

Transcending Nature

PARSHA INSIGHTS - BEHAR (5760)

SIX STRAIGHT YEARS...OF PLENTY?

“Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in its fruit. But in the seventh year, a sabbath of solemn rest shall be for the land, a sabbath unto Hashem; you shall not sow your field, and you shall not prune your vineyard” (25:3-4). In this *parsha* [Torah portion], the rules of *Shmita* [the seventh Sabbatical year] are outlined.

The Lutzker Rav observes something startling about our *pasuk* [verse]. “SIX YEARS you shall sow your field...” Is this the usual manner of farming? Generally, fields are planted for one year and left fallow the next. The third year they are sown, and the fourth they are allowed to rest. This is the natural way to treat farmland. Nevertheless, the Torah recommends that we cultivate the land for six years at a time! The truth must be, then, that we could actually anticipate such bountiful blessings from the Creator. When occupying *Eretz Yisroel* [the Land of Israel] the way *Bnai Yisroel* [the Children of Israel] should, with self-rule, plus a moral code of conduct strictly enforced by a G-d-fearing *Sanhedrin* [Supreme Court], our existence transcended the limits of nature. Six **consecutive** years of plenty could be expected.

However, our *pasuk* informs us that this incredible *bracha* [blessing] would only be forthcoming if certain conditions would be met. After guaranteeing six years of agricultural prosperity, the Torah’s admonition is abundantly clear: “But in the seventh year, a sabbath of solemn rest shall be for the land...” The six years of affluence will arrive only if *Shmita* will be observed properly. In the merit of *Shvi’is* [the seventh] (*Shmita*), the six other years of the cycle will produce in a supernatural way.

Hopefully, we will experience the righteous reign of our *Melech Hamoshiach* [King Messiah] very soon. With this salvation, we will appreciate Hashem’s glorious miracles and conspicuous involvement in all affairs, as in past years dwelling in our Holy Land.

By Rabbi Moshe Heigh

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