

נועם

ה'

דברי חיזוק והתעוררות

שובבים of קדושה On the

פרשת שמות

על ידי ר' ישראל גאלד

רב דחבורת נעם שיח



נועם ה'

בס"ד

חבורת נעם שיח

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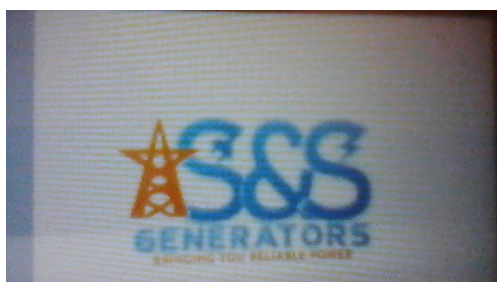
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What is שובבים?

Although the true depth and קדושה of these days is extremely beyond our comprehension, it is still important for us to try and understand on our level what we can- in order to apply the proper עבודה דרך and the proper way to act and serve Hashem during this special period.

We have to travel back 5783 years ago to the time of the חטא of אדם הראשון. It's important for us to remember that it wasn't just אדם הראשון that sinned, but rather each and every one of us. All of us are a part of the נשמה of אדם and in essence, we all took part in that חטא. Without going into the details of the חטא of אדם הראשון, what we have to know is-only after every נשמה does תשובה -on his or her part of the חטא-will משיח come. Every yid has a mission. That תפקיד is in essence a way for that particular individual to fix the part of the נשמה of אדם הראשון that he was.

3 generations & 3 attempts

There were 3 generations that came down to this world in an attempt to be מתקן -to rectify- חטא. These were the דור אנוש, דור הפלגה, דור המבול. Each one failed and was therefore destroyed. Then, the אבות הקדושים came into the world and everything changed. The אבות fixed a large part of that חטא and the rest was left for their children, the nation to be called כלל ישראל. Our mission, as a nation, is to make those final תיקונים and to merit the משיח תיקון and the coming of השלם.

How are we מתקן a חטא?

To fix a חטא of that magnitude requires a tremendous cleansing process. In general, we know that's how it goes in life. There are different עבירות that a person can ח"ו do. Every עבירה has a different method in order for

that individual to reach a כפרה. We know from the משנה in יומא that there are 4 types of atonements. Some עבירות require only a תשובה. Some require יסורים to cleanse the soul from the impurity caused by the עבירה. Now, when we talk about the חטא of אדם, we have to understand what we did in that חטא. It wasn't just a spill on the floor. It was an atom bomb that exploded and caused unfathomable spiritual damage. It required an intense road of תשובה to rectify what happened. The first step כלל ישראל had to take was in מצרים. Chazal tell us that מצרים is referred to as the כור הברזל. It's the place where we were faced with excruciating labor and terrible יסורים. The reason for this is like we mentioned. The deeper the חטא, the deeper we have to be cleansed. A stain on a shirt- depending on how deep the stain penetrates- that's how deep the cleaning has to be. מצרים and all the terrible suffering that we endured is in essence our נשמות going through intense cleaning. Over 200 years of intense suffering and all for one purpose- to fix that חטא and prepare this holy nation for the ultimate goal, which was קבלת התורה. Until we were completely pure of blemishes, we were unable to receive this special gift from Hashem. חז"ל tell us that when the Yidden stood at סיני, we reached a level of פסקו זוהמתן -we were completely clean. We were pure.

קריאה מעורר את הזמן

Reliving that moment

When we read the פרשה on שבת, it's important for us to realize we are not simply reading about something that took place thousands of years ago, rather every פרשה is a reliving of that פרשה. When we start to read about מצרים, we are actually in מצרים. If we are in

מצרים, that means to say that all that cleansing and all that purification that we experienced then is being showered upon us now again.

That's Shovavim.

