

**Shoftim**  
**Arei Miklat to Remind Us**  
**[From Rav Moshe Feinstein,zt'l]**  
**by Rabbi Eliyahu Kirsh**

In Devarim 19:9 we read that when we do Hashem's mitzvos and go in his ways we will merit having more land which will require three more *arei miklat*, refuge cities. Rashi clarifies that this means that we will need three more refuge cities in addition to the three refuge cities on the eastern side of the Yarden River. This is because in the days of Moshiach our land will include the territories of Moav, Ammon and Edom.

My Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Moshe Feinstein zt"l, asks the following. In the days of Moshiach, the entire earth will be filled with knowledge of Hashem as we are told by the prophets. There will be no more murders. Even unintentional murders will not take place. Why then would there even be a need for these refuge cities? Rav Moshe Feinstein answers this question with the notion that the need for *arei miklat* will still exist. True the world will be filled with knowledge of Hashem as stated above as well as love for Hashem. This was indeed the hallmark of our *avos*, our patriarchs and the way it will be in the future. However, there will still be a need for a reminder of human nature and how low one can sink without *yiras Hashem*, fear of Hashem. There is a clear need for fear of Hashem independent of love for Hashem. As the fear aspect is what keeps us in line. Therefore, there will be a need for *arei miklat* to exist even if they will not actually be used as such. Human nature requires that there always be reminders of the low levels of conduct and decency that we are capable of without fear of Hashem. If this is true in the days of Moshiach, then how much more so this must be true in our times. Though we accomplish much in our Torah learning and *avodas Hashem*, there must always be a reminder of how low we can drop to without proper fear of Hashem.