

Tell a story
Parshah Vaetchanan
by Julie Zhuk on 2022-08-13

Comments

Before Moses died, he began giving some series to the Jews. It was known as his ethical will. Moses saw into the future and wanted to spare his people, the tragedies that were coming before them. Moses tried his very best to warn the Jews that if they continued to make errors, these tragedies would strike them in their lives. He spoke of the good and the bad and addressed any responses people had about their future. This would include their misfortunes as well. Moses understood human nature very well, he knew the people were going to make mistakes. He wanted to warn them just as well, it made him feel better. He wanted them to remember that it was G-d who took them out of the land of Egypt. It was G-d who gave them their freedom. This conversation he had with the Jewish people included the reminder of G-d feeding them manna from the sky, when they didn't have anything else to rely on. Moses told the Jews that G-d would grant them victory once they had conquered the lands of Canaan.

These lands would one day become the land of Israel, the area that G-d had intended for them to live in. That would all happen eventually, over time and that land would be theirs. Leading the people for forty years, he was able to understand everything he could hope to know about how human psychology worked. Moses was talking to the Jews about their future and it seemed like what he was saying was going in one ear and out the other. He knew that they would come across wealth, and succeed in their lives and this would cause the people to forget who got them this far. That their Great Provider, G-d was the one who lead them to get as far on their journey. Moses feared in the back of his mind that when the Jews would get those things mentioned they would forget about blessing G-d as well. Moses kept telling the Jews when they would feel themselves stuck in difficult situations to turn back to G-d.

Moses knew that naturally, humans tended to do that, when they felt there was no hope out there that was the time to turn back to G-d. Moses wanted the Jews to know or keep in mind that if they already knew G-d is the source of good fortune. He says that to the Jews because he wanted them to know that they could rely on G-d even when things were hard on them. Moses' main point for the Jews was that everyone is smart and should strive to work hard. With that said, whatever success or failure we experience isn't always entirely in our hands. We are only human and we can't control everything that happens to us. A famous king was alive once, he was known as King Solomon. He once stated the words that there is no bread for the wise. He was speaking about the wisest of all humans. King Solomon knew many incredibly brilliant people, but just because they had that, they still didn't "make it far" in their lives.

There was a small number of people, who were intellectual and they managed to become a great success. Moses concluded his speech to the Jews with the words, they had to see the hand of G-d working in their lives. Moses said these words three thousand years ago. It was a different generation of people to whom he was speaking. People have changed over the large amount of time that's passed. Psychology teaches humans whether we study it or not, that human nature doesn't change much. Hearing these words now, people will take them in and

find meaning in them. Many rabbis out there will comment how they have students who come to them primarily when they find themselves in a rough spot in their lives. These same rabbis feel they have helped those students or their so-called problems went away, because they no longer seek the help or advice of the rabbis.

The wife of a rabbi commented on how grateful she was for a certain person who came to thank her husband. This certain person came from London, England, and flew to NYC. That is a really long flight, yet they wanted to come to see the rebbetzin's husband and thank him in person. What this gentleman did wasn't just thank the Rebbe, his actions of flying and doing this in person spoke louder than words. For the person wanting to thank the Rebbe, getting a flight to NYC wasn't such a big deal. If it was, they didn't mention it or let anyone know it troubled them in any way. They were coming in person because they wanted to do so out of the kindness of their heart. The past few Parshah we have been reading were focused on the difficult journeys the Jewish people had undergone. This parashah is focused more on the comfort that G-d has promised the Jewish people for so long. In the parshah, the ten commandments are mentioned many times. A miracle for the Jews came out of the ten commandments.

It was partially part of Moses saying goodbye to the Jewish people. Out of the midst of fire coming from the cloud and an opaque darkness, the Jews heard a great voice. The voice carried on without pause, there was no echo and the sound just kept going like an energy battery. This was the miracle for the Jewish people hearing the voice of G-d at Mount Sinai. It was a majestic and awe inspiring experience for the Jews. There was thunder and lightning that contributed to this miracle. It was a very sensory experience for the Jewish people and He was doing this for a reason. He wanted to demonstrate that they had really received the Ten Commandments and the Torah. The parsha tells us this was happening, so the Jews could fully absorb the words G-d was sending them. He wanted His words to stick to the Jews like oil on a pan and not just for His words to go in one ear and out the other. The sound of G-d went all over the world when the Jews heard Him at Mount Sinai. Everything G-d was saying, saturated into them.