

# Yom HaAtsmaot – Israel's Independence Day

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## Responsive Readings

Reader: The L-rd is the faithful G-d, who keeps his covenant promises to His people. He is at work to bring about the restoration of Israel, physically and spiritually. The L-rd has called us to be participants in this program.

All: The L-rd had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." (Genesis 12:1-3)

Reader: [The L-rd said to Abraham], "I will establish my covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your G-d and the G-d of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their G-d." (Genesis 17:7-8)

All: [The L-rd said to Joshua], "I will give you every place where you set foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the dessert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates - and all the Hittite country - to the Great Sea on the west. No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life... I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Joshua 1:3-5)

Reader: "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back... with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you." Says the L-rd your Redeemer. (Isaiah 54:7-8)

All: "This is what the Sovereign L-rd says: 'O My people. I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, My people, will know that I am the L-rd, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put My Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the L-rd have spoken, and I have done it,' declares the L-rd." (Ezekiel 37:12-14)

Reader: "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your G-d. Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the L-rd have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the L-rd have spoken, and I will do it." (Ezekiel 36:24, 28, 36)

All: I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." (Ezekiel 36:25-27)