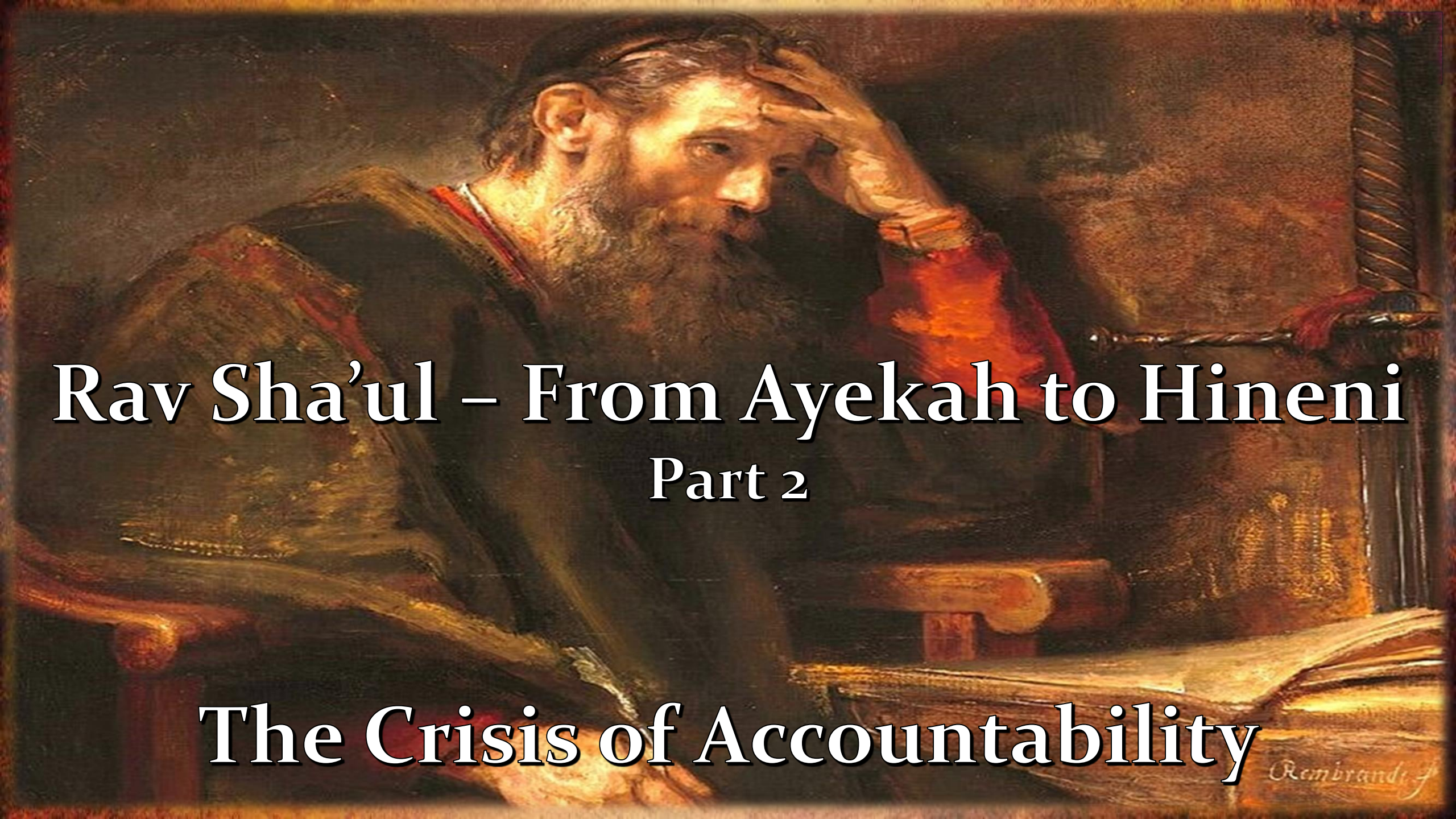


A dramatic oil painting by Rembrandt depicting a man with a long, grey beard and dark hair, wearing a dark robe with a red lining. He is seated at a desk, resting his head on his right hand in a gesture of deep thought or distress. The lighting is warm and focused on his face and hand, while the background is dark and indistinct. The overall mood is one of intense contemplation or crisis.

