

Chazal speak about Matan Torah in the halachic terms of marriage, because there is a covenant binding our people with HaKadosh-Baruch-Hu, the same way there is a covenant binding husband and wife. The only difference is that whereas the covenant between husband and wife is an intimate event the Matan Torah event was a great event of international, and even of cosmic proportions.

The Gemara Shabbat [88a] states that the entire world would have returned to "TOE'HU VA'VOEHU" nothingness, if the Jewish people would not have accepted the Torah. Similarly, the Midrash Shemot Rabba [29:9] says that the entire world stopped, was quiet, and was able to hear the first commandment "Anochi HaShem...". Furthermore, Chazal tell us [Zevachim 116a] that when the Torah was given, the entire world heard the noise and trembled. They asked Bilam what the noise was all about, saying, "Perhaps G-d is bringing another Mabul upon the world? Bilam explained to them it was not destruction coming to the world, rather, G-d had a precious gift hidden away for a thousand generations, and G-d was now giving that gift-the Torah, to His children.

At the time of Yetzi'at Mitzrayim, but prior to Matan Torah, the Jewish people were a great nation. As we read in Devarim [26:5]. "Va'yehi Sham LeGoy Gadol". But as a result of Matan Torah we became not only a great nation, but a holy nation. At that point we became a "Mamlechet Kohanim veGoy Kaddosh", "A kingdom of priests and a holy nation" [Shemot 19:6]. Rav Soloveitchik believed, that the purpose of elevating our people to the exalted position of Mamlechet Kohanim veGoy Kaddosh has a universal aspect. We were charged with the mission and task of passing on the Torah to the entire world. When will this mission become a reality? We don't know, it might be very slow in coming, but we know, it will happen.

That is what we express in our daily Tefillah of Aleinu. In it, we find the idea that Matan Torah was the beginning; that it was given to us exclusively, but just for a limited time. When the Messianic era will begin, the Torah, that is, the written Torah, will be transformed to the entire mankind, and all will accepted by all. [Yerushalmi Avoda Zara 2:1]. In that tefillah we pray, that this vision, this promise, should be fulfilled and realized, as soon as possible. The Aleinu originally comes from the section of Malchuyot of Rosh HaShana, where we state that every living creature will serve G-d.

The Torah at present is the exclusive possession of Knesset Yisrael. We pray for the day when the Torah will be passed on to the entire world, to all mankind. That is the reason why the Torah was originally given amongst thunder and noise, [Shemot 19:16], so that the entire world heard and felt the emotional experience of Matan Torah. But until that day arrives it is our responsibility to strengthen ourselves, by studying the Torah she'bich'tav, as well as Torah she'b'alpeh, for we will be the future teachers to the world.