

Parshas Devarim

This week's Parsha is Devarim, typically called Shabbos Chazon, as it precedes Tisha B'Av. The Parsha appropriately begins, as Rashi explains on the first Posuk, that Moshe is beginning with rebuke. Except the rebuke is done in hint format out of respect for the Jews. But, a part of being a nation is the fact that we make mistakes. Moshe begins with the "bad news" (i.e., rebuke) before telling all the Divrei Chizuk before departing from the Jews and the nation entering Eretz Yisrael.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe points out on the posuk 1:6-7 about the time spent around the mountain, that it is time to journey. It was time for the Jews to take the revelation of the Torah and Atzmus of Hashem into the world. This is our journey as Jews in this world. We must not stand still at the revelations we have in our lives; instead, we must take that inspiration, share it with the world, and bring light to the world through Torah and performing Mitzvos.

All these years after Moshe's departing message to us, the Chassidic masters, especially the Rebbes of Chabad, instilled in us a renewed hope to keep the fire of inspiration aflame, but not just to stand still, instead spread the light of the goodness of the Torah and Hashem to the world. The Rebbe especially honed that message telling us we are standing on giants' shoulders, with polished buttons ready to greet Mashiach. Because even if we think we are distant from Hashem (Chas Vishalom), we are still close and connected to the source and Torah. All these years later, we are still empowered to share the light of the Torah

with the world because it is through this that we can greet Mashiach.

This is ultimately the message of Shabbos Chazon and recognizing the negative parts of our history (as Moshe did in his way in this Parsha). Because without recognizing the past, we cannot necessarily be optimized for the future. Notwithstanding the punishment for wayward ways and negativity that historically befell us, Yeshayahu's prophecies give us hope. One can posit further, just as we know Yeshayahu's prophecies came to fruition, then the ones about the future, which is our now, will take place.

On that note, may this Shabbos truly take us one day closer to greeting Mashiach in our times, Good Shabbos!