# Rav Sha'ul – From Ayekah to Hineni

## Part 2

# The Crisis of Accountability

*Rembrandt*

# Genesis 2



8 Adonai, God, planted a garden toward the east, in 'Eden, and there he put the person whom he had formed. 9 Out of the ground Adonai, God, caused to grow every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including **THE TREE OF LIFE [EY TZ HACHAYIM]** in the middle of the garden and the **TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL [EY TZ HADA'AT TOV VA'RA]**.

# Genesis 3



9 *Adonai, God, called to the man,*  
**“WHERE ARE YOU?”**

**אַיֶּכָּה**

**(ayekah– Where are you?)**

**אֵיכָּה**

**(eichah – How?)**

עץ החיים

עץ הדעת טוב ורע



# THE QUESTION



**AYEKAH?**

**WHERE ARE YOU?**

עץ החיים

עץ הדעת טוב ורע



# Genesis 3



12 The man replied, “**THE WOMAN YOU GAVE TO  
BE WITH ME** — she gave me fruit from the tree,  
**AND I ATE.**”

עץ החיים

עץ הדעת טוב ורע



# SIN'S RESPONSE

**COVER**

**HIDE**

**BLAME**

עץ החיים

עץ הדעת טוב ורע



# Acts 9



3 He was on the road and nearing Dammesek, when suddenly a light from heaven flashed all around him.

4 Falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, **“SHA’UL! SHA’UL! WHY DO YOU KEEP**

**PERSECUTING ME?”**

5 **“Lord, who are you?”** he asked. “I am Yeshua, and you are persecuting me. 6 But get up, and go into the city, and you will be told what you have to do.”



## 2 Baruch 54:15, 19

"For though Adam first sinned and brought untimely death upon all, yet of those who were born from him, each one has prepared for his own soul torment to

come... Adam is therefore not the cause, save only of his own soul, BUT EACH OF US HAS BEEN THE ADAM OF HIS OWN SOUL."

"INASMUCH AS EVERYONE SINNED"

# Ezekiel 18



30 Therefore, house of Isra'el, I will judge each of you according to his ways," says Adonai Elohim. **"Repent, and turn yourselves away from all your transgressions, so that they will not be a stumbling block that brings guilt upon you."** 31 Throw far away from yourselves all your crimes that you committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit; for why should you die, house of Isra'el? 32 I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," says Adonai Elohim, **"SO TURN YOURSELVES AROUND, AND LIVE!"**

# Romans 5



12 Here is how it works: it was through one individual that sin entered the world, and through sin, death; and in this way death passed through to the whole human race, **INASMUCH AS EVERYONE SINNED.**

***eph' hō pantes hēmarton***  
***BECAUSE ALL HAVE SINNED***

# Genesis 3



20 The man called his wife HAVAH [to give LIFE],  
because she was the mother of all LIVING.

21 Adonai, God, made garments of skin for Adam  
and his wife and clothed them.

**THE TREE OF LIFE WAS STILL POSSIBLE**

**GOD'S MERCY WOULD GUARANTEE IT**

# Genesis 3



24 So he drove the man out, and he placed at the east of the garden of 'Eden **THE K'RUVIM** and a flaming sword which turned in every direction **TO GUARD THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE.**

