

September 2-8, 2018

נִצָּבִים

“Standing”

Nitzavim

Devarim 29:10 – 30:20  
(Deuteronomy)

## Nitzavim

This portion has been called a  
“Covenant Ceremony”

Moses urges the Israelites to uphold the Covenant and honor the Torah and thus be rewarded with life in the land of Israel.

“See, I have set before you today life and good, and also death and evil . . .”

Deuteronomy 29:10a

“You are standing this day . . .”

nitz-a-vim

=

נִצַּבִּים

Deut. 29:10a: You are standing . . .

ni-tza-vim

=

“(are) standing”

אַתֶּם נִצַּבִּים הַיּוֹם כְּלָכֶם  
לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

Deut. 29:10a: You are standing . . .

ni-tza-vim

=

“(are) standing”

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם כְּלָכֶם  
לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

The ending “im” on this verb shows it to be masculine plural. It is the main verb here, but technically a *present participle*.

(The helping verb “are” is understood.)

Deut. 29:10a: You are standing . . .

a-tem

=

“you” (masc. pl.)

אַתֶּם  
נִצַּבְתֶּם הַיּוֹם כְּלָכֶם  
לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם . . .

Deut. 29:10a: You are standing . . .

a-tem

=

“you” (masc. pl.)

אַתֶּם נִצַּבְתֶּם הַיּוֹם כְּלָכֶם  
לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם . . .

Note that this is the pronoun “you”,  
masculine plural, subject of the verb.

The feminine plural form would be

“a-ten” – אַתֶּן

Deut. 29:10a: You are standing **this day** . . .

ha-yom

=

“today” or “this day”

אתם נצבים היום כִּלְכֶם  
לפני יהוה אלהיכם



Deut. 29:10a: You are standing **this day** . . .

ha-yom

=

“today” or “this day”

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם כִּלְכֶם  
לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

The noun is “yom” – יוֹם. The prefix “ha” is the definite article “the”, but this idiom is usually translated as “today” or “this day”.

See other related words on the next slide.

יום

day (noun masc.)

הַיּוֹם

the day, this day, to-day

יָמִים

days

יוֹם אֶחָד

first day

יוֹם טוֹב

Good day!

יוֹם הַלְּבָדָת

birthday

You are standing this day all of you . . .

ku-lə-khem

=

“all of you”

כִּלְכֶם

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם  
לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם . . .

You are standing this day all of you . . .

ku-lə-khem

=

“all of you”

כִּלְכֶם

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם  
לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם . . .

The root is the word for “all” – כָּל-.

This root is treated as a noun and takes here the pronominal suffix *khem*, meaning “of you” (masc. plural).

You are standing this day all of you **before** . . .

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים

הַיּוֹם כִּלְכֶם

יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

לְפָנַי

. . .

“before”

=

liph-nei

You are standing this day all of you **before** . . .

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים

הַיּוֹם כְּלַכֶּם

יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

לְפָנַי

“before”

=

liph-nei

This preposition *liphnei* is formed from  
(1) the preposition *li*, “to” or “for”, and  
(2) the noun *panim*, meaning “face”.

*Panim* is in the construct state; and it is plural, but singular in meaning.

You are standing . . . before the LORD . . .

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם כְּלַכֶּם  
לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם . . .

Adonai

=

“the LORD”

This is a Hebrew name of God called the *tetragrammaton* (“four letters”):

יהוה (*Yod Heh Vav Heh*)

More on the next slide.

יהוה

Because it was considered blasphemous to utter the name of God, it was only written and **never spoken**, which resulted in the original pronunciation becoming lost. In most English Bibles, this name is written as “the LORD”. The Jewish tradition is to substitute the word *Adonai* (“my Lord”) in its place when reading the Scriptures. Otherwise, the sacred Name is referred to simply as *HaShem* (“the Name”).



... before the LORD your God ...

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם כְּלַכֶּם  
לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

E-lo-hei-khem

=

“your God”

... before the LORD your God ...

אַתֶּם נֹצְבִים הַיּוֹם כְּלַכֶּם  
לְפָנַי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

E-lo-hei-khem

=

“your God”

This word is the construct form of the noun

אֱלֹהִים “Elohim”,

Its pronominal suffix *khem*, means  
“of you” (masc. plural).

Deuteronomy 29:10a

אַתֶּם

You

נִצְבִים

are standing

הַיּוֹם

today

כָּלְכֶם

all of you

לִפְנֵי

before

יְהוָה

the LORD

אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

your God

...

...

Deuteronomy 29:10a

אֱלֹהִים  
נִצְבְּרִים  
הַיּוֹם  
טַקְלָכֶם  
לְפָנַי  
יְהוָה  
אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

?

?

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...



CURSES

BLESSINGS

קִסָּפִּי