Return to Zion

A Share in the Land

PRIVILEGE · SHARE · SMALL WANT · LADDER · ARRIVING



After two thousand years the children return,
and everyone has a share in the land.

CONTENTS

The Book Before You

OPENING

- Opening Words — Why a book about the return to Zion? 5

FIRST GATE · THE GATE OF PRIVILEGE

- Before We Begin — What was a dream for two thousand years is our morning. 6
- Glossary of the Gate — The ideas in today's language 7
- What Is in This Gate — 4 short chapters 8

SECOND GATE · THE GATE OF THE SHARE

- Before We Begin — A share in the land is a share in eternity. 11
- Glossary of the Gate — The ideas in today's language 12
- What Is in This Gate — 4 short chapters 13

THIRD GATE · THE GATE OF THE SMALL WANT

- Before We Begin — The want is already a step. 16
- Glossary of the Gate — The ideas in today's language 17
- What Is in This Gate — 4 short chapters 18

FOURTH GATE · THE GATE OF THE LADDER

- Before We Begin — Everyone has a step on the ladder. 21
- Glossary of the Gate — The ideas in today's language 22
- What Is in This Gate — 4 short chapters 23

FIFTH GATE · THE GATE OF ARRIVING

- Before We Begin — Just show that you want. Whoever wants, comes and receives. 26
- Glossary of the Gate — The ideas in today's language 27
- What Is in This Gate — 4 short chapters 28

CLOSING

- My Share — Where am I on the ladder — 31
- The Book in One Line — 32
- Afterword — 32
- Appendix — The sources in full — 33
- Sources — 36

· With the help of Heaven ·

וְיֵשׁ־תִּקְוָה לְאַחֲרִיתֵךְ נְאֻם־ה' וְשָׁבוּ בָנִים לִגְבוּלָם

"And there is hope for your future," says the Lord, "and the children shall return to their own border."

JEREMIAH 31:16

OPENING

Opening Words

Why a book about the return to Zion?

For two thousand years they prayed: "May our eyes see Your return to Zion." Three times a day, in every generation.

And us? We see it. There is a state in the Land of Israel. There are cities, there are trees, there are children in the streets of Jerusalem.

This is not ordinary. It is a privilege. And this privilege invites each of us to ask: so what is my share?

This book asks for nothing. It only shows how precious a share in the land is, and that everyone has a share. Even a small want already counts.

Five gates in this book

The Gate of Privilege, on what we have seen after two thousand years. The Gate of the Share, on Jacob, who bought a plot of field, and on whoever has a share in the land. The Gate of the Small Want, on loving the stones and the dust. The Gate of the Ladder, on the way from a want, to an option, to a home, to a holding. And the Gate of Arriving, on the simple secret: just show that you want.

· FIRST GATE ·

The Gate of Privilege

WE WERE LIKE DREAMERS · A NATION IN ONE DAY · THE OPEN SIGN · THEY SHALL BUILD CITIES



For two thousand years it was a dream. We are the generation that sees it with our own eyes. A state in the Land of Israel. It is not to be taken for granted. It is a privilege.

> שִׁיר הַמַּעֲלוֹת בְּשׁוּב ה' אֶת־שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן הָיִינוּ כְּחֹלְמִים
>
> *"A Song of Ascents. When the Lord brought back the return to Zion, we were like dreamers."*
>
> — PSALMS 126:1

FIRST GATE · GLOSSARY

Glossary of the Gate

The ideas of The Gate of Privilege, in the holy tongue and in today's language

Return to Zion RETURN TO ZION

The people come back to their own land, after two thousand years.

Like dreamers LIKE DREAMERS

What was a dream became an ordinary morning. And it must not become ordinary.

The open sign THE OPEN SIGN

The land gives fruit again. The clearest sign of all.

Privilege PRIVILEGE

A gift we did not work for. Only to see it, and to give thanks.

§1 THE GATE OF PRIVILEGE

We Were Like Dreamers

> בְּשׁוּב ה׳ אֶת־שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן הָיִינוּ כְּחֹלְמִים
>
> *"When the Lord brought back the return to Zion, we were like dreamers."*
>
> — PSALMS 126:1

Our great-great-grandfather prayed for this three times a day. He did not see it.

We saw it. What was a dream for them is an ordinary morning for us. So what does this mean for us? Not to get used to it. To wake up every morning and say: we were privileged.