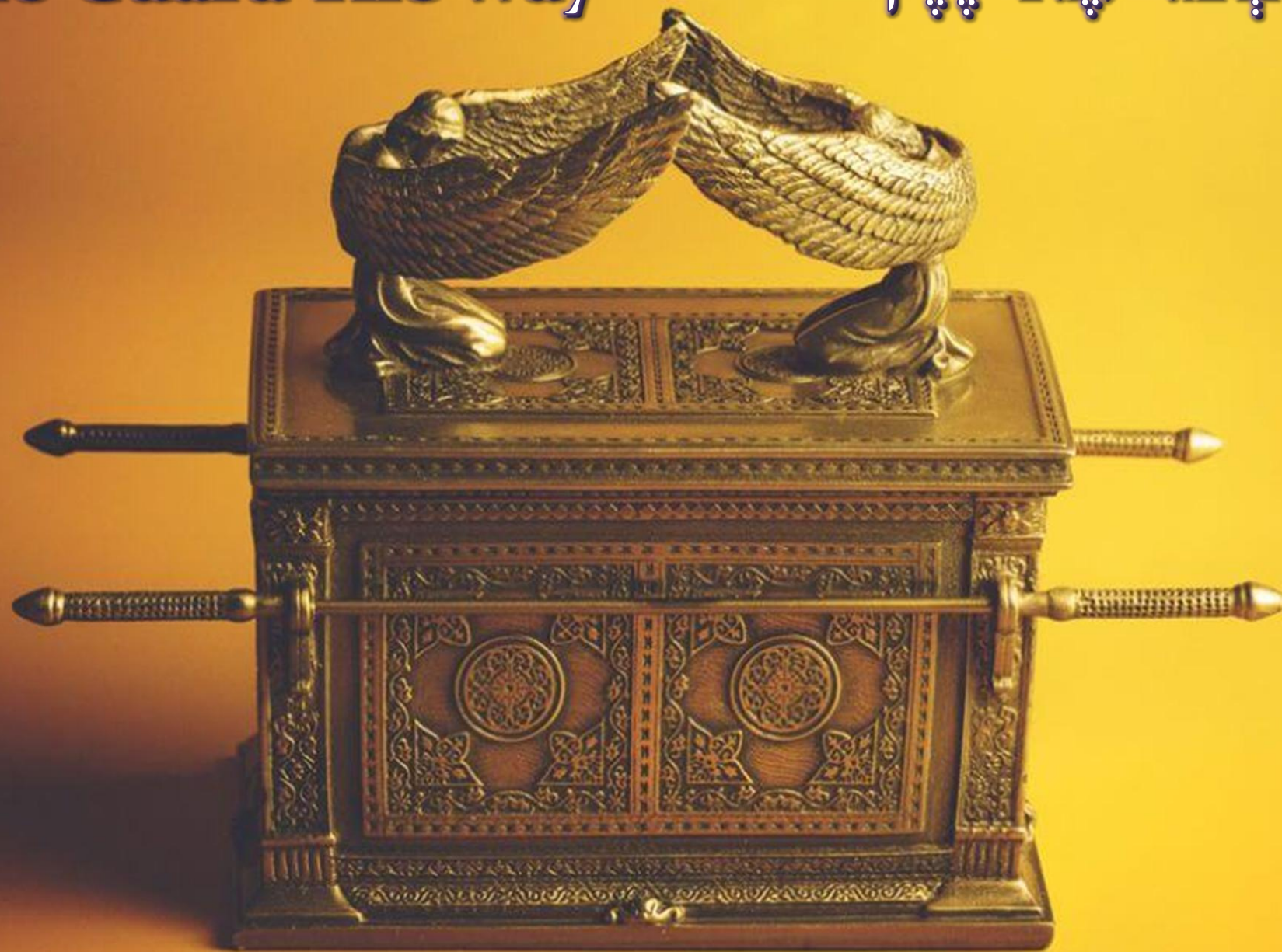
דֶּרֶךְ – Derekh  
way, road,  
journey, course of  
life

לִשְׁמֹר – Lish'mor  
keep, observe,  
preserve, watch

**THE TREE OF LIFE WAS STILL POSSIBLE**

**GOD'S MERCY WOULD GUARANTEE IT**

“To Guard The Way” ~~~~ “לְשָׂמַר אֶת-דֶּרֶךְ”



# “To Guard The Way” ~~~~ “לִשְׁמֹר אֶת-דֶּרֶךְ.”



## Exodus 25

20 The k'ruvim will have their wings spread out above, so that their wings cover the ark, and their faces are toward each other and toward the ark-cover. 21 You are to put the ark-cover on top of the ark.

**INSIDE THE ARK YOU WILL PUT THE TESTIMONY THAT I AM ABOUT TO GIVE YOU. 22 THERE I WILL MEET WITH YOU. I WILL SPEAK WITH YOU FROM ABOVE THE ARK-COVER, FROM BETWEEN THE TWO K'RUVIM which are on the ark FOR THE TESTIMONY, ABOUT ALL THE ORDERS I AM GIVING YOU for the people of Isra'el.**

# Genesis 3



24 So he drove the man out, and he placed at the east of the garden of 'Eden **THE K'RUVIM** and a flaming sword which turned in every direction **TO GUARD** **THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE**.

**Psalm 119:44**

and I will **KEEP** your Torah  
always, forever and ever...

