

## I WILL MAKE YOU FRUITFUL\*

הִנְנִי מְפַרְרָה וְהִרְבִּיתִּיךָ  
וְנִתְתִּיךָ לְקֹהֵל עַמִּים  
וְנָתַתִּי אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת  
לְזֶרְעֶךָ אַחֲרֶיךָ אֶחְזוּת עוֹלָם:

Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you;  
and make of you an assembly of peoples;  
and I will give this land  
to your seed after you for an everlasting possession.

*Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you*—It is I who will give you the capacity to increase and fructify the earth. *And make of you an assembly of peoples*—“... The characteristic mission [of Israel is] that, in spite of their being united into one completely similar body of men [and women] by their all having one common spiritual and moral mission and outlook on life, they are nevertheless to consist of a diversity of tribes” (S. R. Hirsch), and thus we will be a unity in our diversity, strengthened by our differences. *And I will give this land to your seed after you for an everlasting possession*—“Only God can give an ‘everlasting possession’” (N. Sarna), so it will be our inheritance insofar as we live in the commandments and do not divide ourselves with causeless hatred.

\* Genesis 48:4 (in Vayechi)