§2 THE GATE OF PRIVILEGE

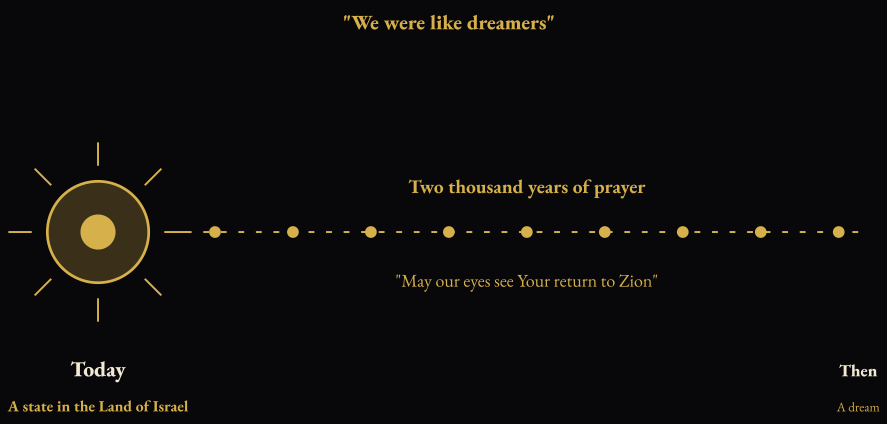
A Nation in One Day

> הֲיוּחַל אֶרֶץ בְּיוֹם אֶחָד אִם־יִוָּלֵד־גּוֹי פַּעַם אֶחָת כִּי־חָלָה גַּם־יָלְדָה צִיּוֹן אֶת־בָּנֶיהָ
>
> *"Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children."*
>
> — ISAIAH 66:8

The prophet asks: can a land be born in one day? A whole nation, all at once?

We saw it. In one day a state was declared. After two thousand years without a home, there was a home. So what does this mean for us? That we live inside a prophecy.

♦ A drawing for §2 · The Gate of Privilege



Two thousand years of prayer, and one point of light: today

§3 THE GATE OF PRIVILEGE

The Open Sign

> אֵין לְךָ קֵץ מְגוּלֶּה מִזֶּה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וְאַתֶּם הָרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַנְפְּכֶם תִּתֵּנוּ וּפִרְיְכֶם תִּשְׂאוּ לְעַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל
>
> *"There is no clearer sign of the end than this, as it is said: "But you, mountains of Israel, you shall give your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel.""*
>
> — SANHEDRIN 98A

Our Sages said: the clearest sign of redemption is when the mountains of Israel give fruit again.

Every tree that blossoms here today is a sign. So what does this mean for us? Whoever eats fruit from the land is tasting a prophecy.

§4 THE GATE OF PRIVILEGE

They Shall Build Cities

> וְשַׁבְתִּי אֶת־שְׁבוּת עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבָנוּ עָרִים נְשַׁמּוֹת וְיָשָׁבוּ וְנָטְעוּ כְרָמִים וְשָׁתוּ אֶת־יֵינָם
>
> *"I will bring back My people Israel; they shall build the desolate cities and dwell in them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine."*
>
> — AMOS 9:14

Cities that were desolate are being built. Vineyards are being planted. People live in them and drink the wine.

This is not a story about the past. It is what is happening now. So what does this mean for us? That we are part of this building.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

For two thousand years they prayed, and we see the answer: a state, cities, trees that bear fruit. It is a privilege. Not to get used to it. To see it anew every day, and to give thanks.

THE GATE IN ONE LINE

What was a dream for two thousand years is our morning.

· SECOND GATE ·

The Gate of the Share

HE BOUGHT THE PLOT OF THE FIELD · AS A SHARE IN THE WORLD TO COME · THREE PLACES · HOUSES SHALL YET BE BOUGHT



Jacob comes back to the land after a long road. And what is the first thing the Torah tells us? That he bought a plot. A small piece of a field. Why?

> וַיִּקֶן אֶת־חֶלְקַת הַשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר נָטָה־שָׁם אָהֳלוֹ
>
> *"And he bought the plot of the field where he had pitched his tent."*
>
> — GENESIS 33:19

SECOND GATE · GLOSSARY

Glossary of the Gate

The ideas of The Gate of the Share, in the holy tongue and in today's language

A plot A PLOT

A small piece of a field. What Jacob bought in Shechem.

A share A SHARE

"Whoever has a share in it is as important as one who has a share in the World to Come."

Standing STANDING

"The Land of Israel has a great standing." It is not just another place.

Inheritance INHERITANCE

What passes from parents to children. A share that stays in the family.

§1 THE GATE OF THE SHARE

He Bought the Plot of the Field

> וַיִּקֶן אֶת־חֶלְקַת הַשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר נָטָה־שָׁם אָהֳלוֹ מִיַּד בְּנֵי־חֲמוֹר אֲבִי שְׁכֶם בְּמֵאָה קְשִׂיטָה
>
> *"And he bought the plot of the field where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, the father of Shechem, for a hundred kesitah."*
>
> — GENESIS 33:19

Jacob went through a great deal on the way. And at the end of the road, when he reaches Shechem, he does not just pass through. He buys a share.