לשמר – Lish'mor  
keep, observe,  
preserve, watch

**THE TREE OF LIFE WAS STILL POSSIBLE**

**GOD'S MERCY WOULD GUARANTEE IT**

## Deuteronomy 30:19

19 “I call on heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have presented you with life and death, the blessing and the curse. **THEREFORE, CHOOSE LIFE**, so that you will live, you and your descendants,

20 **LOVING ADONAI YOUR GOD, PAYING ATTENTION TO WHAT HE SAYS AND CLINGING TO HIM** — for that is the purpose of your life!

עץ החיים

עץ הדעת טוב ורע



"Each of us has been the Adam of his own soul."



The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil  
[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]



# What Is Going On In Our World?



## An Epistemic Crisis

Epistēmē is the Greek word for knowledge

The profound breakdown in a society's  
shared systems, methods, and institutions  
**FOR DETERMINING WHAT IS TRUE**

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil**  
**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**

# What Is Going On In Our World?



Democrats vs. Republicans  
Progressives vs. Conservatives  
Marxists vs. Individualist  
Socialists vs. Capitalists  
Pro-Bibi Right vs. Anti-Bibi Left  
Palestinians vs. Israelis  
Islamists vs. Israel & The West  
Supersessionist vs. Post-Supersessionist

The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil

[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]



# What Is Going On In Our World?



## THE JEWS

“[Antisemitism] is a mirror for the failings of individuals, social structures and State systems.

**TELL ME WHAT YOU ACCUSE THE JEWS OF**  
**— I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU'RE GUILTY OF.”**

- Vasily Grossman in *Life and Fate*

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**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**

# What Is Going On In Our World?



## THE EPISTEMIC CRISIS

A deep disruption in how society develops their understanding of truth, making it hard to separate facts from falsehoods.

Groups operate on completely different sets of "facts," leading to high polarization and low cohesiveness.

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[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]

# What Is Going On In Our World?



## THE EPISTEMIC CRISIS

Rapid spread of misinformation, rumors, and online noise.

Declining faith in mainstream journalism, scientific institutions, and government bodies.

High-stakes divisions that reward tribal loyalty over empirical evidence.

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# What Is Going On In Our World?



## THE EPISTEMIC CRISIS

### 2 Timothy 3

1 Moreover, understand this: in the acharit-hayamim will come trying times. 2 People will be self-loving, money-loving, proud, arrogant, insulting, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, uncontrolled, brutal, hateful of good,

The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil

[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]

# What Is Going On In Our World?



## THE EPISTEMIC CRISIS

### 2 Timothy 3

4 traitorous, headstrong, swollen with conceit, loving pleasure rather than God, 5 as they retain the outer form of religion but deny its power. Stay away from these people! 7 ...who are always learning but never able to come to full

**KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.**

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**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**

# THE FIRST EPISTEMIC CRISIS

**The right to define reality!**

Genesis 3

He said to the woman, “**Did God REALLY say,**  
‘You are not to eat from any tree in the garden’?”

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil**

**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**



# THE FIRST EPISTEMIC CRISIS

**The right to define reality!**

Genesis 3

9 Adonai, God, called to the man,  
“Where are you?”

12 The man replied, “The woman you gave to be  
with me — she gave me fruit from the tree, and I  
ate.”

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil**

**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**



# THE FIRST EPISTEMIC CRISIS

**The right to define reality!**

Romans 1

25 THEY HAVE EXCHANGED THE TRUTH OF  
GOD FOR FALSEHOOD...

**A CRISIS OF ACCOUNTABILITY!!**

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[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]



# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

Romans 1

18 What is revealed is God's anger from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people who in their wickedness **keep suppressing the truth**;  
19 because what is known about God is plain to them, since God has made it plain to them.

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil**  
**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**



# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

Romans 1

20 For ever since the creation of the universe his invisible qualities — both his eternal power and his divine nature — have been clearly seen, because they can be understood from what he has made.

Therefore, they have no excuse;

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil**

**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**



# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

Romans 1

21 because, although they know who God is, they do not glorify him as God or thank him. On the contrary, they have become futile in their thinking; and their undiscerning hearts have become darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they have become fools!

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[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]

# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

## Romans 1

23 In fact, they have exchanged the glory of the immortal God for mere images, like a mortal human being, or like birds, animals or reptiles!

