

SHABBAT SHIRA

“SEEING THE DOWNFALL OF OUR ENEMIES”

In the Av HaRachamim recited on Shabbat before Mussaf we say, “May He,(HaKadosh Baruch Hu), before our eyes, exact retribution for the spilled blood of Gd’s servants”. We want to see our enemies being paid back for all the suffering they caused upon us. We want to witness the Nechamah [revenge] against them. That will bring us Closure. However, in order for us to see this happen we have to be Zocheh [meritorious] and deserving.

Upon the destruction of the cities Sedom and Amorah, Loht who was rescued from this destruction was specifically told by the Malachim [Angels], his rescuers, “Flee for your life! **Do not look behind you**” [Bereishit 19:17] because he was no better than the people of Sedom. He was saved only because of the Zechut [merit] of his uncle- Avraham. He was therefore not privileged to see their downfall.

Likewise, Several weeks before we find by No’ach who was rescued from the ultimate destruction of the entire world, the Mabul. No’ach was instructed to build a “Tzohar” in the Teivah [Ark], [6:15]. Shmuel, in Gemara Sanhedrin [108a] was of the opinion that the Tzohar was a stone that illuminated the inner and outer area of the Teivah. But, according to Shmuel, there was No window in the Teivah. No’ach could therefore not look outside to witness the destruction of mankind, for according to Shmuel, No’ach was not fully deserving of this rescue. Shmuel interpreted the word “Be’dorotov” in HIS generation in a negative vein. That No’ach was a Tzaddik only relatively speaking, when compared to rest of world. They were so bad that he was rated as a Tzaddik, but not that he fully deserved to be rescued on his own merit. Therefore, No’ach had no right to view the destruction of the others. He was not Zocheh to see the downfall of the others.

I once heard from Rav Laiman, when we come to our parasha we read that “On that day, HaShem saved the Jewish People from the hand of Egypt, and **Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore**” [Shemot 14:30]. Our people may not have been fully righteous at first, upon leaving Egypt, but at this point they were truly Zocheh to behold the downfall of their cruel tormentors. Indeed it is written further, “The people revered HaShem, and they had faith in HaShem and in Moshe, His servant

Years after the Holocaust, we witnessed the execution of Adolf Eichman in Israel, that was a bit of Nechamah but that was but one Nazi and was not fully satisfying. In 1967 we had the Zechut of seeing the defeat of all the enemy armies who tried to annihilate us. That did offer us a bit of consolation as we saw the “Hand of Gd” in our time. However, that was a short-lived respite. “*Bechol dor vedor, omdim Aleinu lechaloteinu*” every year since then we still suffer from enemy terrorism and every year our Jewish men, women and children fall victims to these terrorist. May we be Zocheh to have and to see the full Nechamah in all our enemies - Today!

Shabbat Shalom, from YERUSHALAYIM Rabbi Aharon Ziegler

QUESTIONS ON PARASHAT BESHALACH

- 1- 14:15, When we were threatened by the Egyptian army charging against us- we cried to
- 2- Gd and HaShem criticizes us saying, “Ma Titzak Eilay” Why do you cry out to Me?

Question-Isn't prayer a proper response when we are faced with danger?

2-We are required to eat 3 meals on Shabbat. From which pasuk is this derived?

3-Rav Chidka holds that we must eat 4 meals during Shabbat. What does he base his opinion on?

4- The Mohn did not fall on Shabbat. How do we know that it did not fall on Yom Kippur and Yom Tov?

5- From which pasuk do we derive the prohibition against walking beyond the 2000 Amot [Techum Shabbat] outside city limits?

A QUESTION OF INTEREST:

HOW IS IT THAT WE PUT A MAN ON THE MOON BEFORE WE FIGURED OUT THE GOOD IDEA OF PUTTING WHEELS ON LUGGAGE????