

It's All Because of You

PARSHA INSIGHTS - BICHUKOSAI (5760)

CLAIM YOUR RAIN

“If you walk in My statutes, and you keep My commandments, and you do them; then I will give YOUR rains in their season...” (26:3-4). The beginning of the *parsha* [Torah portion] enumerates bountiful *brachos* [blessings] from Hashem on the condition that we observe His Torah.

Rav Moshe Feinstein wonders: Why does the *pasuk* [verse] refer to the rains as YOUR rains? Hashem is addressing human beings, and He describes the rain as “belonging” to us! What is the meaning of this? Aren’t the raindrops owned by Heaven?

The answer is that in reality, the entire world was created for human beings. Even though this was the ideal plan, when can we rightfully make this claim? It is only true if we follow the paths of the Torah. Consequently, the rains really DO “belong to us” if we perform *mitzvos* [commandments] properly. All the blessed precipitation is produced precisely for people who behave properly. That is why the *pasuk* calls the rains “YOUR rains”.

BITE SOME BIRCH BERRIES

Another promise for reward is found in 26:4. “The trees of the field will yield their fruit.” *Rashi* quotes the *Sifra*, that this refers to trees that do not produce any edible fruit in our day and age. In the future, however, they are destined to yield fruits.

Rav Moshe Feinstein asks a question. What need will there be for this? Is there a lack of fruit in the world, even today? Do we crave the fruit of ADDITIONAL trees whose nature is not to generate edible products? Aren’t dates, figs, oranges, apples, pears, apricots, peaches, plums, grapefruits, cherries, lemons, grapes, berries... sufficient to satisfy our appetites? Are humans craving the (nonexistent) fruit of oak, evergreen, elm, birch, cypress, fir, or juniper trees? Why will Hashem provide this additional *bracha*? Why not just increase the volume of fruit from those trees that already give us their delicious yield?

The answer is that the Torah is teaching us the incredible potential of human beings. People will rise so much in their level of *yiras Shamayim* [fear of Heaven] that supernatural occurrences will be common. In the future, awareness of the Creator will flood our minds and permeate the world. As a result, “unusable” resources will suddenly become productive and fruitful. Objects that are relatively useless in the world now, will surprisingly generate precious bounty in the future world. Devoted service of Hashem will transform fruitless trees into fruit-bearing trees.

May we be *zocheh* [meritorious] to experience these *brachos* now and forever. *Chazak* [Be strong]!

By Rabbi Moshe Heigh

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