

Inspirations from the Haftarah-Parshas Ekev  
By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

**Unity Required for Geulah**

The Haftarah for Parshas Ekev continues on the theme of comforting Yerushalayim and Am Yisroel after the horrific destruction it just endured. Tzion feels Hashem has abandoned her. Hashem, through the prophet Yeshaya 49:15 assures her that even if a mother may forget her child who came from her womb, he will not forget her. Great as the destruction of Yerushalayim was, the city's rebuilding will be even greater. Furthermore, in 49:18 Tzion is told to lift her eyes and see her children all gathered around her.

On the above verse the sefer Ahavas Tzion makes the following observation. The second Bais Hamikdash was destroyed because of divisiveness and baseless hatred [sinas chinam]. The opinion in the Mishna in Edyos 8:7 of the chachamim is that Eliyahu Hanavi will come only to bring peace to the world. Indeed, the Ahavas Tzion stresses that every geulah was preceded by unity. We saw as a prelude to the geulah from Mitzrayim, there was a sense of being gathered together as one in that Moshe Rabbeinu was told to gather together all of the elders of Yisroel. We also see how in the days of Mordechai and Esther, we deserved to be saved because of our gathering together. Esther commanded Mordechai to have all Jews in Shushan Habirah gather together and fast at the same time for three days. [Esther 4:16]. The fasting together as well as the general gathering gave an aura of unity of purpose as they all were entreating for Hashem's mercy as she was to enter the king's palace to plead for all Jews.

So must it be before our final redemption will come about. There must be a sense of true unity. All of Am Yisroel must be joined together and feel united as one with one common ancestry, direction and future. Hopefully, this Tisha B'av's observance touched our hearts enough to feel ahavas Yisroel to the point of meriting the final geulah. Amen.