Nosh & Learn with Mindy, Parshat Nitzavim-VaYelech, TBH-BE, 9/10/2020

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשְׁנוּ בָּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִנֵּנוּ לַעֲסוֹק בִּדְבָרִי תוֹרָה.

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu laasok b'divrei Torah.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to engage with words of Torah.

Parshat Nitzavim-VaYelech - Devarim 29:9 - 31:30 - Covenant Redux - It's Not in Heaven

Devarim 29:13-14

ָוְלֶאֵ אִתְּכֶם לְבַדְּכֶם אָנֹכִי כַּרַתֹ אֶת־הַבְּרִית הַוֹּאת וְאֶתְ־הָאָלָהְ הַוֹּאת:

ָּכִי אֶת־אֲשֶׁר יֶשְׁנוֹ פֹּה עִמָּנוּ עֹמֵד הַיּוֹם לִפְנֵי יְהָוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֵת אֲשֶׁר אֵיגֶנוּ פָּה עִמָנוּ הַיְּוֹם:

I make this covenant, with its sanctions, not with you alone, but both with those who are standing here with us this day before the LORD our God and with those who are not with us here this day.

Devarim 30:11-12

ָּכִי הַמִּצְוָה הַוֹּאת אֲעֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְּךָּ הַיֵּוֹם לְא־נִפְלֵאת הוא מִמְּךְּ וְלָא רְתֹקָה הָוא: בא בווענה בנע לעציר מו נעלב-לנו בוועליתו נוכחה בנו מימר ניווינון

לֹא בַשָּׁמֵים הֵוא לֵאמֹר מִי יַצְלֶה־לָנוּ הַשָּׁמִּיְמָה וְיִפְחָה לָּנוּ וְיַשְׁמִעֵנוּ אֹחָה וְנַצְשֻׁנְּה:

Surely, this Instruction which I enjoin upon you this day is not too baffling for you, nor is it beyond reach. It is not in the heavens, that you should say, "Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?"

Devarim 30:19-20

הַצִּידֹתִי בָבֶם הַיּוֹם אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַחַיִּים וְהַפֶּנֶת נָתַתִּי לְפָּנֶיךּ הַבְּרָבָה וְהַקְּלָלֶה וּבְּחַרְתָּ בְּחַיִּים לְמַעַן תִּחָיָה אַתָּה וְזַרְאֶךְ: לְאָהָבָה אֶתֹּה אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁלֵע בְּלֹלְוֹ וּלְדָבְקָה־בְוֹ כִּי הָוּא חַיֵּירְ וְאָרֶף יָמֶיךּ לָעֶׁכֶּת עַל־הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע יְהְנָה לָאֲבָרָתָם לִיצִקֹּה לְתַע לָהֵם: לִאַבֹתִיךּ לִאָבָרָתָם לִיצִקֹק וְלִיצַלָּה לָתַת לָהָם:

I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day: I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life—if you and your offspring would live—by loving the LORD your God, heeding His commands, and holding fast to Him. For thereby you shall have life and shall long endure upon the soil that the LORD swore to your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give to them.

Devarim 31:19

ָוְעַהָּה כִּתְבָוּ לָכֶם אֶת־הַשִּׁיָרָה הַוֹּאת וְלַמְּדָה אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁימָה בְּפִיהֶם לְמַּעַן תִּהְיֶה־לִּי הַשִּׁיָרָה הַוֹּאת וְלַמְּדָה אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁימָה בְּפִיהֶם לְמַּעַן תִּהְיֶה־לִּי הַשִּׁיָרָה הַוֹּאת וְלַמְדָה אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁימָה בְּפִיהֶם לְמַּעַן תִּהְיֶה־לִּי הַשִּׁיָרָה הַוֹּאת וְלַמְדָה אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁימָה בְּפִיהֶם לְמַּעַן תִּהְיֶה־לִּי הַשִּׁיָרָה הַוֹּאת וְלַמְדָה אֶת־בְּנֵיִי יִשְׂרָאֵל

Therefore, write down this poem and teach it to the people of Israel; put it in their mouths, in order that this poem may be My witness against the people of Israel.

The Out-take: Be Strong & Resolute

יָהָוָה לִפְנֵיכֶם וַעֲשִׂיתֵם לָהֶם כְּכַל־הַמִּצְוָה אֲשֶׁר צְוַיִּתִי אֶתְכֵם:

31: 5) The LORD will deliver them up to you, and you shall deal with them in full accordance with the Instruction that I have enjoined upon you.

הַוְקָּוּ וְאָמְצֹּוּ אַל־תִּיְרְאָוּ וְאַל־תַּעַרְאָוּ מִפְּנֵיהֶם כִּי ו יְהָוָה אֱלֹהֶיךְ הָוּא הַהֹלֵךְ עִפֶּׁךְ לֹא יַעַזְבֶּרָבְּ 31:6) **Be strong and resolute**, be not in fear or in dread of them; for the LORD your God Himself marches with you: He will not fail you or forsake you.

וַיִּקְרָא מֹשָׁה לִיהוֹשַׁעַ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו לְעֵינֵי כָל־יִשְׂרָאֵّל **חַזָּק וָאֲמִיץ** כִּי אַהָּה הָבוֹא אֶת־הָעָם הַּזֶּה אָל־הָאֶּרִץ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע יְהְוָה לַאַבֹּתָם לָתֵת לָהָם וָאַהָּה הַּנְחִילָנָּה אוֹתָם:

31:7) Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel: "**Be strong and resolute**, for it is you who shall go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their fathers to give them, and it is you who shall apportion it to them.

ַוִיהוָה הָוּא ו הַהֹלֶך לְפָנִיךְ הָוּא יִהְיָה עָפֶּׁךְ לֹא יַרְפָּךָ וְלֹא יַעַזְבֶךָ לֹא תִירָא וְלֹא תַחָת:

31:8) And the LORD Himself will go before you. He will be with you; He will not fail you or forsake you. Fear not and be not dismayed.

Why the people before Joshua?

Being strong and resolute, the many and the one, might present differently

- can we be strong w/o resolve?
- what is resolve without strength?

Ibn Ezra on this: Moses said, Be courageous and brave to Joshua as well, because he was to be their leader.

- supporting our leadership in uncertain times
- how can we know their burden, the weight of their office?

"The firm and resolute man is he who braces himself up with all his might in the hour of his affliction." The Improvement of Moral Qualities (mussar text), Salomon Ibn Gabirol, Saragossa (1045 CE)

In our own lives:

• How are we strong? for ourselves? for those we love?