



Parshas Miketz & Chanukah 2021, live to thrive!

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

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

It is not a coincidence that the rags to riches drama of Yosef HaTzadik is always read during the holiday Chanukah.

The story of Yosef, who was beloved by his father but hated by his brothers. Who was sold as a slave in Egypt but became the master of Potiphar's household. Who was wrongly accused and thrown in prison. But he became the viceroy of Egypt, second to only Pharaoh, himself. Being the man who saved the world from hunger.

One of the reasons is that, as the Torah tells us about Yosef's journey, we can see the development of his emotional maturity and spiritual growth. His story and experiences gave him the opportunity and ability to save the world from starvation.

Yosef was taunted by his brothers from when he was young because of his dreams of superiority over them, notwithstanding the controversial fact that their father loved him the most. This caused his brothers to hate him with a vengeance and propelled them to sell him into slavery.

He was eventually brought down to Egypt and sold to Potiphar, where he was immensely successful. He was even appointed master over Potiphar's household.

The reason for his success was his belief in G-d. As the Pasuk says (39:4), **“Potiphar saw that the G-d was with Yosef, and whatever touched Yosef’s hand G-d made prosper.”** Rashi explains when it says, **“G-d was with him,”** it means that Yosef would continuously mention that everything is from G-d.

However, the Pasuk (39:6) also repeats that Yosef was very good-looking. Rashi explains that Yosef would spend a lot of time caring for his hair, which angered G-d immensely.

While he was focusing on his appearance, Ya’akov was mourning the loss of his favorite son. Therefore, G-d made Potiphar’s wife desire the handsome Yosef and caused him to be thrown in prison.

But in prison, Yosef grew and matured into the man he was meant to be. Finally, he could tap into his potential and save the world. We see this from the fact that Yosef was not gloomy or depressed. Rather, he was optimistic and hopeful about his future. Yosef stood tall in the face of adversity.

This mindset was the key to his success in prison. He could detect that two of his fellow inmates were unusually troubled one morning. His new level of maturity and belief in G-d led him to his freedom. It showed him the opportunity to save the world from starvation.

Yosef’s story teaches us two important lessons. First, our belief in G-d is what keeps us going when times are tough. Secondly, we must enlighten ourselves before we can enlighten others.

Since the lesson of Chanukah is to add light to this otherwise world, it is incumbent upon us to grow and improve each and every day. To be able to take advantage of each opportunity that could possibly change the world.

***May we hear the message the Menorah lights are telling us
and be able to take advantage of those special and holy opportunities!***

*Have a happy and meaningful Chanukah!
Rabbi Sholom Yemini*