

After the *chet* (sin) of the *meraglim* (spies) HaShem was prepared to punish and destroy the entire Jewish nation, “I will smite them with the plague and annihilate them” (14:12). And as far as the future is concerned HaShem was ready to start a new and better nation with Moshe as the leader, as it is written (ibid) “And I shall make you a greater and more powerful nation than they”.

Moshe is not pleased with this contention and he pleads HaShem for forgiveness. It's interesting to note Moshe's argument of *Ma Yomru Ha'goyim*, the Egyptians will hear about this and declare “Because HaShem lacked the ability to bring this people to the Land that He had sworn to give them, so He slaughtered them in the Wilderness (14:16). HaShem relents and finally forgives “*Vayomer HaShem Salachti Kidvarecha*” HaShem said, “I have forgiven because of your word” (14:20). But then He adds: “***Chai Ani***” “**But as I live-and the glory of HaShem shall fill the entire world**—that all the men who have tested Methey will not live to see the Land that I have sworn to give to their forefathers (14:22) According to Ramban (R' Moshe ben Nachman, 1194-1270) the *Chai Ani* –As I live, is an expression that connotes an oath. Thus G-d swore that those who angered Him would not live to see the Land. **As a result, G-d declared, the glory of HaShem shall fill the entire world**, because everyone will see and realize that those who rebel against Him do not go unpunished.

The Netziv (Rabbi Naftali Tzvi Berlin, 1873-1893) however, has a different approach. According to the Netziv, HaShem is saying, until now My Kavod (glory) was meant to be confined to Eretz Yisrael, now however, it will have to be spread throughout the entire earth. Meaning, if not for the sin of the Meraglim there would have been no additional 39 years in the Wilderness. Immediate entrance to Eretz Yisrael would have been accomplished and with Moshe Rabbeinu as the Manhig of Yisrael, and eventually declared as the King of Israel, leading them in. Had there been such a glorious entry, there would have been no Churban HaBayit (no destruction of the Holy Temple), and no Galut (exile). All the Nissim (miracles) that occurred within the walls of the Bet HaMikdash would have reverberated throughout the entire world, just as Kriyat Yam Suf (splitting of the Yam Suf) was heard all over the world, and all the nations would have trembled in awe and fear of the Jewish Nation.

Now however, Jewish history will be different. As a result of the Meraglim, there **will be** a Churban and there **will be** a Galut where we will be driven out of our Land and dispersed over the four corners of the earth. Consequently, the Shechina of G-d will also be dispersed into Galut and the Glory of HaShem will be recognized by all nations. The mere fact that Am Yisrael in spite of being without a Land and in spite of being subjected to horrible persecutions and pogroms will be able to survive and eventually return to their land,. That is the oath of HaShem, Kavod HaShem being spread over the world through Am Yisrael.