



RABBI SHALOM

ROSNER

Rav Kehilla, Nofei HaShemesh
Maggid Shiur, Daf Yomi, OU.org
Senior Ra"m, Kerem B'Yavneh

Recognizing Our Blessings

In Parshat Ki Tavo the Torah lists several blessings and curses that will befall upon the Jewish nation depending on whether or not the nation adheres to the Torah and abides by the mitzvot. As an introduction to the list of brachot the Torah states:

וּבָאוּ עֲלֶיךָ כָּל-הַבְּרָכוֹת הָאֵלֶּה וְהַשִּׂיגָה... (דברים כח:ב)

The simple translation of the pasuk is: “*And all these blessings will come upon you and reach you*” (והשיגך). It would have made more sense to have the pasuk portrayed in a different order. First והשיגך – כל הברכות – the blessings should reach you and then- they will come upon you וּבָאוּ אֵלֶיךָ. How are we to understand the meaning of the word והשיגך ?

APPRECIATING OUR BLESSINGS

The Netziv derives a valuable lesson from his interpretation of the word והשיגך . Typically, people seek blessings elsewhere and engage in performing “*segulot*”. We often notice what others have and what we lack and pray that we be blessed with the same good fortune. The Netziv suggests that we should not judge our status based on the achievements or assets of others. As the statement goes “*the grass is always greener on the other side.*” Rather, we

ought to recognize the blessings that were bestowed upon us. It is with respect to those blessings that we need to **reach out and recognize**. והשיגך refers to the blessings that God granted to us- that we need to appreciate.

TREASURES ARE IN OUR HOME

Rav Simcha Bunim told a story, that people who visited Krakow likely heard. There was a man named Rav Issac who lived in Krakow. He was a poor individual. He had a recurring dream that a treasure was buried under a bridge in Prague. After several nights of contemplating how to react to this recurring dream, Rav Issac decided to go to the bridge in Prague and dig for the treasure. When he arrived at the location of the bridge in Prague, there were officers guarding the bridge around the clock. He tried approaching the bridge at all hours of the day and night but was unable to dig under the bridge due to the presence of the guards. One day an officer approached Rav Issac and inquired as to why he visited the bridge on a daily basis. Rav Issac disclosed to the officer that he had a dream that a treasure was buried under the bridge. The officer laughed and informed Rav Issac that he too had a similar recurring dream, that a Jewish man by the name of Rav Issac had a treasure buried under the oven in his home in Krakow. Do you know how many Jews in Prague have the name Issac? It would

be silly to take such a dream seriously. What am I to do, dig under the ovens of all Issac's in Krakow?

Upon hearing this Rav Issac packed his bags and returned home to Prague. Upon arriving in his home he began digging under his oven and uncovered a valuable treasure. Part of the funds he dedicated to building a shul, which still

stands in Prague today and is called the Issac Shul. This highlights how often the most valuable treasures we have are right under our nose in our own home! We just need to recognize and appreciate our blessings – והנהגה.

May we be blessed in the coming year and truly appreciate all the blessings that we receive. ■

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