

Parshas Lech Lecha

This week's Parsha is Lech Lecha, which begins with Avram going out "for himself" from the land of his birth. According to Ramban, the historical narratives shown in the Torah, especially to the forefathers, are a sign to the future generations. The Lubavitcher Rebbe explains that even though we are in Galus, the promise and the gift of the Land of Israel, as promised and given to Avram, is a sign for us to remember the Land of Israel is ours. We need to remember this now more than ever in our current predicament.

In 13:7, we are told of the argument between the herdsmen of Lot and the herdsmen of Avram, and the posuk concludes by stating that the Kenani and Perizi were in the land. Rashi from Midrash Rabba said that the herdsmen of Lot would let their animals graze wherever they wanted (i.e., steal), and the herdsmen of Avram would reprimand them. They claimed that since Avram had no offspring, the land he would inherit would go to Lot (his next of kin), so the land theoretically belonged to him. The Posuk, therefore, says that the occupants of the land were still there to tell us that Avram did not yet inherit the land (thus, the claim by Lot's herdsmen was false). The important lesson here is that the posuk tells us that Hashem gave the land to Avram and his descendants, and at that moment, it didn't belong to us. Therefore, all these years later, when the land is ours and given back to us, it is unequivocally ours, even if the entire world thinks otherwise.

The current war may be won by physical means, but it is a war that will also be won

by following the Torah, by being Jewish and being proud to be Jewish. This doesn't happen in isolation or in solitude (contrary to Noach's method, as we learned last week); it happens as the Rebbe Rashab explains on Lech Lecha, that we must go out into the world and be mevarer the sparks of spirituality that exist in all things physical.

Avram's prominence was felt even by Pharoah, and he was treated as such. Because Avram spread truth and lived truth, even Pharoah could recognize his greatness. The Torah specifies Avram's locations because Avram positively influenced his surroundings wherever he went and revealed light in the darkness.

This mission of Avram is ours to follow whether we are taking part in the mission physically, emotionally or otherwise. We all have the additional mission of exposing the light in the darkness, and that begins by doing more Mitzvos and getting others around us to do more Mitzvos.

In this merit, we hope to bring Mashiach speedily in our days and an immediate redemption so that our soldiers and people of Israel and Jews everywhere experience tranquility, peace, and safety.

Good Shabbos