



OVERVIEW

The Torah promises prosperity for the Jewish People if they follow Hashem's commandments. However, if they fail to live up to the responsibility of being the Chosen People, then chilling punishments will result. The Torah details the harsh historical process that will fall upon them when Divine protection is removed. These punishments, whose purpose is to bring the Jewish People to repent, will be in seven stages, each more severe than the last. Sefer Vayikra, the book of Leviticus, concludes with the details of erachin – the process by which someone vows to give the Beit Hamikdash the equivalent monetary value of a person, an animal or property.



GOOD NEWS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TOCHACHA

There is a very long and interesting Ramban in this week's parsha, which attempts to demonstrate that all the terrible things in the Tochacha (those things that the Torah predicts will occur if we do not keep the mitzvos), did indeed happen.

For instance, the Ramban says that the pasuk [verse] "G-d will return you to Egypt in boats" refers to the days of Titus when the Jews were loaded onto boats and shipped as slaves to Egypt. The Ramban brings many different examples... "The King which you will appoint over yourself..." refers to Agrippa; the pasuk hints to the fact that he was not worthy of being a King.

Finally, the Ramban says that the pasuk [26:32] "I will make desolate the Land, and your enemies who dwell upon it will be desolate" (V'shamemu aleha oyeveichem hayoshvim bah) is not a curse, but rather is a blessing. It is a bit of "good news" in the middle of the bad: the pasuk tells us that our Holy Land will not accept our enemies upon it.

The Ramban says that this is a great proof of the Divine Hand in action. "For there cannot be found throughout the world a land that had been so good and fertile (which now became so desolate and inhospitable)". If you want to be a Believer, says the Ramban, all you need to do is look at Eretz Yisroel. Look what happened there for 2000 years when Romans, Arabs, Turks and the British was occupied it. It had previously been a beautiful and fertile land, but under foreign dominion, it became the most desolate of lands. The Torah assures us that from the day we left Eretz Yisroel the land would not accept any other nation or populace. They all tried to settle it, but were not successful. This is the meaning of what the Torah says, "Your enemies will be desolate upon it". No nation will ever be successful at inhabiting Eretz Yisroel, except Klal Yisroel [The Jewish Nation]. What would happen if the Indians came to the Federal Government and said, "We made a silly mistake 200 years ago. We sold Manhattan Island to you at a rock bottom price — \$24. We realize that you're entitled to a profit, so we'll give you \$48 for Manhattan"? Or even if they would offer 48 million dollars! Or 48 billion dollars! Guess what? There would be no sale. What has happened to Manhattan Island in those 200 years? Considering its value now, there is no way the Government would ever give it back. Imagine if other nations had been successful in making Eretz Yisroel profitable. Imagine if in 1948, it was a beautiful and productive land. Would they have consented to returning it to the Jewish People? However, as the Ramban says, they were not able to develop the land. In 1948, when we came to ask, "Can we have the land back?" those in power may have thought, "Do you mean that strip of land that's hard like iron, in which nothing grows? Are you talking about that worthless strip of land in the middle of the desert? Good Luck with it!" This is Divine Providence, as promised by the Torah in this week's parsha. The upshot of all of this is that if we seek a lesson in Emunah [Belief (in G-d)], if one is unimpressed with all the other miracles and wonders that G-d has performed... just look at this Ramban, just look at this pasuk, just look at that Land. If our eyes are open, we will see the Hand of G-d and His Divine Providence upon us and upon all the Jewish people.

Rabbi Frand - www.torah.org

YORTZEITS THIS WEEK

- **Arnold Connack** for his late brother
- **Fiona Aronovitz** for her late mother
- **Jonathan Brand** for his late parents
- **Lynette Benjamin** for her late mother
- **Alan Porter** for his late father
- **Zilla Woznica** for her late father
- **Philip Berk** for his late father

GRANDPARENTS



Mazel tov to **Ken & Marilyn Braude** and **Nelson & Carol Brenner** on the birth of a grandson born to **Dori & Matt Brenner** in Israel

Mazel tov to **Rabbi Tzvi & Chana Schwartz** on the birth of a grandson born to **Yisroel & Temima Schwartz** of Telzstone, Israel

HILTON HERR'S YORTZEIT

The yortzeit of our dear friend **Hilton Herr z"l** is on the 26th of Sivan and we hope to complete the learning of **Shas Mishnayos in his zchus**. There are approximately 15 masechtas to still be learnt. If you would like to participate in this 'chesed shel emes', please sign up on the notice board or contact Pinchus Goldberg on 0723677090

CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS

Chana Shor
Yehuda Chanan Isaacs
Levi Daniel Margalit

Happy Birthday!

IN HONOUR OF THE MIRACULOUS CAPTURE OF THE OLD CITY & THE KOSEL HAMA'ARAVI

RABBI AUERBACH
MUST THE '**KVITLACH**' (SMALL NOTES PLACED INTO THE KOSEL) BE PLACED IN SHEIMOS? DO THEY HAVE KEDUSHA?

Shabbos afternoon at 4.10pm

RABBI AUERBACH
DOES THE WHOLE AREA OF THE KOSEL HAMA'ARAVI HAVE THE SAME **KEDUSHA LIKE THAT OF A SHUL?**

This Motzei Shabbos 7.45pm at the Wolberg Residence, 3 Study Rd, Glenhazel

CONDOLENCES

A fund has been created for Rachael Kramer who has been our loyal and dedicated secretary of many years in order to aid them with their current bereavement. If you would like to contribute toward this please contact Rabbi Abramson. Alternatively direct deposit into FNB, Branch# 250655, Account# 50391494777 with "Kramer" as a reference.
Thank you and may we all only know of simchas!

Ohr Somayach
WOMEN'S Shavuot BREAKFAST
5776

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