The Torah does not tell things for no reason. Every word in it teaches. So what does this mean for us? That a share in the land is worth being written in the Torah.

§2 THE GATE OF THE SHARE

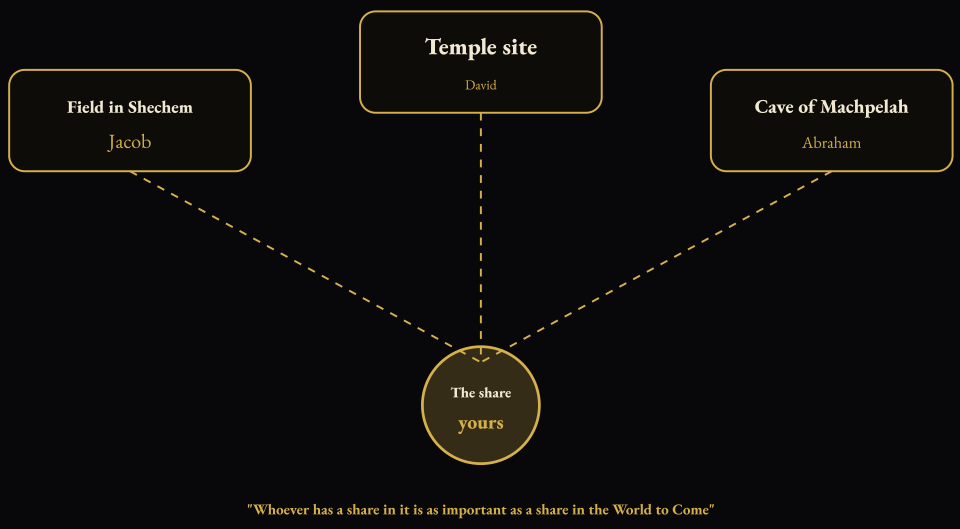
As a Share in the World to Come

> והזכיר זה הכתוב להודיע כי מעלה גדולה יש לארץ ישראל, ומי שיש לו בה חלק, חשוב הוא כחלק עולם הבא
>
> *"Scripture mentions this to teach that the Land of Israel has a great standing, and whoever has a share in it is as important as one who has a share in the World to Come."*
>
> — IBN EZRA, GENESIS 33:19

Ibn Ezra explains: this is the reason. The Torah wants us to know how great the Land of Israel is.

Whoever has a share in it is as important as one who has a share in the World to Come. So what does this mean for us? A share in the land is not only a place. It is a share in eternity.

♦ A drawing for §2 · The Gate of the Share



Three shares the Patriarchs bought, and your share continues them

§3 THE GATE OF THE SHARE

Three Places

זֶה אֶחָד מִשְּׁלֹשָׁה מְקוֹמוֹת שֶׁאֵין אֻמּוֹת הָעוֹלָם יְכוֹלִין לְהוֹנוֹת אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל לוֹמַר גְּזוּלִים הֵן בְּיֶדְכֶם, וְאֵלּוּ הֵן: מְעָרַת הַמַּכְפֵּלָה, וּבֵית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ, וּקְבוּרָתוֹ שֶׁל יוֹסֵף

"This is one of three places about which the nations of the world cannot taunt Israel and say, "They are stolen in your hands." These are: the Cave of Machpelah, the site of the Holy Temple, and the burial place of Joseph."

— BERESHIT RABBAH 79:7

Abraham bought the Cave of Machpelah. David bought the site of the Temple. Jacob bought the field in Shechem.

The Patriarchs did not wait. They took a share with their own hands. So what does this mean for us? Every share, even a small one, continues their way.

§4 THE GATE OF THE SHARE

Houses Shall Yet Be Bought

> עוֹד יִקָּנוּ בָתִּים וְשָׂדוֹת וּכְרָמִים בָּאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת
>
> *"Houses and fields and vineyards shall yet be bought in this land."*
>
> — JEREMIAH 32:15

Jeremiah bought a field exactly when everything seemed lost. An enemy all around the city, and he writes a deed and signs it.

Because he knew: a day will come, and again there will be houses and fields and vineyards here. So what does this mean for us? We live in that day.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

Jacob bought a plot, and the Torah wrote it down for all generations. Ibn Ezra says: whoever has a share in the land is as important as one who has a share in the World to Come. Every share in the land, even a small one, is a share in eternity.

THE GATE IN ONE LINE

A share in the land is a share in eternity.

