

בס"ד
ג' אב תש"פ
July 24th, 2020

פרשת דברים

1 - "וַיְדַבֵּר הַזֶּה אֵינְכֶם מְאִמִּינִם בְּה' אֱלֹהֵיכֶם" - regarding this manner, they did not believe in Hashem, their G-d. But what exactly *is* "this matter"? In what way did the nation not have trust in HaKadosh Baruch Hu?

Rashi² comments that the people did not believe Hashem's promise that they would be brought into the land. The *Bechor Shor* gives a more detailed answer, and says that this comment is one of astonishment and disbelief; Moshe was incredulous that Bnei Yisrael saw miracle after miracle in succession yet still lacked confidence in Hashem to lead them anywhere.

According to the Ramban³, when Bnei Yisrael told Moshe about their unease about the current occupiers of the land,⁴ he responded by telling them, "Yes, that nation is great and plenty, but just as Hashem has fought on your behalf in Egypt, he will do so now, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future." Every single hindrance that Bnei Yisrael provided throughout the journey stemmed purely from a total absence of faith; they had expressed their apprehension about the inhabitants of the land to Moshe, but failed to disclose their fear of the land itself to him as well.

The *Or HaChaim*⁵ says Moshe was telling Bnei Yisrael that Hashem had done great miracles for them in the desert and carried them from place to place just as a father carries his son, yet they still did not fully believe in Him.

There was obviously a noticeable deficiency of faith from Bnei Yisrael, and perhaps part of that lack of confidence was because they had seen Moshe, their faithful leader who had stuck with them throughout all the difficulties that transpired in their journey, barred from entering Eretz Yisrael. This likely caused them to cast dubiety upon themselves; after all, if the greatest man amongst them was unable to enter the land, then *a fortiori* they were unworthy of going in. Additionally, the people realized that their captain would not be able to accompany them into the land, and they found themselves in a state of uncertainty and trepidation about what could happen to them in the future without their leader.

However, what Bnei Yisrael failed to realize was that their success was fully dependent on their level of faith, and that there was a direct correlation between their level of belief and ultimate degree of prosperity. This is the crux of the classic tenet of "הכל בידי שמים, חוץ מיראת שמים" - we control our destiny, but ultimately what truly matters is the amount of faith that we have in ourselves and in Hashem.⁶ The Gemara in *Makkos*⁷ says that Chavakuk established the 613 mitzvos upon one, as it is stated: "וְצַדִּיק בְּאִמּוֹנָתוֹ יַחִי" - the righteous person shall live by his faith.⁸ As we near Tisha B'Av, it is imperative for us to remember the importance of having the utmost confidence in HaKadosh Baruch Hu, and continue to believe with complete faith that the *geulah* will come imminently, במהרה בימינו.

¹ דברים א:לב

² רש"י דברים פרק א:לב ד"ה וַיְדַבֵּר הַזֶּה

³ רמב"ן דברים א:לב

⁴ דברים א:כח

⁵ אור החיים דברים א:לב

⁶ ברכות לג:

⁷ מכות כד.

⁸ חבקוק ב:ד