

Parshas Re'eh

This week's Parsha Re'eh, Moshe, continues to tell the Jews how to act in preparation for their leaving the desert to enter the Land of Israel. The Parsha begins with an introduction, "See I present before you today blessings, and curse, the blessing that you listen to the commandments of Hashem, your G-d, that I command you today, and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of Hashem, your G-d, and you stray from the path that I command you today, to follow the gods of others, that you did not know." (11:26-29).

The words used are singular, and the pesukim literally mean that you will be blessed to listen to Hashem, and the curse is that if you don't listen, you will end up straying from Hashem, and you will serve other gods, which are unknown to you. This is important, firstly, because we see that Hashem blessed us with the power to listen to Him and follow his ways, and when that happens, all the other rewards will come with that. In comparison, it can be construed that the curse that arises from going astray from Hashem is that you are astray.

While going astray and serving other gods seems, according to Rashi, to mean literal Avoda Zara, there is a part of serving other gods that means you are serving anything else aside from Hashem, or not serving Hashem. The steps to the curse are more than for the blessings. First, it seems, you stop listening to Hashem, then you go astray, then you serve other gods. This gives ample time for a Jew to recover, and achieve and receive the blessing to serve

Hashem. This also means that those who efficiently serve Hashem, or for whom it comes naturally to believe in and serve Hashem, are blessed. This means that when praying or asking something from Hashem, it is 100% appropriate to ask Hashem to want to serve Him. As well, not listening to Hashem means you have brought in another entity in your life, resulting in your going astray.

For those who are lost and looking for guidance, put yourself on the side and pray for the blessing to serve Hashem, with clarity and with material and spiritual fulfillment, because this in and of itself is a blessing. Furthermore, when blessing someone, give them a bracha that they should serve Hashem with happiness and a full heart.

This is a message that Moshe gave to the people many years ago, as they completed their redemption, but the message is the same for us to achieve and experience our redemption, which we will soon.

Good Shabbos