



## 1. Summary of Chapter 49

- 1-13:
  - G-d calls to Yeshayahu to be a prophet.
  - Assures him that the Jews will return.
- 14-21:
  - Even if a mother would forget her children, G-d will not forget the Jewish people.
  - There ravaged lands will be rebuilt and resettled.
- 22-23: The other nations will honor the Jews.
- 24-26: Jews challenge the possibility of being saved. G-d assures them he will save them and punish the enemies.
- Chapter 50: Starts by saying that G-d has not given the Jews a bill of divorce

## 2. Tosafot Megillah 31b

דרך הנחמות להיות הולכות ומשובחות יותר

It is the way of consolations to be increasingly consoling.

## 3. Sifrei Bamibdar 115

כענין שאמרו ישראל ליחזקאל שנאמר יצאו אלי אנשים מזקני ישראל וישבו לפני יחזקאל כ א (אמרו לו יחזקאל עבד שמכרו רבו לא יצא מרשותו אמר להם הין אמרו לו הואיל ומכרנו המקום לאומות העולם יצאנו מרשותו אמר להם הרי עבד שמכרו רבו על מנת לחזור שמא יצא חוץ לרשותו

In the manner that Israel said to Yechezkel, as it says: "Certain of the elders of Israel came to inquire of the Lord, and sat before me" (*Yechezkel 20:1*). They said to him: A servant who was sold by his master, does he not leave his domain? He said to them: Yes. They said to him: Since G-d has sold us to the nations of the world, we have left his domain. He said to them: Surely a servant who was sold by his master on condition that he return – does he leave his domain?

## Models of Relationships with G-d

*Analysis based on R. Moshe Lichtenstein: <http://www.etzion.org.il/en/ekav-difference-between-nachamu-and-and-haftara-parashat-ekav>*

## 4. Previous Relationships

- a. **Chapter 40:** G-d is the Jews' Sheppard.
- b. **Chapter 41-42** (see 41:9) – The Jews have not been rejected as G-d's servants

## 5. Parent Child

- a. **Shemot 4:22**

ואמרת אלפרעה זה אמר ה' בני בכרי ישראל:

Then you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD: Israel is My first-born son.

- b. **Devarim 14:1**

בנים אתם לה' אלקיכם לא תתגדדו ולא תשימו קרחה בין עיניכם למת:

You are children of the LORD your G-d. You shall not gash yourselves or shave the front of your heads because of the dead.

### c. What defines this relationship?

- Cannot be denied (unlike servant, spouse)
- Identities are linked
- Mother – natural and intimate.
- Note that this leads to images of the children of Israel returning.

## 6. Jews as treasure (49:24-26)

- a. **Shemot 19:5**

ועתה אם-שמוע תשמעו בקלי ושמרתם את-בריתי והייתם לי סגלה מפלהעמים כילי כלהארץ:

Now then, if you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples.

Indeed, all the earth is Mine,

## 7. Marriage – divorce (Chapter 50)

- a. Chazal put Chapter 49-50 as one Haftara (Ekev) – linking the parent/child to spouse relationships.

## 8. Harlot - Hoshea