24 This is why God has given them up to the vileness of their hearts' lusts, to the shameful misuse of each other's bodies.

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil**

**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**



# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

Romans 1



25

**THEY HAVE EXCHANGED THE TRUTH  
OF GOD FOR FALSEHOOD, BY  
WORSHIPPING AND SERVING CREATED  
THINGS, RATHER THAN THE CREATOR —  
PRAISED BE HE FOR EVER. AMEN.**

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil  
[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**



# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

Romans 1

24 This is why **GOD HAS GIVEN THEM UP TO** the  
vileness of their hearts' lusts...

26 This is why **GOD HAS GIVEN THEM UP TO** degrading  
passions...

28 In other words, since they have not considered God  
worth knowing, **GOD HAS GIVEN THEM UP TO**  
worthless ways of thinking...

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil**  
**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**

# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

- A world with moral weight means that human choices truly matter and carry real consequences for good or evil.
- God provides a clear standard for right and wrong that goes beyond human opinion.
- Small choices grow over time into big results for us, for our families, for our friends and for our communities.

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil**  
**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**

# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

## WHAT YOU COMPROMISE TO KEEP, YOU WILL LOSE!

Luke 9

24 For whoever tries to save his own life will destroy it, but whoever destroys his life on my account will save it.

The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil  
[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]

# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

Romans 1

28 In other words, since they have not considered God **WORTH** [dokimazō – to test and approve] **KNOWING** [epignōsis – full discernment], God has given them up to **WORTHLESS** [adokimos – fails the test] ways of **THINKING** [nous – will] so that they do improper things.

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**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**

# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

Romans 1

29 They are filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and vice; stuffed with jealousy, murder, quarrelling, dishonesty and ill-will; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God; they are insolent, arrogant and boastful; they plan evil schemes; they disobey their parents;

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**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**



# THE JUDGE'S TRAP & OUR EPISTEMIC CRISIS

Romans 2

1 Therefore, you have no excuse, whoever you are, **passing judgment [krineis – decide the sentence]**; for when you judge someone else, you are **passing judgment against yourself [katakrineis – sentence yourself]**; since you who are judging do the same things he does.

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[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]

# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

Romans 2

2 We know that God's judgment lands impartially on those who do such things; 3 do you think that you, a mere man passing judgment on others who do such things, yet doing them yourself, will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or perhaps you despise the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience;

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil**

**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**



# THE JUDGE'S TRAP

## Romans 2

because you don't realize that God's kindness is intended to lead you to turn from your sins. 5 But by your stubbornness, by your unrepentant heart, you are storing up anger for yourself on the Day of Anger, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed; 6 for he will pay back each one according to his deeds.

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil**

**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**

## Matthew 7

3 Why do you see the splinter in your brother's eye but not notice the log in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' when you have the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite! First, take the log out of your own eye; then you will see clearly, so that you can remove the splinter from your brother's eye!

**The Tree of The KNOWLEDGE of Good and Evil**

**[Eytz HADA'AT Tov Va'ra]**

## Romans 2

4 Or perhaps you despise **THE RICHES OF HIS KINDNESS**, forbearance and patience; because you don't realize that **GOD'S KINDNESS IS INTENDED TO LEAD YOU TO TURN FROM YOUR SINS.**

עץ החיים

**The Tree of LIFE**

**[Eytz HACHAIM]**

עץ הדעת טוב ורע



## Romans 2

5 But by your stubbornness, by your unrepentant [ametanoetos – unturning] heart, you are storing up anger for yourself on the Day of Anger, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed; 6 for he will pay back each one according to his deeds.

The Tree of LIFE

[Eytz HACHAIM]

עץ החיים

עץ הדעת טוב ורע



# The Epistemic Crisis – Two Truths At Once



## Deuteronomy 30:19

19 “I call on heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have presented you with life and death, the blessing and the curse. **THEREFORE, CHOOSE LIFE**, so that you will live, you and your descendants, 20 **LOVING ADONAI YOUR GOD, PAYING ATTENTION TO WHAT HE SAYS AND CLINGING TO HIM** — for that is the purpose of your life!

**The Tree of LIFE**

**[Eytz HACHAIM]**

עץ החיים

עץ הדעת טוב ורע

