Exceptionalism, Excellence, Responsibility, Culpability: Responding to the Current Challenges

This vital section teaches us about our exceptional relationship with God, about the excellence He expects of us and of our responsibility towards that command – and our heightened culpability should we fail to live up to it.

You shall love your neighbor as yourself – R. Akiva said – “this is a great rule of the Torah”.

Ben Azzai said: “This is the book of the generations of Mankind” “this rule is greater than the other.”

The Midrash highlights mankind’s responsibility towards the welfare of the world “no one else will come to fix it”
Our role as teachers to the world appears throughout utopian visions in Tanakh.

Thus saith the Lord of hosts: In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold, out of all the languages of the nations, shall even take hold of the kanat of him that is a Jew, saying: We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'