

Noso – Peace

(Numbers 4:22) “Raise the head of the sons of Gershon.” Gershon also mean, “those who have been driven away”. The only being with total knowledge of the details and purpose of every aspect of existence is the Creator. For thousands of years, human behavior has driven many away from focusing on and serving their Creator. The world is changing rapidly. Thus, it behooves us to focus on restoring our connection to the source of all life.

Peace is a central theme in Torah. It is also a most important aspect of our existence. Unfortunately, when people try to make peace, it ends up being only a partial arrangement that is at best temporary. This reflects the internal turmoil that exists within humanity. Contradictions and opposites exist within every facet of human life. In order to receive the Torah, the people had to be of one heart and one focus. The proper space requires extreme humility and humbleness. Our best efforts to achieve that state in today’s world have been mediocre at best.

If each person was able to achieve perfect focus in doing the will of the Creator, then our differences would not interfere with each other. If Israel, and the people of Israel could prioritize the importance of serving the Creator, the world would achieve peaceful existence.

The blessings of the priests are delivered with love. The words they utter conclude with the word peace. Thus, people have to display “love” before achieving “peace”. However, too many people hold hate within themselves, causing true lasting peace to be unattainable.

In this week’s portion the Torah elaborates on the offerings given by each tribe. When we are all serving one Creator, then everyone can bring their unique self to connect with the Creator.

Sadly, the Jewish people are not unified in their service to One God. The separation and hate that exist will not allow them to be united in this as a common cause. Hashem sends messages from the non-Jewish world about making peace. There has been a major shift in the world with regard to relationships. The Jewish people should use this positive shift as the impetus to solidify the connection between their fellow Jews and focus on their inner connection. Sadly, up to this point they have only become united in temporary movement.

We pray and want the revelation of Moshiach. There are a multitude of definitions and proposals as to what is Moshiach. Thus, there cannot be true unity even in this holy cause. It is the Creator who will decide precise timing and definition of any redemption that occurs. It is time to get over our personal dreams and definitions. Instead, it is time to submit ourselves to the Creator of all life.

(Mishnah Uketzin 3:12) “Rabbi Shimon ben Chalaftah said, the Holy One blessed is He, did not find a vessel that could hold blessing for Israel only peace, as the verse says, (Psalms 29:11) Hashem will give strength to his people, Hashem will bless his people with peace.”

Let us strive for achdus – unity as we endeavor to dedicate ourselves more acutely to our connection with the Creator. Humility will help us to be more understanding, more loving, and ultimately more deserving of the redemption that we seek.