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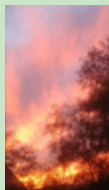
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THIS WEEK'S COVER PHOTO

This is a picture of the sun setting over Jerusalem as seen from Maale Adumim. It looks like the tree is on fire...it is only the sun! It reminds me of **והסנה איננו אוכל**.

Photographed by
Rav Ze'ev M Shandalov



HELPFUL REMINDERS

Rosh Chodesh Shevat is Thur. Jan. 11

**מולד חודש שבט יהיה ביום
חמישי בשעה 8, 45 דקות ו-4 חלקים**

**ראש חדש שבט יהיה ביום חמישי
הבא עלינו ועל כל ישראל לטובה**

A SHORT VORT | BY RABBI CHANOCH YERES

Rav, Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

יען משה ויאמר והן לא יאמינו לי (ד': א')

"And Moshe answered and said: But behold, they will not believe me..." (4:1)

The Netziv (Rabbi Naftali Zvi Yehuda Berlin 1816-1893 Volozhin) seems to ask if Moshe really thought that the Israelites would be skeptical of any redemption close at hand?

Rather, Moshe doubted if the Israelites would believe that "he"- Moshe could be an actual bearer of G-d's message. The Israelites had known Moshe prior to today as an Egyptian raised in Pharaoh's palace. Even Yitro's daughters immediately identified him as an Egyptian man that had saved them.

However, G-d's miracle of transforming Moshe's staff into a snake, would pronounce to all Moshe's attributes. While the staff turns into a snake, the handle of the staff would become the head of the snake. When commanded by G-d to change the snake back into a staff, Moshe was told:

"Put forth your hand and take it by its tail...and it became a staff in his hand"(4:4)

We see that now, the tail became the handle, and the head became the tip. It was inverted from its original state. This act demonstrated to Moshe that even though he may have been seen by the people as the "tail of the lion" – disrespected, nevertheless he will be transformed into their leader for redemption.

- Shabbat Shalom