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**Haftara for Parsha Lech-Lecha**  
**by Julie Zhuk on 2024-11-09**

The Haftara for the Parsha of Lech Lecha is one of G-d telling the prophet Isaiah to the Jewish people He wants to bring them comfort. Despite all of their troubles, He has not forgotten them. The Hebrew words mentioned are, "Nechamu, Nechamu ami. "These means, Comfort, comfort, My People." This is how the Haftara opens in chapter 40 of Isaiah.

This is how G-d delivers the words of consolation to the Jewish people. Before bringing the people comfort, Isaiah asks the Jewish people a question, what can possibly justify the suffering that the Jewish people have? What about the mitzvas and the good deeds that the Jewish people have done, didn't that account for anything? Is this going to take into account for anything since they have been faithful to G-d.

It says in this week's Haftara, "My way has been hidden from G-d by the Jews, but my cause has been passed over by my G-d." What does all of this mean? The Jews knew that G-d was the Creator of all, but they felt tired after having gone through the exile. For some of them it seemed hard to keep in mind that the ones who tormented them may have appeared young and vigorous. In reality, G-d was making them weak and falter.

Through the Prophet Isaiah, G-d spoke to the Jewish nation at the time. The Jewish nation was reminded of how Abraham lived being a single man. G-d elevated and assisted him throughout his life. It was throughout his life, that he believed in the concept of one G-d. Most of the people in his life didn't have that kind of faith that he had. They believed, but their faith was not as strong as Abraham's. The examples at the time were the four kings and the nephew Lot. He was trying to rescue Lot at the time. In this Haftara, we learn that the Jews were always different from everyone else.

The nations of the world witnessed the miracle that was Abraham, yet many of the Jews still worshiped idols. Some of these Jews fastened their idols with nails, so their work wouldn't fall over. When they did this G-d made the earth tremble in fear. It was G-d's way of saying to the Jewish people He wanted them to stay away from these idols and to always turn to Him. G-d turned to Jacob and called him His servant saying He was reassuring the Jewish people to not fear that He was not planning to leave them ever. He reminded the Jewish people that He had chosen them and would come through for them always and forever. G-d told the Jewish people that the right time would come for the Jews to crush their enemies forever, the Jewish people just had to be patient.

G-d had a special destined role for the future. Israel is seen as a special people, the prophet Isaiah still characterizes the Jews as a "worm." He sees the Jewish nation as a tiny group when compared to the greatness that G-d has to offer. The main reason why Isaiah sees the Jewish nation in this light is because of their behavior. Many of them turn to idols and it disgusts Isaiah. Isaiah encourages the Jewish people that they will see victory and glory if they stay devoted to G-d. When we read the Torah portion of Lech Lecha, it said that G-d promised Abraham's offspring a great nation. Meaning more numerous than all of the dust on the earth.

For Abraham to realize this destiny, he had to go through many temptations and challenges of his own. In this week's Haftara, the Jewish people are reminded that they will have good fortune in the near future. This will happen to them, just like it did for Abraham. Only if they follow in the path of G-d's proscribed commandments. G-d was insisting that they stop worshiping idols. It was really important for them to stop luring these idols, back then this temptation was an extremely challenging thing for many of the Jewish people.