



Parshas Mishpatim 2021, the love of G-d

This week's Parsha Perspective is in honor of the Refuah Shlema of HaRav Amitai Ben Shoshanna, Shaul Ben Berta and Lior Gabay Ben Michal.

This week's Parsha Perspective is in loving memory of Leah Mintche Bas Ya'akov Yosef, Edward Ben Efraim, Shlomo Ben Edward, and Yirachmiel Daniel Ben Gedalia. May their souls be uplifted and their memories a blessing.

Our Parsha begins with G-d giving Moshe Rabbeinu and the Jewish nation fifty-three new practical commandments. He gave them the laws regarding the treatment of slaves, personal injury, murder, and the requirements of a person who is a guardian of another's property. The Mitzvah to see the Beis Hamikdash three times a year, the laws of shemilah, sacrifices, and returning a lost object.

Moshe then tells the Jewish nation what rewards they will receive for keeping G-d's commandments. There will be no miscarriages, the borders of Israel will grow, and they will conquer the land without opposition.

The Parsha ends with G-d summoning Moshe Rabbienu back up Mt. Sinai to study the Torah for forty days and forty nights. Moshe told the seventy elders that his brother, Aaron, and his nephew, Chur, would answer any questions they had in his absence.

G-d's glory set the mountain top ablaze as Moshe began to ascend the mountain with his most faithful student, Yeshuah Ben Nun. The whole Jewish nation watched as Moshe disappeared into the clouds from afar.

However, a question comes to mind: After the Mitzvah of Bikkurim, bringing the first fruit of the season to the Beis Hamikdash, G-d tells Moshe something rather interesting. He says (23:20-23), *“I am sending an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have made ready. Pay heed to him and obey him. Do not defy him, for he will not pardon your sins, since My Name is in him”*. Why does G-d interrupt giving Mitzvahs to tell Moshe that He will send an angel to guard him? Who is this angel that G-d will send?!

The Chizkuni (*the famous French Rabbi, Chezekiah ben Manoah*) writes that the angel G-d speaks about is actually Yehoshua Ben Nun, the successor and protege of Moshe Rabbeinu.

He explains that G-d told this to Moshe now because He just gave the Mitzvah that will only be done in the land of Israel. Since Moshe won't lead the Jewish people into the land, G-d comforted him by saying that Yehoshua would lead them to Israel.

However, the Rabbeinu Bachya (*the renowned Spanish commentary, Rav Bachya ben Asher*) gives a deeper and more powerful explanation. He writes that G-d told Moshe before returning to the mountain that the Jewish people would sin with the golden calf.

No matter how angry and enraged G-d will be with the Jewish nation, He will never abandon them. Whether G-d Himself will lead them or one of His angels, **there will always be a presence of G-d in the Jewish nation.**

The Rabbeinu Bachya continues that G-d spoke about this angel now because Moshe would **not** go up the mountain unless the Jewish people were cared for.

Moshe is the epitome and example of how a true leader behaves, never abandoning his people for any reason. As we see at the beginning of the next chapter, he was called up the mountain to learn with G-d himself. But Instead of running up the mountain, **he first ensured the Jewish nation was taken care of.**

The Ohr Hachaim Hakadosh (*Rav Chaim Ibn Attar*) adds that this angel was not unimportant; he is one of the highest ministering angels, **Malach Michael.** This is significant because he is the angel of kindness.

G-d is telling Moshe Rabbeinu that even when He is angry with the Jewish nation, He will send an angel of kindness to lead them. And although he will not have the ability to forgive, **it shows us that we are truly and certainly cherished by G-d.**

In our daily life, it is imperative that we understand that G-d is always with us no matter where we are. This important lesson is especially prevalent during the weeks leading to Purim, a powerful example of how G-d never abandoned us.

We must never think that we are forsaken or without a leader, for even when we can't see Him, **we must know that He is with us and guiding our way.**

“The greater your need is, the closer G-d is.”

-Yiddish proverb

*Have a meaningful Shabbos,
Rabbi Sholom Yemini*