

Bnei Noach and Mashiach

What are we learning?

- **Talk by the Rebbe**

- Constructed out of talks on parashat Beshalach and Mishpatim 1983

- **Main points**

- Understand a prophecies of Bilam and Zecharia according to the classical commentaries
- Understand the legal implicances of the prophecies
- Understand the opinion of Chassidut and the Rambam on the subject

Words of Bilam

- What I see for them is not yet,
What I behold will not be soon.
A star rises from Jacob, A scepter comes forth from Israel; It smashes the brow of Moab,
 - אֲרָאֲנִי וְלֹא עֲתִידָה אֲשׁוּרְנִי וְלֹא קָרוֹב דֶּרֶךְ כּוֹכַב מִיִּצְחָק וְקֶסֶם שִׁבְט מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וּמַחֲזֵן פְּאֵתִי מוֹאָב
- And “*karkar*” all the children of Seth.
 - וְקִרְקָר כָּל-בְּנֵי-יִשָּׁת
 - He will **rule** over all human beings (Onkelus)
 - He will **destroy** all human beings (Ibn Ezra)

Question...

- **We find places in scripture about the kindness of G-d in the times of Mashiach**
 - “In the end of days, the mountain of the house of the L-rd will be established... and **all nations** shall flow to it. And **many people** shall go and say, ‘Come, let us go up...’ And He will judge among the nations and rebuke many peoples...” (Ishaia 2:2)
 - “To gather **all nations** and tongues, and they shall come and see My glory... and declare My glory among **the nations**...” (Ishaia 42:10)
 - “Then I will transform **the nations** to speak a clear language, so that they may all call upon the name of the L-rd **to serve Him** with one purpose.” (Tzefania 3:9)

Furthermore...

- **Another prophecy:** "And it shall come to pass in all the land — says the L-rd — that **two-thirds shall be cut off and perish**, but **the third shall be left therein.**" (Zecharia 13:8)
 - Rabbí Yochanan: A third of humankind
 - Reish Lakish: A third of Israel (And the nations? Will disappear...)
- **Implicancies in *Halacha* (Jewish Law)**
 - "He will improve **the entire world to serve G-d together**, as it is said: 'Then I will transform the nations to speak a clear language, so that they may all call upon the name of the L-rd and serve Him with one accord.'" (Rambam, Laws of Kings, 11:4)
 - How do we evaluate if a person is Mashiach?
 - How do we actually bring Mashiach (teach the nations the Seven Laws etc.)
- **Strongest question: "G-d is good to all, and His mercy is upon all His works."** (Tehilim 145:9)...

Explanation...

- **Clearly there will be nations in the times of Mashiach**
 - “the nations to speak a clear language ... to serve Him” (Tzefania 3:9)
 - “And kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers” (Ishaia 49:23)
- **Redemption is a revelation of Godliness in the world**
 - There will be no evil and enemies of G-d
 - There will be no impurity: And I will remove the spirit of impurity from the earth” (Zecharia 13:2)

Non-Jews and Redemption

- **How is this Redemption going to be lived by non-Jews?**
 - As a result of Israel's redemption (feeling of **secondary** importance)
 - Redemption is for Jews, so they can learn Torah. But the world needs to be moral and ethical, prepared for Redemption.
 - As a redemption in itself for the nations (feeling of **primary** importance)
 - Redemption is felt in every corner of the world. Every part of it will feel that it's own refinement is part of the divine plan

Let's answer...

- And “*karkar*” all the children of Seth.
 - וְקָרָר כָּל-בְּנוֹי-אֲדָם
 - He will **rule** over all human beings (Onkelus)
 - He will **destroy** all human beings (Ibn Ezra)
- “**two-thirds shall be cut off and perish**, but **the third shall be left therein**”
 - Rabbí Yochanan: A third of humankind
 - Reish Lakish: A third of Israel (And the nations? Will disappear...)
- **Two ways of understanding the nations in the times of Mashiach**
 - The nations as we know them **will disappear**. Their identity as nations will disappear. Will be secondary to Jews.
 - Reish Lakish, Ibn Ezra
 - The nations **will exist** as they are and as an integral part of Redemption as a primary thing.
 - Rabbi Yochanan, Okelus

Rambam and Chassidut

- **Rambam**

- “The **entire world will be corrected to serve G-d** together, as it is said...” (Laws of Kings, 11:4)
- “Israel will dwell securely with the wicked of the world, and all of them will **return to the true religion** and they will not steal or destroy, but will eat permitted foods peacefully with Israel.” (Laws of Kings 12:1)

- **Alter Rebbe**

- “At that time, the physicality of the body and the world will be refined, and they will be able to receive the revelation of G-d's light that will shine upon **Israel** through the Torah”
- “From the additional radiance (that will be revealed) to Israel in the future, **the darkness of the nations will also be illuminated** as it is written: “**Nations** will walk by **your light**” (Tania, end of ch. 36)

End notes

- All of creation—including the nations of the world—is an existence brought into being by G-d: He created [everything] from nothingness into existence by ten utterances (**words**) ... Regarding the souls of Israel, it is stated even more profoundly: “Israel and the Holy One, Blessed be He, are entirely one.” (**thought**).
- In the future, when the **truth of G-d** is revealed to the world this will be **felt** throughout all of creation, **including the nations**. ... They will feel that their existence is not a true existence (that is, independent of G-d). This is the meaning of “they will be cut off and perish” or “He will destroy” (**קִרְקַר**)—**a collapse of their sense of independence from G-d**.
- By contrast, regarding Israel, it will be revealed that their very existence is G-d’s essence, so to speak—“Israel and G-d are one.”