



## Text Study on Social Action & Judaism Source Sheet

### Genesis 1:27

(27) And God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

### בראשית א':כ"ז

(כז) וַיִּבְרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת-הָאָדָם בְּצַלְמוֹ  
בְּצַלְמֵם אֱלֹהִים בָּרָא אֹתוֹ זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָא  
אֹתָם:

### Leviticus 19:16

(16) Do not deal basely with your countrymen. Do not profit by the blood of your fellow: I am the LORD.

### ויקרא י"ט:ט"ז

(טז) לֹא-תִלְךָ רֵכִיל בְּעַמִּיךָ לֹא  
תַעֲמֹד עַל-דַּם רֵעֶךָ אֲנִי ה'

### Deuteronomy 16:20

Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may thrive and occupy the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

### דברים ט"ז:כ'

צְדָקָה צְדָקָה תִּרְדֹּף לְמַעַן תַּחֲיֶיהָ וַיִּרְשֶׁתָּ  
אֶת-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ נֹתֵן לָךְ:  
(ס)

### Deuteronomy 10:19

(19) You too must befriend the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

### דברים י':י"ט

(יט) וְאַהֲבַתֶּם אֶת-הַגֵּר כִּי-גֵרִים  
הֵייתֶם בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:

### Isaiah 2:4

Nation shall not take up Sword against nation; They shall never again know war.

### ישעיהו ב':ד'

לֹא-יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל-גּוֹי חֶרֶב וְלֹא-יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד  
מִלְחָמָה: (פ)

### Micah 6:8

(8) "He has told you, O man, what is good, And what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice And to love goodness, And to walk modestly with your God;

### מיכה ו':ח'

(ח) הִגִּיד לְךָ אָדָם מַה-טוֹב וּמַה-ה'  
דוֹרֵשׁ מִמֶּךָ כִּי אִם-עֲשׂוֹת מִשְׁפָּט



וְאַהֲבַת חֵסֶד וְהִצְנַע לְכַת עִם־אֶלְקִיךָ:  
(פ)

**Sifra Kedoshim 4:12**

Love your neighbor as yourself. Rabbi Akiva says: "This is an important rule of the Torah." Ben Azai says: "This is the book of the generations of Adam." (Genesis 5:1) It is a rule greater than that.

**ספרא: קדושים ד:יב**

ואהבת לרעך כמוך. ר' עקיבא אומר:  
"זה כלל גדול בתורה." בן עזאי אומר:  
"זה ספר תולדות אדם" (בראשית ה, א)  
זה כלל גדול מזה.

**Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5**

(5) to teach you that anyone who destroys a life is considered by Scripture to have destroyed an entire world; and anyone who saves a life is as if he saved an entire world." 1:10"

**משנה סנהדרין ד:ה'**

למדך, שכל המאבד נפש אחת מישראל,  
מעלה עליו הכתוב כאלו אבד עולם מלא. וכל  
המקיים נפש אחת מישראל, מעלה עליו  
הכתוב כאלו קיים עולם מלא.

**Pirkei Avot 1:14**

(14) He [Rabbi Hillel] used to say: If I am not for me, who will be for me? And when I am for myself alone, what am I? And if not now, then when?

**משנה אבות א':י"ד**

(יד) הוא היה אומר, אם אין אני לי, מי  
לי. וכשאני לעצמי, מה אני. ואם לא  
עכשיו, אימתי:

**Pirkei Avot 2:16**

(16) He used to say: It is not your responsibility to finish the work, but neither are you free to desist from it. If you have learned much Torah, your reward will be much; and the Master of your work is trustworthy to pay you the wage for your activity. And know, the giving of reward to the righteous is in the future to come.

**משנה אבות ב':ט"ז**

(טז) הוא היה אומר, לא עליך  
המלאכה לגמר, ולא אתה בן חורין  
לבטל ממנה. אם למדת תורה הרבה,  
נותנים לך שכר הרבה. ונאמן הוא  
בעל מלאכתך שישלם לך שכר  
פעלתך. ודע מתן שכרן של צדיקים  
לעתיד לבא:



### **Rabbi Yisrael Salanter**

When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world. I found it was difficult to change the world, so I tried to change my nation. When I found I couldn't change the nation, I began to focus on my town. I couldn't change the town and as an older man, I tried to change my family. Now, as an old man, I realize the only thing I can change is myself, and suddenly I realize that if long ago I had changed myself, I could have made an impact on my family. My family and I could have made an impact on our town. Their impact could have changed the nation and I could indeed have changed the world.

### **Judge Louis D. Brandeis, 1929**

I find Jews possessed of those very qualities which we of the twentieth century seek to develop in our struggle for justice and democracy; a deep moral feeling which makes them capable of noble acts; a deep sense of the brotherhood of man; and a high intelligence, the fruit of three thousand years of civilization.

### **Rabbi A.Y. Kook**

I don't speak because I have the power to speak; I speak because I don't have the power to remain silent.