

A Dark Spark

Analyzing the נשיאים, we notice that two of them caused turmoil: the Nasi of Reuven who was involved in the congregation of Korach and Shimon's Nasi who was Zimri- the one who caused the plague in which 24,000 people died (Bamidbar 25:9, 25:14). It therefore is no wonder that the Parshiyos of Korach, Balak and Pinchas are read this time of year (in the summer).

The Tur tells us that the twelve tribes correspond to the twelve months (Tur, Hilchos Rosh Chodesh, 417). Reuven who is fourth in the order of the Degalim corresponds to Tamuz, the fourth month whereas Shimon connects with Av as he was the fifth in the Degalim, corresponding to the fifth month (Bamidbar 10, Bnei Yissaschar, Tamuz Av 1:3). Additionally, when the נשיאים brought the dedication offerings, Reuven's was the fourth and Shimon's was the fifth (Bamidbar 7:30, 36). When we combine the initials of ראובן and שמע, we get the word רש, impoverished, because these are the months of the year that are impoverished.

These are high months that have fallen very low as in לביא רם מאיגרא רם לביא רם עמיקתא, from a high roof to a deep pit (Chagiga 5b. Examples of קדושה mixed with טומאה are the עילה living in Eretz Yisrael as well as the עילה prior to a Bris. The same is with Tamuz and Av, that in essence it is filled with light.). This is just as the higher the place one drops an object

from, the further down it will fall. These months are נופלים, fallen and כפופים, bent, but Hashem supports them as it says ה-ו-ה לכל הנופלים, וזוקק לכל הכפופים, Hashem supports all the fallen ones and straightens all the bent (Tehillim 145:14), as in the future these days will be happy days. It comes as no surprise that י-ה-ו-ה has an identical Gematria to 453 (תמוז). How about the sum of 321 (לכל הכפופים)? It is the same as חודשאב, as this month is that of כפופים, since the beginning of the month until after Tisha B'Av is in the dominion of the Satan (Emunas Itecha, Shelach, s.v. ידו ע).

Observing nature we notice that the darkest months are in the winter in contrast to the summer months which are filled with light. This is because in truth these months are that of true light as it says צום הרביעי וצומהחמישי...לששון ולשמחה ולמעדים טובים, the fasts of the 17th of Tamuz and the 9th of Av will be to the house of Yehuda for joy, gladness and for happy festivals (Zecharya 8:19). This explains the sum of 17 (17th of Tamuz) and 9 (9th of Av) which totals 26, the sum of ה-ו-ה, since these are the holiest of times, times filled with godliness.

In Lecha Dodi we say בעמק הבכ ה רב, too long have you dwelled in the valley of weeping. Another interpretation given is that רב לך שבת (A similar expression is found in Devarim 1:6)- the highest Shabbosim are בעמקהבכה, the ones that are in the

valley of tears, the Shabbosim of the Three Weeks (See the Tiferes Shlomo to Shabbos Chazon s.v. בפרשת בחקות י and the Koznitzer Magid in his Sefer Avodas Yisrael, Eicha 1:3). As the Three Weeks progress, the mourning gets more intense. Parshas Devarim which coincides with Tisha B'Av makes it the most intense of the three. In fact, the Pasuk in Parshas Devarim states איכה אשא לבדי, which is read with the same trop (tune) as איכה ישבה בדד (Devarim 1:12, Eicha 1:1). Additionally, Parshas Devarim begins אלה הדברים. אלה has a Gematria of 36, the same as אלה. Consequently, the Shabbos of Parshas Devarim is the highest Shabbos of the Three Weeks (Ohaiv Yisroel, Meor Vshemesh- Rimzei Bein Hamitzarim. Emunas Itecha, Devarim, Nesivos Shalom, Devarim, Shabbos Chazon).

The low months of Tamuz and Av came as a result of the sin of the Meraglim. Of the twelve Meraglim only two didn't sin- Yehoshua and Kalev. It therefore is no wonder that the two Moshiachs (Rambam Hilchos Melachim 11:1) come from them- משיח from Efraim (Yehoshua) and משיח בן דוד from Yehuda (Kalev). That is to say, being that the Meraglim caused us to be in Galus, the rectification- the ones to remove us from Galus- are from those that didn't sin. Then we will see חסדי ה' כי לא תמנו... , Hashem's kindness surely has not ended and therefore will bring Moshiach, as כי is an acronym for כלב and יהושע, since this is whom Moshiach comes from.

Rabbi Yehoshua Alt

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