· THIRD GATE ·

The Gate of the Small Want

A GOOD THOUGHT · THEY WANT HER STONES · WHEN THEY LONG · KISSING THE STONES



Before there is a share, there is a want. And a want, even a small one, already counts. Jerusalem is built from it.

כִּי־רָצוּ עֲבָדֶיךָ אֶת־אֲבָנֶיהָ וְאֶת־עֲפָרָהּ יְחֹנֵנוּ

"For Your servants want her stones, and love her dust."

— PSALMS 102:15

THIRD GATE · GLOSSARY

Glossary of the Gate

The ideas of The Gate of the Small Want, in the holy tongue and in today's language

Want WANTING

The first step. Before any deed.

A good thought A GOOD THOUGHT

"A good thought is joined to the deed." The want is written down.

Longing LONGING

"When the children of Israel long for her." The city is built from it.

Stone and dust STONE AND DUST

Even the smallest thing in the land is loved.

§1 THE GATE OF THE SMALL WANT

A good thought

מַחְשָׁבָה טוֹבָה מְצָרְפָהּ לְמַעֲשֶׂה

“A good thought is joined to the deed.”

— KIDDUSHIN 40A

You wanted, and it has not happened yet? It is already written.

The Holy One joins the good thought as if you had done it. So what does this mean for us? The want is already a step.

§2 THE GATE OF THE SMALL WANT

They Want Her Stones

כִּי־רָצוּ עֲבָדֶיךָ אֶת־אֲבָנֶיהָ וְאֶת־עֲפָרָהּ יְחֹנֵנוּ

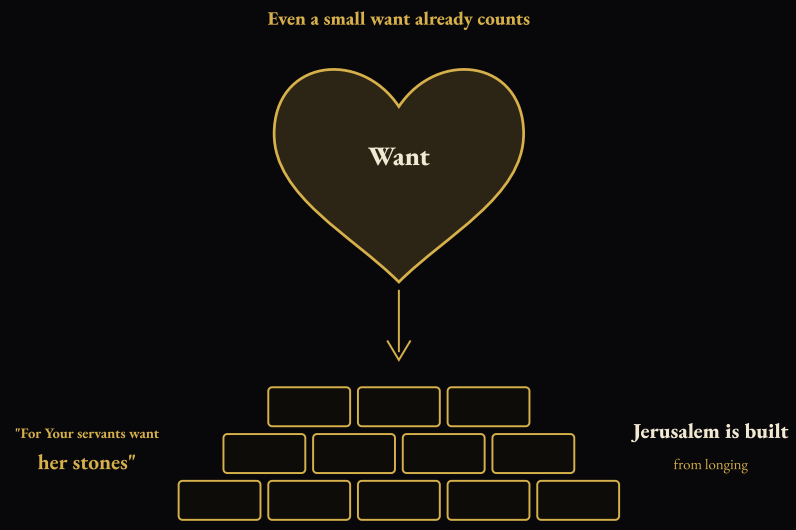
“For Your servants want her stones, and love her dust.”

— PSALMS 102:15

The servants of God want the stones of Jerusalem. They love even her dust.

You do not need a house yet. So what does this mean for us? It is enough to start from loving a stone.

♦ A drawing for §2 · The Gate of the Small Want



From the want, stone by stone, Jerusalem is built

§3 THE GATE OF THE SMALL WANT

When They Long

> יְרוּשָׁלַיִם אָמְנָם תִּבָּנֶה כְּשֶׁיִּכְסְפוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָהּ תַּכְלִית הַכֹּסֶף עַד שֶׁיְּחוֹנְנוּ אֲבָנֶיהָ וַעֲפָרָהּ
>
> *"Jerusalem will be built only when the children of Israel long for her with the utmost longing, until they love her stones and her dust."*
>
> — KUZARI 5:27

The Kuzari says: Jerusalem is built from longing. When we truly want her, down to the stone and the dust.

Your want is a brick in the building. So what does this mean for us? No want is too small.

§4 THE GATE OF THE SMALL WANT

Kissing the Stones

> רַבִּי אַבָּא מְנַשֵּׁק כֵּיפֵי דְעַכּוֹ. רַבִּי חֲנִינָא מְתַקֵּן מַתְקְלַיָּיהָ
>
> *"Rabbi Abba would kiss the stones of Acco. Rabbi Hanina would repair its stumbling places."*
>
> — KETUBOT 112A

Rabbi Abba would kiss the stones of Acco. Rabbi Hanina would repair the stumbling places on the road.

Small deeds of love. So what does this mean for us? This is how we show that we want.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

Before everything there is a want. The Holy One joins it to the deed, and Jerusalem is built from it. Even a small want already counts. You can start from it, today.

