

Inspirations from the Haftarah Parshas Veyeshev- Prophecy, A Lion's Roar

The Haftarah for Parshas Vayeshev concludes with the following verse from Amos 3:8: 'A lion roared, who will not be afraid? Hashem Elokim has spoken, who will not prophecy?' We see prophecy being juxtaposed and perhaps being compared to a lion's roar. What is the Connection?

Prophecy is based on Devarim 8:15 where the Moshe tells Am Yisroel that they should not be involved in any fortune-telling, sorcery or anything that involves trying to predict or change the future. We are to be totally with Hashem and ready to accept whatever Hashem gives us because he alone controls all destinies and knows what is truly best for each and every one of us. Other nations resort to such things because they have no direct contract with Hashem. For us, however, Moshe reassures us that he will send prophets to reveal to us what Hashem's will is at that time and we should listen to these prophets.

The Ahavas Zion states that in truth, prophecies are like lion's roars because they scare us or at least should scare us into doing teshuva. This was the state of affairs back when we had prophecy. The *Shechina*, Hashem's presence was much more revealed to us than it is today. While in a certain sense, a chacham is better than a prophet, a chacham may not reveal the future. This is part of our experience in exile where it is stated in Aicha that we have no Torah or prophecy. This can be said of the Holocaust when Torah Leadership could not truly guide us. Yes, we had great rabbis and gedolim. Rav Elchanan Wasserman, *hyd*, among other gedolim, warned us of the impending horrors. However, they could not reveal to us all of what they knew. Tragically, the little that we were told was not taken seriously enough.

The Ahavas Tzion also brings on Aicha 3:10 that a bear does not roar like a lion. A bear attacks much more silently and with far less warning. This is the meaning of the verse that states Hashem was like a bear in ambush. In exile, tragic things take place without enough warning. May we merit doing the proper teshuva and seeing the restoration of prophecy as well as the glory of Hashem, the Torah and our Bais Hamikdash in the eyes of the rest of the world.