

## Parshas Netzavim

This week's parsha is Netzavim, named for the second word of the Parsha- "You are standing today, all of you before Hashem..."

How appropriate is this proclamation of renewing our connection to Hashem as just before Rosh Hashana, where we "renew our vows" with Hashem. Alshich quoting Pesachim 50a about the story of R'Yosef who had a near death experience, when asked about what he saw, he said the world was flipped. Those on top were on bottom and vice versa. As stated in this parsha from the heads of your tribes, men women children, to the wood chopper and water carrier, all are equal when standing before Hashem.

Rashi on Posuk 28, where on the words "lanu, ul'ivonainu" there are dots. Whenever the Torah has these, there is a subtext that needs to be contemplated. Rashi explains that we have an obligation to prevent open sin from within our nation. We are all responsible this on an individual and communal level. Perek 30 of the Parsha talks about future days, where we will repent for sins, and ultimately bring Mashiach, as we are destined to do.

Moshe tells us not to forget that the Torah is accessible- it is not a distant unattainable book, rather it is attainable, each in our own way.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe explains that all Jews have the power and ability to be a guarantor for one another, as he explains from the Gemara in Shevuos 39a, that all Jews are guarantors for one another." Similarly, this is why even on Yom Kippur

when we say the Al Chets, we say sins not necessarily connected to us, because all Jews are "Areivim"- connected to one another.

The Haftora for Netzavim from Yeshayahu 61:10-63:9 is the final of the 7 Haftaros of consolation from 9 Av until Rosh Hashana. Here we read songs of thanksgiving, and that we will conquer Edom (descendants of Esav), and we are a holy people who will one day welcome Mashiach. Hashem's reign coronated in a revealed fashion on the world, in the era of Mashiach.

Yeshayahu uses active language to describe how we must bring Mashiach, that is, we aren't just resting on our laurels, as if the passage of time will automatically result in Mashiach's arrival, as predestined. Rather there is an added element that we are not quiet, or passive in the waiting of Mashiach, we are active, ready, and able. Much like Moshe tells us in the Parsha to choose life. That is when living you are active ready and able. We are, through the bringing and penetrating of the Torah into our daily lives, in a revealed and holy way, "lo nifles he mimcha, v'lo rechika he."

May this Shabbos be the last of the Shabbosim we are gathered together in golus, and rather where we are standing in unison, together ushering Mashiach speedily in our days.

Good Shabbos