THE GATE IN ONE LINE

The want is already a step.

· FOURTH GATE ·

The Gate of the Ladder

THE DAY OF SMALL THINGS · WALK THROUGH THE LAND · AND YOU SHALL DWELL IN IT · A LASTING SHARE



There is a ladder. The first step is a want. After it, an option. After it, a home. And after it, a holding. Every step matters, and everyone has a step that fits him.

כִּי מִי בַז לְיוֹם קְטַנּוֹת

"For who has despised the day of small things?"

— ZECHARIAH 4:10

FOURTH GATE · GLOSSARY

Glossary of the Gate

The ideas of The Gate of the Ladder, in the holy tongue and in today's language

Want WANTING

The first step. It already counts too.

Option AN OPTION

A door that is waiting for you. You have not gone in yet, but the way is already yours.

Home A HOME

A place to dwell. "And you shall dwell in it."

Holding A HOLDING

A lasting share in the land. A root that stays.

§1 THE GATE OF THE LADDER

The Day of Small Things

> כִּי מִי בַז לְיוֹם קְטַנּוֹת וְשָׂמְחוּ
>
> *“For who has despised the day of small things? They shall rejoice.”*
>
> — ZECHARIAH 4:10

The prophet says: do not look down on a small beginning. In the end, people rejoice in it.

The first step on the ladder is a want. It looks small. So what does this mean for us? Without it there is no ladder.

§2 THE GATE OF THE LADDER

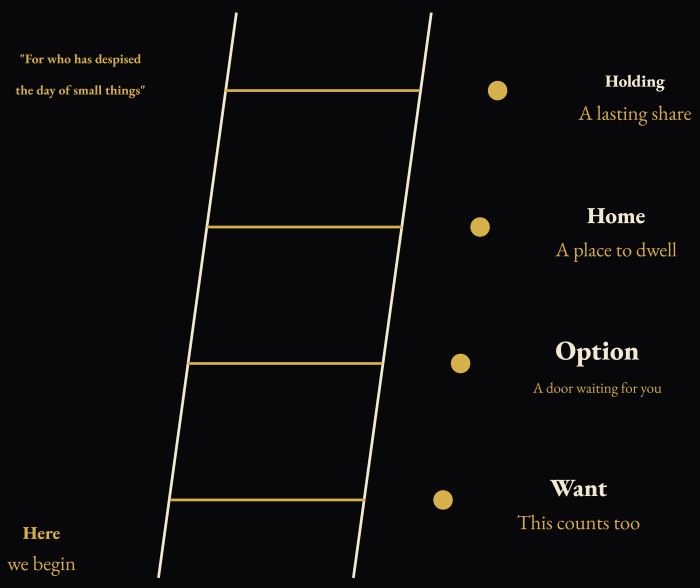
Walk Through the Land

> קוּם הִתְהַלֵּךְ בָּאָרֶץ לְאָרְכָּהּ וּלְרָחְבָּהּ כִּי לְךָ אֶתְּנֶנָּה
>
> *“Arise, walk through the land, its length and its breadth, for I will give it to you.”*
>
> — GENESIS 13:17

The Holy One said to Abraham: arise, walk through the land. Its length and its breadth. For I will give it to you.

Rabbi Eliezer learned from here that walking in a field already acquires something (Bava Batra 100a). This is the option: not yet a house, but the way is already yours. So what does this mean for us? Everyone has a door.

♦ A drawing for §2 · The Gate of the Ladder



The ladder: a want, an option, a home, a holding. Everyone has a step

§3 THE GATE OF THE LADDER

And You Shall Dwell in It

> עַל דַּעְתִּי זוֹ מִצְוַת עֲשֵׂה הִיא. יְצִוֵּה אוֹתָם שֶׁיֵּשְׁבוּ בָּאָרֶץ וְיִירְשׁוּ אוֹתָהּ, כִּי הוּא נְתָנָהּ לָהֶם, וְלֹא יִמְאֲסוּ בְּנַחֲלַת ה
>
> *"In my view this is a positive commandment. He commands them to dwell in the land and inherit it, for He gave it to them, and they should not despise the inheritance of the Lord."*
>
> — RAMBAN, NUMBERS 33:53

The Ramban says: dwelling in the land is a mitzvah.

A home in the land is a step on the ladder. A place to light candles, to raise children. So what does this mean for us? Every day in such a home is a mitzvah.

§4 THE GATE OF THE LADDER

A Lasting Share

> שֶׁכָּל הַדָּר בְּאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל דּוֹמֶה כְּמִי שֶׁיֵּשׁ לוֹ אֱלוֹהַּ
>
> *"Whoever lives in the Land of Israel is like one who has a God."*
>
> — KETUBOT 110B

Our Sages said: whoever lives in the Land of Israel is like one who has a God.

