

a chalom (dream), saying, Arise, and take the yeled and his Em, and flee to Eretz Mitzrayim (Egypt), and stay there until I tell you, for Herod is about to seek the yeled to destroy him.

| 14| So, having got up, Yosef [ben Dovid] took the yeled, and his Em by night and departed for Eretz Mitzrayim.

| 15| And Yosef [ben Dovid] was there until the mot Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by Hashem through the Navi, UMIMITZRAYIM KARATI LIVNI (Out of Egypt have I called my Son, HOSHEA 11:1).

| 16| When Herod saw that he had been outwitted by the chachamim, he was greatly enraged, and he ordered the slaughter of all the yeladim in Beit-Lechem and its vicinity who were two years old or under, in accordance with the time that he had learned from the chachamim.

| 17| Then came the fulfillment of what was spoken through Yirmeyah HaNavi:

| 18| KOL BRAMAH NISHMAH (A voice was heard in Ramah, Jer 31:14[15]), a voice of bitter weeping and mourning. Rachel is crying for her yeladim; she refuses to be comforted, because they are no more.

| 19| When Herod died, hinei, in Eretz Mitzrayim a malach Hashem appeared to Yosef [ben Dovid] in a chalom (dream),

| 20| saying, Arise, and take the yeled and his Em and go to Eretz Yisroel, for those seeking the life of the yeled are dead.

| 21| And Yosef [ben Dovid] arose and took the yeled and his Em, and entered Eretz Yisroel.

| 22| And when Yosef [ben Dovid] heard that Archelaus

had succeeded his father Herod as king of Yehudah, Yosef [ben Dovid] was afraid to go there. And, having been warned in a chalom, he departed into the districts of the Galil.

| 23| And Yosef [ben Dovid] made his home in the shtetl (Jewish village) called Natzeret, so that which was spoken by the Neviim might be fulfilled: He will be called a Natzri [*i.e.*, *Moshiach the Netzer, Tzemach, Isa 11:1; Jer 23:5; Zech 3:8; Isa 53:2; Zech 6:11-12*].

3 Now in those days Yochanan of the tevilah of teshuva appears, preaching, crying out as a maggid (preacher) [*for the Moshiach*] in the midbar (wilderness) of Yehudah,

| 2| saying, Make teshuva, for the Malchut HaShomayim has come near.

| 3| For this [Yochanan] is the one spoken of through Yeshayah the Navi, saying, KOL KOREY BAMIDBAR (A voice of one shouting in the wilderness, Isa 40:3): Prepare the Derech Hashem (the way of the L-rd). Make his paths straight!

| 4| Now Yochanan himself had camel-hair clothing and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was arbe (locusts) and devash (wild honey).

| 5| Then all Yerushalayim and all Yehudah and the whole region of the Yarden were going out to him.

| 6| Making vidduy (confession of sin) [*to Hashem*] of their averos (sins), they were submitted to a tevilah (immersion) by him, using the Yarden River as a mikveh mayim (gathering of water).

| 7| But when he saw many of the Perushim and Tzedukim coming to where he was using

the Yarden as a mikveh mayim, Yochanan said to them, You banim (sons) of nachashim (snakes)! Who warned you to flee from the charon af [*Hashem*] habah (the coming burning wrath of Hashem)?

| 8| Produce pri tov l'teshuva (fruit worthy of repentance)!

| 9| Do not presume to say to yourselves, We have the yichus (proud lineage), we have the zechut Avot (merit of the Fathers) of Avraham Avinu (our father Abraham). For I say to you that Hashem is able to raise up from these avanim (stones) banim (sons) of Avraham.

10| And already the ax is laid at the shores haetzim (the root of the trees); therefore, every etz not producing pri tov (good fruit) is cut down and thrown into the eish (fire).

| 11| I give you a tevilah (immersion) in a mikveh mayim for teshuva, but Hu Habah (He who Comes; *T.N. i.e., the Moshiach*) after me has more chozek (strength) than me. I am not worthy to remove his sandals. He will give you a tevilah (immersion) with the Ruach Hakodesh and eish (fire).

| 12| The winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear out his threshing floor, and he will gather his wheat into the storehouse; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable eish (fire).

| 13| Then Yehoshua comes from the Galil to the Yarden to Yochanan, to submit to Yochanan's tevilah.

| 14| But Yochanan would have deterred him, saying, I have need to submit to your tevilah [*T.N. i.e., Moshiach's tevilah*], and yet you come to me?

| 15| But answering him, Yehoshua said, Permit it now, for thus it is proper