Shovavim stands for the פרשיות of **שמות וארא בא בשלה יתרו משפטים**. The צדיקים tell us that during these 6 special weeks we have tremendous opportunities to fix and correct things in our lives that aren't easily cleansed throughout the year. Now is our chance to achieve tremendous strides in our עבודת השם.

I never heard of this before!

There are a lot of people that ask a very simple question. That is, why is it that we haven't heard a lot about Shovavim? If it's so special and so important, why isn't it in the ערוך?

The question is an excellent one and the answer is very beautiful.¹

We can explain this with a משל. A person enters a tunnel and looks behind him, He will notice that the light shining from the entrance of the tunnel will slowly get smaller and smaller. The further into the tunnel he travels, the fainter the light will become. However, soon he starts to see that in front of him shines a new light. That's the light at the end of the tunnel. The further in he travels, the brighter that light shines.

ימות המשיח and קבלת התורה

כלל ישראל has 2 lights. The light shining from הר סיני represents the light of the תורה we received on שבועות. That light- as the generations travel further- so does our understanding of תורה הקדושה diminish. The difference we find from the תנאים to the אמוראים and from the אמורים to the ראשונים is worlds apart. תל"ז tell us אם ראשונים if the previous generations were like מלאכים –angels- we are like mere mortals. That light is getting dimmer and dimmer up until this very day. However, there's another light that's getting stronger and stronger. That is אורו של משיח – the light of משיח. That beautiful light that we will one day be זוכה to in its entirety brings along with it new revelations that we never experienced before. One of those revelations is the קדושה of these days of Shovavim. The צדיקים tell us that the special light of Shovavim is a light of משיח. It's a special present from Hashem specifically for the generations before משיח, giving us extra special opportunities to accomplish things we never would be able to. This is all before that final שופר blast, in order for us to grab the opportunity and fix what we can.

We see this clearly from what's happening around us. There is ברוך השם much talk about Shovavim! Never was it like this. The reason is because משיח is around the corner and the light at the end of this 5783 year long tunnel is finally coming to an end. The light is shining ever so bright and more people are basking in the warmth that Shovavim has to offer.

1 The truth is that there actually is a tremendous amount written about Shovavim in many ספרים but we will never the less answer the question.

אמונת חכמים

There's another very important point to keep in mind when approaching Shovavim as well as other areas of עבודת השם.

תמים תהיה עם השם אלוך, a person has to be sincere in his relationship with Hashem. This manifests in every aspect of our lives but I would like to bring this out in a specific area.

The צדיקים we have had throughout the generations are a special gift from Hashem. If only we really understood what צדיקים represent, if only we would appreciate their presence in the world, things would be very different. The צדיקים might seem like they're living on this world but the reality is they're not. To keep it simple, their living in שמים. They might be physically walking around like regular people, but they are far far from regular.

Living with תמימות and being sincere in our relationship with Hashem includes the idea of having תמימות and being sincere with appreciating the צדיקים and what they say. When a צדיק says something about a specific time period or a specific action, he's not just making things up, he actually knows what's happening in שמים! When we hear from the ארז"ל and many other צדיקים about Shovavim, our תמימות obligates us to say, if they say so than that's what it is! That's my new reality with ultimate sincerity and belief.

Spiritual poison

There are many people who are cynical and constantly ask questions like "where does it say this"? Of course it's important to ask such questions, especially if it's coming from a sincere place. However, if its coming from a place of ליצנות and cynicism, it's absolute

poison. It's very clear, people who don't accept things because they are cynical won't be able to grow in their yiddishkeit.

We have to approach Shovavim with ultimate תמימות and sincerity. If צדיקים tell us we can achieve greatness in these next 6 weeks, than that's my new reality and that's what it is!

A person who lives like this will certainly be זוכה to grab the opportunity being handed to him by Hashem and see tremendous bracha in his life.

