כֹּה, אָמַר ה', עַל-שְׁלֹשָׁה פְּשָׁעֵי  
יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְעַל-אַרְבָּעָה לֹא אֲשִׁיבֵנּוּ:  
עַל-מִכְרָם בְּכֶסֶף צְדִיק, וְאֶבְיוֹן  
בְּעִבּוֹר נַעֲלִים

Some guiding questions for these texts:

1. Who or what are the prophets speaking about here?
2. What new information about the evyon can we learn?
3. What do these texts demand?
4. How can they be applied to our society?