



Divine Rage

Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky

Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky, Blanche and Romie Shapiro Professor of Bible, is dean of Albert A. List College of Jewish Studies, JTS's undergraduate school, and dean of the Gershon Kekst Graduate School. Previously, Dr. Kalmanofsky was associate vice chancellor, serving as an ambassador for JTS, teaching in communities across North America, building relationships with supporters, and sharing the impact of JTS on the Jewish world. As professor of Bible, she teaches courses on biblical literature, religion, and feminist interpretation of the Bible. In her writing and teaching, Dr. Kalmanofsky combines contemporary ideas and critical methods with traditional text study, teaching students to be careful, creative interpreters of Torah.

Deeply committed to teaching since joining the faculty in 2005, Dr. Kalmanofsky helps her students understand and appreciate the Bible's complicated beauty and meaning so that they can become careful and creative interpreters of its text. Dr. Kalmanofsky's first book, *Terror All Around: The Rhetoric of Horror in the Book of Jeremiah* (T&T Clark, 2008) uses horror theory to argue that the biblical prophets constructed monsters and crafted language that worked to terrify their audience. Her book *The Dangerous Sisters of the Hebrew Bible* (Fortress Press, 2014) explores the biblical portrayal of sisters and sisterhoods, and argues that both play a vital role in the Bible's narrative. Her book *Gender-Play in the Hebrew Bible* (Routledge, 2017) examines the ways in which the Bible defies and challenges its gender norms. Dr. Kalmanofsky also has written numerous articles examining the biblical representation of women and the roles women play in the Bible, as well as articles that consider the biblical rhetoric of violence. She serves on three editorial boards: The Journal of the Studies in Religion, Feminist Studies in Religion Books, and the Biblical Interpretation Series.

Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Prophets*

God's concern is the prerequisite and source of His anger. It is because He cares for man that His anger may be kindled against man. Anger and mercy are not opposites but correlatives. [p. 63]

The ultimate meaning of history lies in the continuity of God's concern. His wrath is not regarded as an emotional outburst, as an irrational fit, but rather as a part of His continual care. [p. 73]

The anger of the Lord is a tragic necessity, a calamity for man and grief for God. It is not an emotion He delights in, but an emotion He deplures. [p. 74]

Martha C. Nussbaum, *Anger and Forgiveness: Resentment, Generosity, Justice*

If this book achieves anything, I hope it achieves that sort of square-one reorientation, getting its readers to see clearly the irrationality and stupidity of anger. Whether readers take the next step is up to them. As chapter 5 makes clear, I don't always take my own medicine, succumbing to the lure of thinking that the world of airlines, banks, and Internet repair people ought to be rational, and yielding to anger when (predictably) the real world does not meet that expectation. It's hard not to be stupid. [p. 249]

Jeremiah 32:30-32

(30) For the people of Israel and Judah have done nothing but evil in My sight since their youth; the people of Israel have done nothing but vex Me by their conduct— declares the LORD. (31) This city has aroused My anger and My wrath from the day it was built until this day; so that it must be removed from My sight (32) because of all the wickedness of the people of Israel and Judah who have so acted as to vex Me— they, their kings, their officials, their priests and prophets, and the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

ירמיהו ל"ב:ל'-ל"ב

(ל) כִּי־הָיוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבְנֵי יְהוּדָה אָדָּה עֲשִׂים הָרַע בְּעֵינַי מִנְעֻרְתֵיהֶם כִּי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אָדָּה מְכַעְסִים אֹתִי בְּמַעֲשֵׂה יְדֵיהֶם נְאֻם־יְהוָה: (לא) כִּי עַל־אִפְּי וְעַל־חַמְתִּי הִיתָה לִי הָעִיר הַזֹּאת לְמִן־הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר בָּנוּ אוֹתָהּ וְעַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לְהִסְרָהּ מֵעַל פָּנָי: (לב) עַל כָּל־רַעַת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבְנֵי יְהוּדָה אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ לְהַכְעֹסַנִי הִמָּה מַלְכֵיהֶם שָׂרֵיהֶם כַּהֲנֵיהֶם וּנְבִיאֵיהֶם וְאִישׁ יְהוּדָה וַיִּשְׁבִּי יְרוּשָׁלַם:

Jeremiah 4:4

(4) Open your hearts to the LORD, Remove the thickening about your hearts— O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem— Lest My wrath break forth like fire, And burn, with none to quench it, Because of your wicked acts.

