

***Sefer Iyov: The Book of Job, the Struggle between the Integrity of God and the Integrity of Human, Estrangement and Return — and the Meaning of it All***  
**Reb Leila Gal Berner, Ph.D.**

**PRE-ASSIGNMENT BEFORE *SEMIKHA* WEEK**

1. **Read the *Sefer Iyyov*** (The Book of Job). Reflect especially on:
  - the nature of suffering and theodicy
  - the nature of friendship
  - the nature of faith
  - the Jewish concept of *chutzpah klapei shamayim*

If you find the Hebrew challenging, please make a point of reading the text in Hebrew at least once before *Semikha* week and looking up words that are unknown to you. This will facilitate your understanding when others are reading out loud in Hebrew. Though this is not primarily a language class, you should take every opportunity to improve your Hebrew by trying to widen your vocabulary and challenge yourself to read the biblical text in Hebrew.

**You may bring a bilingual *TaNakH* with you to class. Any edition will be fine.** As a matter of fact, having different translations will help us see the nuances (and pitfalls) of translation.

2. **Research and find one article (midrashic or academic) that deals with some aspect of the Book of Job and be prepared to present its major ideas to the class during *Semikha* week.**

**Please send the name of the article or chapter and all citation information to Reb Leila at least two weeks before *semikha* week.**

3. **Purchase and read the play “JB” by Archibald**

**MacLeish** and reflect on its meaning and how the playwright uses the biblical Book of Job. **Please bring the play with you to class.**

If you have any questions, please write directly to Reb Leila at [lgbaleph@earthlink.net](mailto:lgbaleph@earthlink.net)