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Parsha Nitzavim - Vayelech
by Julie Zhuk on 2023-09-09

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This is the last Parsha before Moses parts with the Jewish people and goes up to be with G-d. At this point in the Parsha, Moses is 120 years old and he tells the people how old he is. He tells them that he can no longer be their leader and why they will have to do without him. He transfers the leadership to Joshua. This is the Parsha of Hakhel, where all of the Jews gather around together once every seven years. It will happen during the festival of Sukkot of the first year of Shmitta. Everyone will gather at the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and the king will read from the Torah. Moses reminds the Jewish people of the Covenant G-d has with them. Moses reminds the Jewish people that they are standing before G-d and entering into the Covenant before G-d. Moses wanted the Jews to take the Oath that G-d made with the Jews. This way G-d can fulfill His promise with the people's forefathers of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is not with the people that were there, but with the people who were not there as well that the covenant was being made with.

G-d reminds Moses that the people will rebel against Him and "His fury will rage against Him. Things will become so bad that the people will start to wonder if G-d went on vacation? The time will come for Moses to tell the people that G-d has turned His face away since the people have turned to evil. This is when G-d tells Moses to write down a specific song that is taught to the Children of Israel. The song is in a dark and bitter place, the Jews were in a period of exile at the time. The Torah was teaching the Jews the secret of the exile at the time, G-d blessed be He exiled Israel among the nations. The song of exile that Moses was telling the Jews had a lot of joy in it as well. The Parsha tells us that the Jews were not just wandering around the globe from different parts such as the Middle East, to Europe, and then to South America, then to America, then finally back to Israel again. Doing all of these travels waiting for G-d to decide where He would end up and where the Redemption would end up. In the end, we know that G-d had a plan and some kind of a purpose. The Jewish people were doing really important work and they were redeeming holy sparks along the way as well.

The whole time G-d was around on the planet, if He had not been pushing all of the Jewish people into the ring we wouldn't have fought with the other side. We would not have won either. We would never have made it to redemption. It is a song and there is a reason to celebrate our lives our frustrating and very challenging sometimes. We feel like our lives our being thrust into aggravating situations a lot of times. If we think about what we are doing, we can see the joy in it. Our lives may not always feel good and happy. G-d willing it should be for us, we should not be looking at the barometer. We are supposed to be looking at the impact instead. If what you're doing is making some kind of an impact, that is what is important. That's what's causing all that happiness.