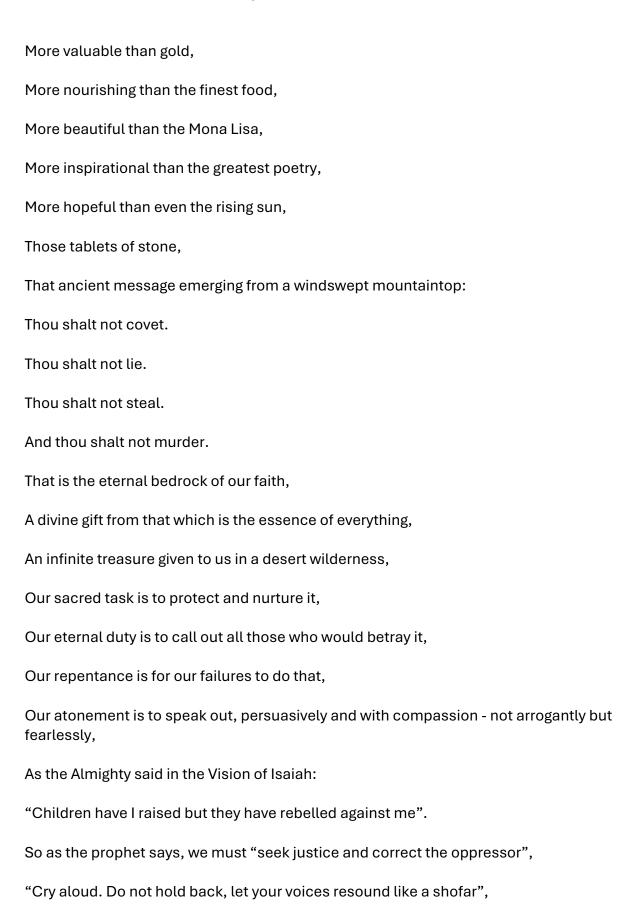
The Bedrock: a Poem for the Days of Awe



"Unlock the shackles of injustice".

Those timeless tablets of stone, the bedrock of our faith, must not be betrayed.

And the message given on that ancient mountaintop had a sequel:

Under the desert sun, our ancestors heard the desert wind, felt the sands of Sinai carve furrows in their brows and heard a warning from their maker:

"If you bow down to other gods, you will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess".

That was an eternal warning to all Israel - and to all mankind:

Respect the divine essence of all that is,

Heed the commandments of the Almighty,

Do not supplant the Eternal One by worshipping the false gods of land, of nation, of tribe, of conquest, of greed, of theft and of domination.

For, as the Proverb says, "hearts that make wicked plans and hands that shed innocent blood are an abomination" to that eternal force that created and inspired the bedrock of our faith.

So, in these troubled times and for ever, we must be the guardians of those ancient tablets:

Thou shalt have no other Gods.

Thou shalt not covet.

Thou shalt not lie.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not murder.

Let us therefore now not commit the sin of silence,

Let us speak truth to those who would betray the message of the stones,

Let us all cry aloud like an army of shofars,

To stop the "abomination" and to "unlock the shackles of injustice"