

KOLLEL AGUDATH ACHIM

Rosh Kollel

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Parshat **Pekudei**, - 2022

חזק חזק ונתחזק פרשת פקודי 5782

“TASKS UNFINISHED”

At the end of Pekudei we all rise and declare: “**Chazak, Chazak Venit’chazeik**”, be strong, be strong and may we be strengthened, as we do at the end of each of the chamisha chumshei Torah. Rav Soloveitchik suggested the reason for this recitation. When we are occupied with learning or working on a project we are happy and pleased with our accomplishment. But when we have finished our project or learning which we enjoyed, a sense of let-down sets in, and at times, even depression. Also, when we leave a temporary environment where we have spent several weeks, or months, having developed new friendships and relationships, we feel a sense of sadness saying goodbye while there was so much more we aspired to accomplish, but returning to our “more permanent home” we must. So we encourage one another- “to be strong and be strengthened” and look forward to see each other again, hopefully, in Jerusalem.

Tying this in with our parasha, with a thought I heard from my colleague, Rabbi Weiss. Note, that each sefer of the chumshei Torah concludes with endeavors left unfinished-left for the next generation to complete.

Sefer Bereishit- ends with the death of Yosef. But that is not the end of our being in Mitzrayim. As a matter of fact, our problems first begin with being enslaved there and the next generation will see the exodus from slavery and Mitzrayim

Sefer Shemot- ends with the cloud of glory resting upon the newly constructed Mishkan. But the use of the Mishkan has not yet taken place, but it serves as a blueprint for the ultimate Beit HaMikdash built many years later.

Sefer VaYikra and Sefer Bamidbar- end with laws of Ma’aserot and laws of Yerusha, inheritance. These laws are given; they can only be fulfilled and become a reality after possessing the Land of Israel.

Sefer Devarim- concludes with the death of Moshe. Although he was the greatest leader of our people, he never realized his greatest dream, to enter Eretz Yisrael- a mission only achieved by those he left behind.

Sefer Nevi'im- we find Dovid HaMelech whose life long dream was to build a House of G-d, a Beit HaMikdash, never saw his dream fulfilled. It was the next generation- his son Shlomo HaMelech who completed what his father began.

Leaving tasks unfinished, leaving goals and aspirations uncompleted can have a devastating and demoralizing effect that leaves us frustrated and even depressed. Therefore, the message seems to be, that we should not expect to fulfill all of our dreams, hopes and expectations. Rabbi Tarfon said this in Pirkei Avot [2; 21]-“It is not for anyone of us to complete the task”. But that does not free us from doing our share, from working on our goals to the best of our ability, with our utmost energy and strength. So we declare Chazak, Chazak- be strong, let us each do our share knowing very well that we will not complete every goal. And then, we call out “Venit’chazek” let us be strengthened by the recognition that Together, our mission can be fulfilled and concluded even if it takes many generations to make it a reality.

We must appreciate the gifts and accomplishments of the generations that preceded us and we pray that our children and grandchildren continue the mission of our people and Torah.

Shabbat Shalom to all from Yerushalayim

Rabbi Aharon Ziegler

Parsha Questions :

1. How do we know that sanctification of the Mishkan requires intention? (Answer Yerushalmi Succah 4:7)
2. How do we know that touching the ramp up to the Mizbeyach is as if you touched the actual Mizbeyach.? (Answer: Zvacachim 87a)
3. How do we know that Moshe Rabeinu was 10 Amot tall? (Answer: Bechorot 44a)
4. The Kiyur had to have enough water to wash four Kohanim's hands and feet. How do we know this? (Zevachim 19b)