ירמיהו ד':ד'

(ד) הַמָּלוּ לִיהוָה וְהִסְרוּ עֲרֻלוֹת לְבַבְכֶם אִישׁ יְהוּדָה וַיִּשְׁבִּי יְרוּשָׁלַם פְּנֹתֶיךָ כְּאִשׁ חַמְתִּי וּבַעֲרָהּ וְאִין מְכַבָּה מִפָּנָי רַע מֵעַלְלֵיכֶם:

Jeremiah 18:5-8

(5) Then the word of the LORD came to me: (6) O House of Israel, can I not deal with you like this potter?—says the LORD. Just like clay in the hands of the potter, so are you in My hands, O House of Israel! (7) At one moment I may decree that a nation or a kingdom shall be uprooted and pulled down and destroyed; (8) but if that nation against which I made the decree turns back from its

ירמיהו י"ח:ה'-ח'

(ה) וַיְהִי דְבַר־יְהוָה אֵלַי לֵאמֹר: (ו) הַכִּיּוֹצֵר הַזֶּה לֹא־אוֹכֵל לַעֲשׂוֹת לָכֶם בַּיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל נְאֻם־יְהוָה הֲגַה כַּחַמְל בְּיַד הַיּוֹצֵר כִּי־אַתֶּם בְּיַדִּי בַיִת יִשְׂרָאֵל: {ס} (ז) רַגַע אֲדַבֵּר עַל־גּוֹי וְעַל־מַמְלָכָה לְנִתּוֹשׁ וּלְנִתּוּץ וְלֹהֲאָבִיד: (ח) וְשָׁב הַגּוֹי הַהוּא מִרְעֻתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרְתִּי עָלָיו וְנִחַמְתִּי

wickedness, I change My mind concerning the punishment I planned to bring on it.

עַל־הַרְעָה אֲשֶׁר חָשַׁבְתִּי לַעֲשׂוֹת
לוֹ: {ס}

Jeremiah 44:4-6

(4) Yet I persistently sent to you all My servants the prophets, to say, “I beg you not to do this abominable thing which I hate.”
(5) But they would not listen or give ear, to turn back from their wickedness and not make offerings to other gods; (6) so My fierce anger was poured out, and it blazed against the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. And they became a desolate ruin, as they still are today.

יִרְמִיָּהוּ מִ"ד:ד'-ו'
(ד) וְאֶשְׁלַח אֵלֵיכֶם אֶת־כָּל־עַבְדֵי הַנְּבִיאִים
הַשְּׂכִימִים וְשָׁלַח לֵאמֹר אֵלֶינָא תַעֲשׂוּ אֵת
דְּבַר־הַתַּעֲבָה הַזֶּאת אֲשֶׁר שָׁנֵאתִי: (ה)
וְלֹא שָׁמְעוּ וְלֹא־הִטּוּ אֶת־אָזְנָם לְשׁוּב
מִרְעַתָּם לְבַלְתִּי קַטֹּר לְאֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים: (ו)
וַתִּתֵּן חֲמָתִי וְאִפִּי וַתִּבְעַל בְּעָרֵי יְהוּדָה
וּבְחֻצוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם וַתְּהַיֵּינָה לְחָרְבָה
לְשִׁמְמָה כַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה: {ס}

Jeremiah 14:19-21

(19) Have You, then, rejected Judah?
Have You spurned Zion?
Why have You smitten us
So that there is no cure?
Why do we hope for happiness,
But find no good;
For a time of healing,
And meet terror instead? (20) We
acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD—
The iniquity of our fathers—
For we have sinned against You. (21) For
Your name's sake, do not disown us;
Do not dishonor Your glorious throne.
Remember, do not annul Your covenant
with us.

יִרְמִיָּהוּ י"ד:י"ט-כ"א
(יט) הֲמָאִס מְאִסְתָּ אֶת־יְהוּדָה אִם־בְּצִיּוֹן
גָּעַלְתָּ נִפְשֶׁךָ מִדּוֹעַ הַכִּיּוֹתָנוּ וְאֵין לָנוּ מִרְפָּא
קִנְיָה לְשָׁלוֹם וְאֵין טוֹב וְלַעַת מִרְפָּא וְהִנֵּה
בְּעַתָּה: (כ) יִדְעֵנוּ יְהוָה רַשְׁעֵנוּ עֲוֹן
אֲבוֹתֵינוּ כִּי חָטְאָנוּ לָךְ: (כא) אֶל־תִּנְאֹץ
לְמַעַן שְׁמֶךָ אֶל־תִּנְבֵּל כִּסֵּא כְבוֹדְךָ זָכָר
אֶל־תִּפְרַר בְּרִיתְךָ אִתָּנוּ:

Jeremiah 46:28

(28) But you, have no fear,
My servant Jacob
—declares the LORD—
For I am with you.
I will make an end of all the nations
Among which I have banished you,
But I will not make an end of you!
I will not leave you unpunished,
But I will chastise you in measure.

