

Parshas Vayesev –All Events are Part of Hashem’s Master Plan

By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

In Bereishis Chapter 37 we read of Yosef’s dreams and his brothers’ reactions to them and the sale of Yosef as to the slave traders who bring him to Mitzrayim. It is difficult to understand why Yosef would incite his brothers’ jealousy by telling them his dreams that imply his ruling over them. It is also difficult to understand why the brothers failed to see that Yosef’s dreams were not just thoughts but prophecies. One proof that Yosef’s dreams were not yearnings to rule over his brothers is that his second dream included his father and mother or stepmother bowing down to him as well and yosef certainly would not be yearning to rule over them.

The above points were raised by the Mashgiach, Rav Michel Barenbaum, Zt”l. He brings a number of points, though, to prove that this whole episode of Yosef, his dreams and their consequences was part of Hashem’s master plan to bring Yaakov and his son’s down to Mitzrayim. This was the fulfillment of Hashem’s foretelling Avraham Avinu that his children would be enslaved in a strange land and be redeemed with great wealth.

The following are some of the thoughts that the Mashgiach brought to prove his point. In Tehillim 66:5 we read, ‘Go out and see Hashem’s; wondrous deeds.’ In Midrash Tanchuma Rav Yuden stated that all of these events that took place in the house Yosef was raised in were part of Hashem’s plan. Consider the favoritism shown to Yosef by Yaakov Avinu and the failure of the brothers to see any prophecy in Yosef’s dreams. Rav Yuden was stating the Mashgiach’s point. While we may not understand how or why certain events took place, it was all clearly part of how Yaakov and his family did end up in Mitzrayim. The Ohr Hachayim writes that Yosef did not contact his father to notify him that he was still alive in order to protect his brothers from being shamed for as long as possible. When they finally did come down to Mitzrayim, Yosef made it clear that all of the events, including Yosef being sold as a slave, were really part of Hashem’s will all along. Rashi and Rabbeinu Bachaya both bring from Pirkai D’ Rabbi Eliezer that Hashem joined himself when the brothers cursed whoever would reveal to Yaakov what they did to Yosef. Again we see this as a major component of Hashem’s plan to bring the Klal Yisroel to Mitzrayim and to redeem them.