A holding in the land is not only walls. It is a root that stays, a share that passes to the children. So what does this mean for us? "As important as a share in the World to Come."

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

There is a ladder: a want, an option, a home, a holding. Every step is a share in the land, and every step counts. Everyone has a step that fits him. You too.

THE GATE IN ONE LINE

Everyone has a step on the ladder.

· FIFTH GATE ·

The Gate of Arriving

THEY TURNED BACK AND CAME · FOUR CUBITS · I WILL PLANT THEM · FROM THERE HE WILL GATHER YOU



The secret is very simple. There is no need to be someone else. Just show that you want. Whoever wants, comes and receives.

שְׂאִי־סָבִיב עֵינַיִךְ וּרְאִי כֻּלָּם נִקְבְּצוּ בָאוּ־לָךְ

"Lift up your eyes all around and see: they all gather together and come to you."

— ISAIAH 49:18

FIFTH GATE · GLOSSARY

Glossary of the Gate

The ideas of The Gate of Arriving, in the holy tongue and in today's language

To show TO SHOW

To reveal the want. In a word, in a visit, in a step.

To come TO COME

"They turned back and came to the Land of Israel."

To receive TO RECEIVE

Whoever wants, receives. The share is waiting.

Planting PLANTING

"And I will plant them on their land." A root, not a tent.

§1 THE GATE OF ARRIVING

They Turned Back and Came

> אָמְרוּ: יְשִׁיבַת אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁקוּלָה כְּנֶגֶד כָּל הַמִּצְוֹות שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה! חָזְרוּ וּבָאוּ לָהֶם לְאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

"They said: Dwelling in the Land of Israel is equal to all the commandments of the Torah! And they turned back and came to the Land of Israel."

— SIFREI, DEUTERONOMY 80

Two Sages left the land to learn Torah. On the way, in Sidon, they remembered the Land of Israel and wept.

And they turned back. They did not wait for a perfect moment. So what does this mean for us? The want leads home.

§2 THE GATE OF ARRIVING

Four Cubits

> כָּל הַמְהַלֵּךְ אַרְבַּע אַמּוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל מוּבְטָח לוֹ שֶׁהוּא בֶּן הָעוֹלָם הַבָּא

"Whoever walks four cubits in the Land of Israel is assured that he is a son of the World to Come."

— KETUBOT 111A

Four cubits are two big steps. That is all.

A visit is a share too. Even one step. So what does this mean for us? No step in the Land of Israel is too small.

♦ A drawing for §2 · The Gate of Arriving



From all the ends of the world, to one point: wanting, coming, receiving

§3 THE GATE OF ARRIVING

I Will Plant Them

וְנָטַעְתִּים עַל־אַדְמָתָם וְלֹא יִנָּתְשׁוּ עוֹד מֵעַל אַדְמָתָם אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לָהֶם

"And I will plant them on their land, and they shall no longer be uprooted from their land which I have given them."

— AMOS 9:15

The promise is planting. Not a tent for a short while, but a tree with roots.

"They shall no longer be uprooted." So what does this mean for us? Whoever comes is planted.

§4 THE GATE OF ARRIVING

From There He Will Gather You

> אִם־יִהְיֶה נִדַּחֲךָ בִּקְצֵה הַשָּׁמָיִם מִשָּׁם יְקַבֶּצְךָ ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ וּמִשָּׁם יִקָּחֶךָ
>
> *"If your outcasts are at the end of the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will take you."*
>
> — DEUTERONOMY 30:4

Even from the end of the heavens. Nothing is too far, and nothing is too late.

So what does this mean for us? Just show that you want. Whoever wants, comes and receives.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

The Sages remembered, and turned back. Four cubits already count. The promise is planting, from every place, even from the end of the heavens. Just show that you want. Whoever wants, comes and receives.

THE GATE IN ONE LINE

Just show that you want. Whoever wants, comes and receives.

CLOSING

My Share

Where am I on the ladder

Everyone has a share. Not everyone is on the same step, and every step counts. Here are some of the steps, each with its source.