יִרְמִיָּהוּ מ"ו:כ"ח
(כח) אֲמַתָּה אֶל־תִּירָא עַבְדִּי יַעֲקֹב
נְאֻם־יְהוָה כִּי אֵתְךָ אֲגִיד כִּי אֶעֱשֶׂה כָלָה
בְּכָל־הַגּוֹיִם | אֲשֶׁר הִדְחִיתִיךָ שָׁמָּה וְאֵתְךָ
לֹא־אֶעֱשֶׂה כָלָה וְיִסְרִיתִיךָ לְמִשְׁפָּט וְנִקְּהָה
לֹא אֲנַקֶּךָ: {פ}

Ezekiel 7:3-4

(3) Now doom is upon you! I will let loose My anger against you and judge you according to your ways; I will requite you for all your abominations. (4) I will show you no pity and no compassion; but I will requite you for your ways and for the abominations in your midst. And you shall know that I am the LORD.

יחזקאל ז'ג-ד'

(ג) עַתָּה הִקְצִי עָלַיךָ וְשַׁלַּחְתִּי אֶפְלֵי בְךָ וְשִׁפְטִיתִיךָ כְּדַרְכֶיךָ וְנָתַתִּי עָלַיךָ אֶת כָּל־תּוֹעֲבוֹתֶיךָ: (ד) וְלֹא־תַחֲסוּ עֵינַי עָלַיךָ וְלֹא אֶחֱמוּל כִּי דַרְכֶיךָ עָלַיךָ אֲתֹן וְתוֹעֲבוֹתֶיךָ בְּתוֹכָךָ תִּהְיוּ וַיִּדְעַתֶּם כִּי־אֲנִי יְהוָה: {פ}

Ezekiel 13:13-14

(13) Assuredly, thus said the Lord GOD: In My fury I will let loose hurricane winds; in My anger a driving rain shall descend, and great hailstones in destructive fury. (14) I will throw down the wall that you daubed with plaster, and I will raze it to the ground so that its foundation is exposed; and when it falls, you shall perish in its midst; then you shall know that I am the LORD.

יחזקאל י"ג:י"ג-י"ד

(יג) לָכֵן כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוִה וּבִקְעָתִי רוּחַ־סִּעָרוֹת בַּחֲמָתִי וּגְשָׁם שֹׁטֵף בְּאֶפְי יְהוָה וְאֲבַנֵי אֶלְגָּבִישׁ בַּחֲמָה לְכֻלָּהּ: (יד) וְהִרְסֹתִי אֶת־הַקִּיר אֲשֶׁר־טַחְתֶּם תַּפֵּל וְהִגַּעְתִּיהוּ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ וּנְגִלָה יְסָדוֹ וְנִפְלָה וְכָל־יֵתֶם בְּתוֹכָהּ וַיִּדְעַתֶּם כִּי־אֲנִי יְהוָה:

Ezekiel 5:13

(13) I will vent all My anger and satisfy My fury upon them; and when I vent all My fury upon them, they shall know that I the LORD have spoken in My passion.

יחזקאל ה':י"ג

(יג) וְכָלָה אֶפְי וְהִנְחֹתִי חֲמָתִי בָּם וְהִנְחֹמְתִי וַיִּדְעוּ כִּי־אֲנִי יְהוָה דִּבַּרְתִּי בְּקִנְאָתִי בְּכָל־וֹתֵי חֲמָתִי בָּם:

Ezekiel 8:18

(18) I in turn will act with fury, I will show no pity or compassion; though they cry aloud to Me, I will not listen to them."

יחזקאל ח':י"ח

(יח) וְגַם־אֲנִי אֶעֱשֶׂה בַּחֲמָה לֹא־תַחֲסוּ עֵינַי וְלֹא אֶחֱמַל וְקִרְאוּ בְּאָזְנֵי קוֹל גָּדוֹל וְלֹא אֶשְׁמַע אוֹתָם:

Ezekiel 16:42

(42) When I have satisfied My fury upon you and My rage has departed from you, then I will be tranquil; I will be angry no more.