Amazing Story

There's a very interesting story that I heard from my Rebbi R' Tzvi Meir Zilberberg Shlita that brings out very clearly what one can merit when he genuinely and sincerely connects to צדיקים.

When R' Tzvi Meir was once visiting the Sklener Rebba זצ"ל in Monsey, The Rebba told him the following story. He had a grandfather by the name of R' Efraim. When R' Efraim was a young boy, his town was graced for a שבת with the presence of the famous Shinnever Rav son of the famous צדיק the דברי חיים from Sanz. Young Efraim so badly wanted to do something for the holy צדיק and he repeatedly asked the Gabbaim if there was any service that he can do for the רב. Time and time again, he was pushed off by the Gabbaim. After שבת was over, the Bais Medrash was extremely messy and out of order. Efraim, knowing that the Rav would be davening שחרית there, thought to himself that since the רב needs the בית מדרש clean for davening that can be considered a שימוש - servicing- of the צדיק. He approached the Gabbai and asked if he could have the זכות of cleaning up and preparing the shul for שחרית. The Gabbai, being very exhausted after a long

שבת, accepted the young sincere boy's offer and allowed him to clean up the Bais Medrash. Before Efraim started the job, he thought to himself that he needs to have special thoughts and כוונה while doing this sacred task. He just wasn't sure of the proper thoughts to have. He came up with the following idea. There was once a great מנהל named מנדל from Riminov. The Rebba had a special Gabbai famously known as R' Hersh Riminover. (He was so great that when מנהל מנדל was niftar he became the Rebba!). Efraim thought to himself that certainly R' Hersh had very lofty כוונה when he was משמש his Rebba, so he closed his eyes and said, "I hereby connect myself to the Tzaddik R' Hersh". As Efraim was cleaning, all he thought about was his connection to R' Hersh. In the morning as the Shinnever Rav entered the Bais Medresh he stopped and immediately asked "Who cleaned the Bais Medrash?". They quickly called the Gabbai who started apologizing to the Tzaddik and explained that he was so tired from the whole shabbos that he allowed Efraim the young Bachur to clean up. The Rav summoned for Efraim and asked him "What כוונה he had while he was cleaning?" Efraim explained that he wasn't sure what to have in mind so he was מקשר and connected himself to the Rebba R' Hersh. The Shinnever Rav told him that as he opened the door he felt a tremendous keddusha. He felt the air was completely clean and pure and he therefore wanted to know who cleaned it. Now that he heard Efraim's special כוונה, it all makes sense.

The לימוד from this story is very powerful. When a person genuinely and sincerely connects himself to the קדושה of the צדיקים, he merits to connect to the pipeline of ברכות that they created.

The same applies for us during this special period of Shovavim. Just sincerely connect to the days because the Tzaddikim tell us that they are super natural days. Let us connect to their עבודה and we certainly will be זוכה to all the ברכות.

Whats a שוטה?

The Gemara in the beginning of מסכת הגיגה asks "How can we define a שוטה a fool?" The גמ' answers that a שוטה is someone who throws away something given to him.

Let's not be foolish! Hashem is giving us a tremendous opportunity to grow, to fix, to rectify things in our lives. How can we not seize the moment and make a serious push for spiritual growth?

In conclusion

Daven for a good Shovavim

A person should try at least once a day to ask Hashem, ***"Please Hashem, help me have a good Shovavim, guide me in the proper path to know how you want me to seize the opportunity, and act during this period the way you're hoping and expecting of me"***.

The rule in עבודת השם is that Hashem responds to us מדה כנגד מדה. If we show Hashem that we truly want to grow during Shovavim, we really daven and make good קבלות, then certainly Hashem will guide us and show us how to seize the opportunity.

in the upcoming weeks we will discuss different topics in עבודת השם to work on during Shovavim.

שירו לו "שיעור" חדש!!

*We will be starting a series of
חזרה Shiurim on the topic of
טהרת המשפחה this coming
Thursday night!! Details to
follow.*