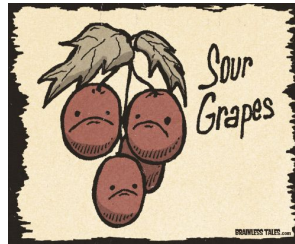


"SOUR GRAPES OF WRATH: GOD'S JUSTICE IN THE TORAH"¹



I - God of Vengeance?

1. Exodus 20:5, Deuteronomy 5:9 - To Those Who Hate Him

<p>You shall neither prostrate yourself before them nor worship them, for I, the Lord, your God, am a zealous God, Who visits the iniquity of the fathers upon the sons, upon the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me,</p>	<p>לֹא תִשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם וְלֹא תַעֲבֹדֵם כִּי אֲנִי יְקֹוֹק אֱלֹהֶיךָ קָדֵם פֶּקֶד עֲוֹן אָבוֹת עַל בְּנֵים עַל שְׁלִישִׁים וְעַל רְבֻעִים לְשִׁנְאָי:</p>
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2. Exodus 34:6 - 13 Attributes of Mercy

<p>And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed: Lord, Lord, benevolent God, Who is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth, preserving loving kindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and rebellion and sin; yet He does not completely clear [of sin] He visits the iniquity of parents on children and children's children, to the third and fourth generations."</p>	<p>וַיַּעֲבֹר יְקֹוֹק עַל פְּנֵיו וַיִּקְרָא יְקֹוֹק יְקֹוֹק קָדֵם רַחוּם וְחַנּוּן אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם וְרַב חֶסֶד וְאֱמֶת: ז. נִצַּר חֶסֶד לְאַלְפִים נִשְׂא עֲוֹן וּפְשָׁע וְחַטָּאת וְנִקָּה לֹא יִנְקָה פֶקֶד עֲוֹן אָבוֹת עַל בְּנֵים וְעַל בְּנֵי בָנִים עַל שְׁלִישִׁים וְעַל רְבֻעִים:</p>
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3. Leviticus 26:39 - Rotting Away

<p>And because of their iniquity, those of you who survive will rot away in the lands of your enemies; moreover, they will rot away because the iniquities of their fathers are still within them.</p>	<p>וְהִנְשָׂאֲרִים בְּכֶם יִמְקוּ בְּעוֹנֵם בְּאַרְצֹת אִיבֵיכֶם וְאֶף בְּעוֹנֹת אֲבוֹתֵם אִתָּם יִמְקוּ:</p>
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II - God of Mercy?

1. Deuteronomy 24:16 - Individual Responsibility

<p>Fathers shall not be put to death because of sons, nor shall sons be put to death because of fathers; each man shall be put to death for his own transgression.</p>	<p>לֹא יוּמָתוּ אָבוֹת עַל בְּנֵים וּבָנִים לֹא יוּמָתוּ עַל אָבוֹת אִישׁ בְּחַטָּאתוֹ יוּמָתוּ:</p>
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2. Ezekiel 18:20 - Wickedness of the Wicked

<p>The soul that sins, it shall die; a son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, and a father shall not bear the iniquity of the son; the</p>	<p>הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַחַטָּאת הִיא תָמוּת בֶּן לֹא יִשָּׂא בְּעוֹן הָאָב וְאָב לֹא יִשָּׂא בְּעוֹן הַבֵּן צְדֻקָת</p>
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¹ Translations of Rashi and Tanakh - Judaica Press. Ramban and Midrashim - By Me.

righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.	הַצַּדִּיק עָלָיו תִּהְיֶה וְרָשָׁעַת הָרָשָׁע עָלָיו תִּהְיֶה:
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3. Jeremiah 31:28-29 - Sour Grapes

In those days, they shall no longer say, "Fathers have eaten unripe grapes, and the teeth of the children shall be set on edge." But each man shall die for his iniquity; whoever eats the unripe grapes- his teeth shall be set on edge.	בְּיָמֵם הָהֵם לֹא יֹאמְרוּ עוֹד אָבוֹת אָכְלוּ בֶּסֶר וְשָׁנַי בָּנִים תִּקְהִינָה: כִּי אִם אִישׁ בְּעוֹנוֹ יָמוּת כָּל הָאָדָם הָאֹכֵל הַבֶּסֶר תִּקְהִינָה שְׁנָיו:
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III - Rationalizations & Resolutions