Who	What is his share	Source
One who only longs	His want is already written. "A good thought is joined to the deed."	Kiddushin 40a
One who loves a stone	"For Your servants want her stones." Jerusalem is built from this.	Psalms 102:15
One who comes to visit	"Whoever walks four cubits in the Land of Israel." Even a step counts.	Ketubot 111a
One who opens a door	"Arise, walk through the land." An option: the way is already his.	Genesis 13:17
One who lives in the land	"That they dwell in the land and inherit it." Every day is a mitzvah.	Ramban, Numbers 33:53
One who has a holding	"Whoever has a share in it is as important as one who has a share in the World to Come."	Ibn Ezra, Genesis 33:19
One who is far away	"If your outcasts are at the end of the heavens, from there He will gather you."	Deuteronomy 30:4
Everyone	"And the children shall return to their own border." There is hope.	Jeremiah 31:16

CLOSING

The Book in One Line

After two thousand years there is a state in the Land of Israel, and that is a privilege. Whoever has a share in it is as important as one who has a share in the World to Come. The share begins with a small want and continues up a ladder: an option, a home, a holding. Everyone has a step. Just show that you want. Whoever wants, comes and receives.

CLOSING

Afterword

For two thousand years they dreamed. We see.

Jacob bought a plot of field, and the Torah wrote it down for us, so that we would know how precious a share in the land is.

And there is no need to start at the end. We start with a want. With one stone we love. With four cubits.

"And the children shall return to their own border." The door is open to everyone.

Just show that you want. Whoever wants, comes and receives.

APPENDIX

The Sources in Full

Every source quoted in the book, in its own words, in the order of the gates

---

The Gate of Privilege

We Were Like Dreamers (Psalms 126:1)

בְּשׁוּב ה' אֶת־שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן הָיִינוּ כְּחֹלְמִים

"When the Lord brought back the return to Zion, we were like dreamers."

A Nation in One Day (Isaiah 66:8)

הֲיוּחַל אֶרֶץ בְּיוֹם אֶחָד אִם־יִוָּלֵד־גּוֹי פַּעַם אֶחָת כִּי־חָלָה גַם־יָלְדָה צִיּוֹן אֶת־בָּנֶיהָ

"Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children."

The Open Sign (Sanhedrin 98a)

אֵין לְךָ קֵץ מְגוּלֶּה מִזֶּה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמַר: וְאַתֶּם הָרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עַנְפְּכֶם תִּתֵּנוּ וּפִרְיְכֶם תִּשְׂאוּ לְעַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל

"There is no clearer sign of the end than this, as it is said: "But you, mountains of Israel, you shall give your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel.""

They Shall Build Cities (Amos 9:14)

וְשַׁבְתִּי אֶת־שְׁבוּת עַמִּי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבָנוּ עָרִים נְשַׁמּוֹת וְיָשָׁבוּ וְנָטְעוּ כְרָמִים וְשָׁתוּ אֶת־יֵינָם

"I will bring back My people Israel; they shall build the desolate cities and dwell in them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine."

The Gate of the Share

He Bought the Plot of the Field (Genesis 33:19)

וַיִּקֶן אֶת־חֶלְקַת הַשָּׂדֶה אֲשֶׁר נָטָה־שָׁם אָהֳלוֹ מִיַּד בְּנֵי־חֲמוֹר אֲבִי שְׁכֶם בְּמֵאָה קְשִׂיטָה

"And he bought the plot of the field where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, the father of Shechem, for a hundred kesitah."

As a Share in the World to Come (Ibn Ezra, Genesis 33:19)

והזכיר זה הכתוב להודיע כי מעלה גדולה יש לארץ ישראל, ומי שיש לו בה חלק, חשוב הוא כחלק עולם הבא

"Scripture mentions this to teach that the Land of Israel has a great standing, and whoever has a share in it is as important as one who has a share in the World to Come."

Three Places (Bereshit Rabbah 79:7)

זֶה אֶחָד מִשְּׁלֹשָׁה מְקוֹמוֹת שֶׁאֵין אֻמּוֹת הָעוֹלָם יְכוֹלִין לְהוֹנוֹת אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל לוֹמַר גְּזוּלִים הֵן בְּיֶדְכֶם. וְאֵלּוּ הֵן: מְעָרַת הַמַּכְפֵּלָה, וּבֵית הַמִּקְדָּשׁ, וּקְבוּרָתוֹ שֶׁל יוֹסֵף

"This is one of three places about which the nations of the world cannot taunt Israel and say, "They are stolen in your hands." These are: the Cave of Machpelah, the site of the Holy Temple, and the burial place of Joseph."

Houses Shall Yet Be Bought (Jeremiah 32:15)

עוֹד יִקְנוּ בָתִּים וְשָׂדוֹת וּכְרָמִים בָּאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת

"Houses and fields and vineyards shall yet be bought in this land."

The Gate of the Small Want

A good thought (Kiddushin 40a)

מַחְשָׁבָה טוֹבָה מְצָרָפָהּ לְמַעֲשֶׂה

"A good thought is joined to the deed."

