

Devarim-Shabbos Gifts from Moshe Rabbeinu

[From Rashi and the Toras Chaim of Kossov]

By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

In Devarim 1:10-11 we read of Moshe Rabbeinu's declaration of how numerous Am Yisroel has become. The verses, 'Hashem increased you like the stars of the heavens in multitude. Hashem, the G-d of your fathers should bless you a thousand-fold and bless you as he has spoken to you,' Rashi explains the double expression to mean two different blessings. First Moshe gave them a bracha to be increased a thousand-fold. Am Yisroel then asked the reason for stopping at one thousand. Even though a thousand times may sound like a lot, Hashem's capabilities are infinite. Moshe then answered that a thousand-fold was his bracha. Hashem, however, should give Am Yisroel brachos infinitely and immeasurably as he promised to the Avos.

What is significant about a thousand times? Furthermore, the Toras Chaim of Kossov cites that that a number of commentators ask why Hashem's would brachos not include Moshe's brachos. The Toras Chaim answers that there is indeed significance to the number one thousand in reference to Moshe Rabbeinu. When Am Yisroel received the Torah they were elevated to such a high level and received crowns as the Midrashim tell us. They were glowing with so much spiritual light. When they went astray by making the golden calf, one effect of this wrongdoing was the loss of a thousand lights. Hashem gave these lights to Moshe Rabbeinu and Moshe Rabbeinu in turn gives Am Yisroel these lights every Shabbos. This is what is meant in our Shmone Esrai that we say every Shabbos morning that Moshe should rejoice in the gift of his portion. This refers to the one thousand lights that Hashem gave him and that he in turn, gives to the Klal Yisroel every Shabbos. This is what Rashi was referring to when he wrote that Moshe said that the thousand-fold brachos are from him.

The Toras Chaim then explains that even though we are in exile from our land and far from true holiness, nevertheless, every Jew benefits from these one thousand spiritual lights every single Shabbos. The Jew and creation are on a much higher level metaphysically, as anyone who keeps Shabbos properly can testify. But when the final geulah comes, our spiritual light and luster will be restored so much more and infinitely so. The Jew will be restored to his proper place in the eyes of the world as Hashem's people. The entire creation will be elevated to new heights of holiness as the entire creation will acknowledge Hashem's kingship. May we merit seeing the restoration of these lights and Hashem's Kingship restored to its proper place in the very near future. Amen