

Parshas Vayigash

This week's Parsha paints a picture of life in Egypt for the Jews before slavery. Hashem tells us the details of society to model what happens in society, specifically in our times. As a result of the famine, the entire country was nationalized under the Pharaoh's control, and the people sold themselves into slavery to be supported by the government and have access to sustenance (Chapter 47). The Jews were designated to live in a different area (Goshen) because their existence was antithetical to their neighbours (they were shepherds, and Egyptian society believed the animals were gods, and therefore shepherding was considered an abomination 46:34).

This is important because I think we need to delve into the Torah to help us navigate the tough times that global Jewry is in (always), but more specifically, since October 7 (Simchas Torah).

Hashem tells us in the Torah that society will function in the way that it does. There will be good times, and there will be tough times. The government will control its citizens more or less, and society will be dictated within that.

Eventually, the citizens will turn on the Jews in an open way, which will lead to terrible times, but we know that in the end, there will be salvation, and that comes from Torah and Mitzvos, specifically, and that truth of Torah and Mitzvos will shine through and deplete the darkness.

While the rest of the narratives of the Parsha have historical significance and are a script of sorts, earlier in the Parsha, when

Yosef tells the brothers in 45:5 not to worry about being sold, it is because Yosef made it abundantly clear to the brothers, the divine providence of the sale. And that Hashem was uniquely involved in the entire episode. This is important because if the theme above, which scripts out how society functions, is taken at face value, then one can forget, especially in the darkness, that Hashem is in control. But comes Yosef to teach us to be cognizant and recognize Hashem in everything.

Once we do this, through our learning of the Torah and doing mitzvot, we will truly benefit from the ultimate redemption.

Good Shabbos.