

Parshas Eikev

This week's Parsha is Eikev. The word Eikev means consequence. The translation of the first posuk is that if you listen to all the mandates and observe them, Hashem will faithfully maintain the covenant of the forefathers with you—then the pesukim talks about all the blessings and conquering the nations who will try to overpower us. Then, in posuk 20, Hashem will bring a 'plague' against them until those left in hiding will perish before you. As explained by Rashi, the word plague is "hornet," or a flying insect that will inject poison into the enemies. Essentially, as the posuk says, all those who we fear will come to fear us. Ibn Ezra explains that the poison will cause leprosy, Tzara'as, the source of the word Tzira.

The league and winning over our enemies are crucial definitions here. Interestingly, the words for the Parsha and this hornet plague are reminiscent of Yakov and him being the Tzeira, the younger one. In Bereishis, Rivka was told about the two nations inside her, and the younger would conquer the older. Back then, a recurring theme I regularly bring up is that prophecy also told us about Mashiach and that one day when Mashiach comes, V'alu Moshiim Bhar Zion Lishpot es Har Esav..." We explained that Yakov, being the younger ended up 'overcoming' his older brother.

In this week's Parsha, there is a hint about this. The name Eikev is like the word Yaakov, without the Yud, and the word Tzira is missing a Yud to make it a reference to the "Tzeira" (younger one)

Yaakov. Two Yuds makes the name of Hashem. Why are they missing then here?

When we live our lives, we may not think Hashem is involved in an everyday way, which we know is not valid. Moreover, we may not witness or experience open miracles, but that doesn't mean we are any less connected to Hashem. Furthermore, it doesn't mean Hashem is any less involved in everything. In some ways, the Parsha is telling us that Hashem will seem hidden from us, which can cause us to be distant, but remember to be on the path of Yaakov and Torah, and we will conquer our enemies.

Mashiach will come, and we will be redeemed; Hashem is our master, father and King; we must know and feel this and act with this because it will result in our conquering of our enemies and instill fear in our enemies, which is what will be when Mashiach comes.

This parsha gives us hope and tells us of all the amazing miracles that will occur in the land of Israel and for the Jews. Moshe empowers us in this parsha to believe that all will end well if we stay on the righteous and straightened path of Torah and Mitzvos.

Good Shabbos