1. Exodus 20:5. Rashi - Poor Parenting

<i>of those who hate Me:</i> As the Targum [Onkelos paraphrases: when the sons continue to sin following their fathers, i.e.], when they cling to their fathers' deeds. — [from Sanh. 27b]	לְשׁוֹנָי: כְּתַרְגוּמוֹ, כְּשֶׁאֲחֻזִּין מַעֲשֵׂה אֲבוֹתֵיהֶם בְּיָדֵיהֶם:
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2. Ramban ibid. - Uniqueness of idolatry

The Torah said, "for those who hate me", [that is] when the children will hate God, [but] if he has a child who is righteous, then [the child] will not carry the sin of the father, like what was explained in Ezekiel (18:20.) From the words of our Rabbis (in Mechilta) it appears that my explanation is the [correct] explanation. They learned from here that the attribute of good is greater than the attribute of retribution. The attribute of retribution is for four generations etc... It is possible that this strict attribute only applies to idolatry alone, so that is what we are being warned about, but with the rest of the mitzvot, a man dies for his [own] sin. (Yirmiyahu 31:29)	וְאָמַר הַכְּתוּב לְשׁוֹנָי, כְּשֶׁהָיוּ הַבָּנִים שׁוֹנְאֵי הַשֵּׁם, שֶׁאִם הוֹלִיד בֶּן צָדִיק לֹא יֵשׂא בְעוֹן הָאָב, כְּמוֹ שֶׁפִּי יִחְזַקְאֵל (יח כ) וּמִדְבָרֵי רַבּוֹתֵינוּ (מְכִילְתָא כֶּאֱן) נִרְאֶה כְּפִירוֹשׁ הַזֶּה שֶׁפִּירְשֵׁתִי, שֶׁלְמַדוֹ מִכֶּאֱן שֶׁמִּדָּה טוֹבָה מְרֻבֶּה עַל מַדַּת פּוֹרְעֵנוֹת, שֶׁמִּדַּת פּוֹרְעֵנוֹת לֹא רַבֵּעָה דוֹרוֹת וְכוּ'... וַיִּתְּנָן שֶׁתִּהְיֶה הַמִּדָּה הַחֲמוּרָה הַזֹּאת בְּעַבְדוֹת גְּלוּלִים בְּלִבָּד, כִּי בֵּה יִזְהֵר, אֲבָל בְּשֵׂאֵר הַמִּצְוֹת אִישׁ בְּעוֹנוֹ יָמוּת (יִרְמִיָּה לֹא כֹּט)
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3. Talmud Bavli: Tractate Makkot 24a - L'dor VaDor

Rabbi Yosi bar Hanina said that Moshe our Teacher enacted four decrees on Israel. Four prophets came and nullified them...	אָמַר ר' יוֹסֵי בַר חַנִּינָא: אַרְבַּע גְּזֵירוֹת גָּזַר מֹשֶׁה רַבִּינוּ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל, בְּאוֹ אַרְבַּעַה נְבִיאִים וּבִיטְלוּם...
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4. Midrash Tanchuma (Warsaw) Parshat Shofetim 19 - With God's Blessing

Rabbi Levi said that Moshe did three things, and God agreed with him. These are they; As it is written in (Exodus 34) "[God] remembers the sin of the fathers on sons.." and Moshe said [that] "fathers will not be put to death for their sons..." (Deuteronomy 24)	אֲר' לֵוִי שְׁלֹשָׁה דְבָרִים עָשָׂה מֹשֶׁה וְהִסְכִּים הַקֹּב"ה עַל יָדוֹ וְאָלוֹ הֵן כְּתִיב (שְׁמוֹת ל"ד) פּוֹקֵד עוֹן אֲבוֹת עַל בָּנִים וּמֹשֶׁה אָמַר לֹא יָמוּת אֲבוֹת עַל בָּנִים (דְּבָרִים כ"ד)
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