They Want Her Stones (Psalms 102:15)

כִּי־רָצוּ עֲבָדֶיךָ אֶת־אֲבָנֶיהָ וְאֶת־עֲפָרָהּ יְחֹנֵנוּ

"For Your servants want her stones, and love her dust."

When They Long (Kuzari 5:27)

יְרוּשָׁלַיִם אָמְנָם תִּבָּנֶה כְּשֶׁיִּכְסְפוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָהּ תַּכְלִית הַכִּסֻּף עַד שֶׁיְּחוֹנְנוּ אֲבָנֶיהָ וַעֲפָרָהּ

"Jerusalem will be built only when the children of Israel long for her with the utmost longing, until they love her stones and her dust."

Kissing the Stones (Ketubot 112a)

רַבִּי אַבָּא מְנַשֵּׁק כֵּיפֵי דְעַכּוֹ. רַבִּי חֲנִינָא מְתַקֵּן מַתְקָלַיָּהּ

"Rabbi Abba would kiss the stones of Acco. Rabbi Hanina would repair its stumbling places."

The Gate of the Ladder

The Day of Small Things (Zechariah 4:10)

כִּי מִי בַז לְיוֹם קְטַנּוֹת וְשָׂמְחוּ

"For who has despised the day of small things? They shall rejoice."

Walk Through the Land (Genesis 13:17)

קוּם הִתְהַלֵּךְ בָּאָרֶץ לְאָרְכָּהּ וּלְרָחְבָּהּ כִּי לְךָ אֶתְּנֶנָּה

"Arise, walk through the land, its length and its breadth, for I will give it to you."

And You Shall Dwell in It (Ramban, Numbers 33:53)

עַל דַּעְתִּי זוֹ מִצְוַת עֲשֵׂה הִיא. יְצִוָּה אוֹתָם שֶׁיֵּשְׁבוּ בָּאָרֶץ וְיִירְשׁוּ אוֹתָהּ, כִּי הוּא נָתְנָהּ לָהֶם. וְלֹא יִמְאֲסוּ בְּנַחֲלַת ה

"In my view this is a positive commandment. He commands them to dwell in the land and inherit it, for He gave it to them, and they should not despise the inheritance of the Lord."

A Lasting Share (Ketubot 110b)

שֶׁכָּל הַדָּר בְּאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל דּוֹמֶה כְּמִי שֶׁיֵּשׁ לוֹ אֱלוֹהַּ

"Whoever lives in the Land of Israel is like one who has a God."

The Gate of Arriving

They Turned Back and Came (Sifrei, Deuteronomy 80)

אָמְרוּ: יְשִׁיבַת אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁקוּלָה כְּנֶגֶד כָּל הַמִּצְוות שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה! חָזְרוּ וּבָאוּ לָהֶם לְאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

"They said: Dwelling in the Land of Israel is equal to all the commandments of the Torah! And they turned back and came to the Land of Israel."

Four Cubits (Ketubot 111a)

כָּל הַמְהַלֵּךְ אַרְבַּע אַמּוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל מוּבְטָח לוֹ שֶׁהוּא בֶּן הָעוֹלָם הַבָּא

"Whoever walks four cubits in the Land of Israel is assured that he is a son of the World to Come."

I Will Plant Them (Amos 9:15)

וְנָטַעְתִּים עַל־אַדְמָתָם וְלֹא יִנָּתְשׁוּ עוֹד מֵעַל אַדְמָתָם אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לָהֶם

"And I will plant them on their land, and they shall no longer be uprooted from their land which I have given them."

From There He Will Gather You (Deuteronomy 30:4)

אִם־יִהְיֶה נִדַּחֲךָ בִּקְצֵה הַשָּׁמָיִם מִשָּׁם יְקַבֶּצְךָ ה' אֱלֹקֶיךָ וּמִשָּׁם יִקָּחֶךָ

"If your outcasts are at the end of the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will take you."

SOURCES

Sources

References for the quotations in the book

Psalms 126:1
Isaiah 66:8
Sanhedrin 98a
Amos 9:14
Genesis 33:19
Ibn Ezra, Genesis 33:19
Bereshit Rabbah 79:7
Jeremiah 32:15
Kiddushin 40a
Psalms 102:15
Kuzari 5:27
Ketubot 112a
Zechariah 4:10
Genesis 13:17
Ramban, Numbers 33:53
Ketubot 110b
Sifrei, Deuteronomy 80
Ketubot 111a
Amos 9:15
Deuteronomy 30:4
Isaiah 49:18
Jeremiah 31:16
Bava Batra 100a
Jeremiah 32:9
Deuteronomy 30:3