

Inspirations from the Haftarah -Ki Savo

Light for the Jews

By Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh

The Haftarah for Parshas Ki Savo continues on the theme of *nechama*, consolation and is the second to last in the series. The Haftarah opens up with [Yeshaya 60:1-3] ‘*Koomi Ori*, Arise, Shine because your light has come and the glory of Hashem has shone upon you. For behold darkness will cover the land and *arafe* [thick darkness] the nations but on you Hashem will shine and his glory bestowed upon you. And nations will go to your light and kings to the shine of your illumination.’ From these words we clearly see how in the future, Am Yisroel will be recognized as the light of the world and all of the nations of the world will be led by Am Yisroel in service of Hashem. The entire world will see the purpose and role of Am Yisroel and will respect and revere us.

The Sefer Ahavas Tzion points out the word Choshech, darkness in verse 2 is preceded by a letter Heh meaning a definite article. He explains that the verse is referring to the darkness that will fall upon the nations of the world just before the days of Moshiach. There will be very harsh judgments upon the nations of the world. But Am Yisroel will only have light. The Ahavas Tzion points out further that when Hashem judges the world, Am Yisroel has special protection. This will be shown even more so in the future in the days of the final judgment when there will be darkness upon the nations of the world but Am Yisroel will have light. This is similar to what was experienced in Mitzrayim during the plague of darkness when ‘Bnai Yisroel had light in their dwellings.’ Rashi also tells that in the time of creation when Hashem separated light and darkness, Hashem saved the light for Tzaddikim in the future. The prophecy in this Haftarah is the revelation of this light that was hidden at the time of the creation. Tzaddikim will get the most benefit but all of Am Yisroel at that time will merit a portion of this light. Then Am Yisroel will lead the way for the rest of the world in the true service of Hashem.

As stated a number of times in this series, these prophecies gave hope to Am Yisroel through galus. Though suffering immeasurably from the hands of the nations who insisted that Am Yisroel has been rejected and condemned to suffer eternally, Am Yisroel nevertheless always drew inspiration from these prophecies that this situation is only temporary. In due time the nations of the world will respect and revere Am Yisroel as the Am Hashem and *Ohr Lagoyim*, light to the nations. May we merit these days in the near future. Amen.