

Parshas Devarim

This week, we begin the 5th book of the Chumash. The beginning of the Parsha alludes to the various times the Jews sinned along the way in the desert and then discusses the Meraglim and the extended trip in the desert.

Then the posuk says that the children, who do not know good from bad 1:39, will enter the land. The simple reason is that the child's simplicity is that they are focused, without personal interpretation of a goal, even if they don't fully understand. The potential faith of a child is an idealized form of how one ought to serve Hashem without the conditions and iniquities that come with being an adult.

Furthermore, the previous generation paves the way for their children to inherit the future. In this way, although the posuk refers to the inequities of the generation that believed the Meraglim and, therefore, delayed entering Israel, their travels and trials allowed the next generation to enter the land.

This is ever apparent in our times. We are in Golus due to historical inequities and problems, but we know full well that this is a stepping stone to our receiving Mashiach. As Chassidus explains, we are like children on giants' shoulders. All the previous people who came before us, whether they were Zocheh or greeting Mashiach, were foundational to our generation: the "children who don't know right from wrong."

We are the children who can and will greet Mashiach, and not without us

acknowledging the arduous path through the desert our forebearers experienced. This Parsha comes before Tisha B'Av, which commemorates the most devastating events in Jewish history, namely the destruction of the Beis Hamikdashes. But if what I say above is true, then the Beis Hamikdashes, in some ways, needed to be destroyed to usher in Mashiach. (As explained in previous Parshas, Moshe couldn't enter the land because if he had built the Beis Hamikdash, it would have been eternal and could never have been destroyed. Which would mean there would never be Mashiach).

So, Tisha B'Av is a reminder of the better times to come, but those days take work. Yes, we mourn, and for the three weeks, especially the nine days before, we live like a mourner to remind us of the history and our people before us, who are the foundations to us being the children who usher in Mashiach. How holy, then, is our generation?

Therefore, let this Tisha B'Av serve as a reminder of the past to know what is yet to come. And that is our ultimate salvation, speedily in our times.

Good Shabbos