

Parshas Ki Savo

This Friday, Erev Shabbos, is the 17th of Elul, which is, in fact, the day of the death of the Meraglim. They had sinned 40 days prior on the 8th of Av (Eliyahu KiTov from Sefer HaToda'ah).

Rabbi Samson Raphael Hersch's insight on 27:9 is a powerful reminder that our identity as a people is intricately tied to our commitment to the Torah.

The connection between what Rav Hersch says and recognizing the Yahrzeit of the Meraglim is that when we don't live with and follow the Torah, the outcomes could be catastrophic, like in the case of Meraglim or the curses repeated here in this Parsha.

As I explained in Parshas Re'eh, the curses are an awareness of the evils in an obvious way of the world, as opposed to a world where when and if you follow and live with the Torah and Hashem, it is a world of blessing and opportunity. As Moshe explicitly explains in Perek 28 (numerical value of Koach-power), there are abundant blessings to those that fulfill the commandments, which dovetails off the earlier pesukim that explicitly state that Hashem and Jews are inseparable.

As Zohar explains, Yisroel, V'Oraisa, V'Kudsha Brich Hu Kula Chad (The Jews, Hashem and the Torah are all one). The Baal Shem Tov explains if you divest yourself of physicality, you will reach supernatural worlds. By living with and through the Torah, we can draw down and maintain blessings in this world, and that light will brighten the darkness that

abounds, as mentioned in the curses of the Parsha.

By following the Torah and its mandates, you will come to having a mind which understands and eyes to see and hear (29:3). Although the Gemara explains that as part of the Torah learning for 40 years in the desert, the conclusion is the same, learning Torah gives you clarity.

May our learning and performance of Torah and Mitzvos bless us with the ultimate clarity so we see and know Hashem, and we will be Zocheh to our own Vhaya Ki Savo El Haaretz, where we will welcome Mashiach in the holy land in our land Eretz Yisrael. Good Shabbos