יחזקאל ט"ז:מ"ב

(מב) וְהִנְחֹתִי חֲמָתִי בְךָ וְסָרָה קִנְאָתִי מִמֶּךָ וְשָׁקַטְתִּי וְלֹא אֶכְעַס עוֹד:

Ezekiel 24:13-14

(13) For your vile impurity—because I sought to cleanse you of your impurity, but you would not be cleansed—you shall never be clean again until I have satisfied My fury upon you. (14) I the LORD have spoken: It shall come to pass and I will do it. I will not refrain or spare or relent. You shall be punished according to your ways and your deeds—declares the Lord GOD.

יחזקאל כ"ד:י"ג-י"ד

(יג) בַּטְמֵאתְךָ זָמְהָ יַעַן טְהַרְתִּיךָ וְלֹא טְהַרְתָּ מִטְמֵאתְךָ לֹא תִטְהַר־יַעֲוֹד עַד־הִנִּיחִי אֶת־חֲמָתִי בָּךְ: (יד) אֲנִי יְהוָה דְּבַרְתִּי בָּאָה וְעָשִׂיתִי לֹא־אֶפְרַע וְלֹא־אֶחֹס וְלֹא אֶנְחַם כַּדְרָכֶיךָ וְכַעֲלִילֹתֶיךָ שְׁפֹטוּךָ נְאֻם אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה: {פ}

Ezekiel 36:33-35

(33) Thus said the Lord GOD: When I have cleansed you of all your iniquities, I will people your settlements, and the ruined places shall be rebuilt; (34) and the desolate land, after lying waste in the sight of every passerby, shall again be tilled. (35) And men shall say, "That land, once desolate, has become like the garden of Eden; and the cities, once ruined, desolate, and ravaged, are now populated and fortified."

יחזקאל ל"ו:ל"ג-ל"ה

(לג) כֹּה אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה בַּיּוֹם טְהַר־י אֶתְכֶם מִכָּל עֲוֹנוֹתֵיכֶם וְהוֹשַׁבְתִּי אֶת־הָעָרִים וְנִבְנוּ הַחֲרָבוֹת: (לד) וְהָאָרֶץ הַנְּשֻׁמָּה תִעֲבַד תַּחַת אֲשֶׁר הָיְתָה שְׁמֵמָה לְעֵינַי כָּל־עֹבֵר: (לה) וְאָמְרוּ הָאָרֶץ הַלְזוּ הַנְּשֻׁמָּה הָיְתָה כְּגַן־עֵדֶן וְהָעָרִים הַחֲרָבוֹת וְהַנְּשֻׁמוֹת וְהַנְּהַרְסוֹת בְּצוּרוֹת יִשָּׁבוּ:

Ezekiel 37:12-14

(12) Prophecy, therefore, and say to them: Thus said the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and lift you out of the graves, O My people, and bring you to the land of Israel. (13) You shall know, O My people, that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and lifted you out of your graves. (14) I will put My breath into you and you shall live again, and I will set you upon your own soil. Then you shall know that I the LORD have spoken and have acted"—declares the LORD.

יחזקאל ל"ז:י"ב-י"ד

(יב) לְכֹן הִנְבֵּא וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵיהֶם כֹּה־אָמַר אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה הִנֵּה אֲנִי פֹתַח אֶת־קְבָרוֹתֵיכֶם וְהֵעֲלִיתִי אֶתְכֶם מִקְבָּרוֹתֵיכֶם עַמִּי וְהִבֵּאתִי אֶתְכֶם אֶל־אֲדָמַת יִשְׂרָאֵל: (יג) וִידַעְתֶּם כִּי־אֲנִי יְהוָה בִּפְתֹּחַי אֶת־קְבָרוֹתֵיכֶם וּבִהֲעֹלוֹתִי אֶתְכֶם מִקְבָּרוֹתֵיכֶם עַמִּי: (יד) וְנָתַתִּי רוּחִי בְכֶם וְחִיִּיתֶם וְהִנַּחְתִּי אֶתְכֶם עַל־אֲדָמַתְכֶם וִידַעְתֶּם כִּי־אֲנִי יְהוָה דְּבַרְתִּי וְעָשִׂיתִי נְאֻם־יְהוָה: {פ}

