

תקעו בחדש שופר בכסא ליום חגנו, כי

Sound the Shofar at the New Moon

THE TEACHING

Who may give reproof (תוכחה)? "הוכח תוכיח" (ויקרא יט:יז), every Jew must correct a friend, yet not everyone is fit. Unfit reproof stirs up the bad smell of a person's deeds and weakens the soul, "כי עקר יניקת הנשמה הוא מהריח", "the soul is nourished mainly by scent." A fit reprover leaves a good scent, like Moshe: "נרדף נתן ריחו" (שיר השירים א:ב).

His power is the voice (קול) that carries the song of the future, and that voice comes through prayer (תפלה). When prayer falls into judgment, a strong one's prayer of judgment makes the other side give back all it swallowed. Then converts (גרים) come, glory (כבוד) is revealed, prophecy (נבואה) spreads, faith (אמונה) is purified, and the world will be renewed with a new song.

MAIN POINTS

- The voice is like the river that waters the garden of fear of Heaven: "וְנָהָר יֵצֵא מֵעֵדֶן לְהַשְׁקוֹת אֶת הַגֶּן" (בראשית ב:י). "הָרִם כְּשׁוֹפָר קוֹלְךָ" (ישעיה נח:א), "raise your voice like a shofar": the fourfold song of the future.
- Prayer is compassion, and compassion depends on דעת. When the other side spoils compassion into cruelty, daas shrinks and prayer falls into judgment and is swallowed.
- Then a master of strength prays in judgment, like Pinchas: "וַיַּעֲמֵד פִּנְחָס וַיִּפְלֹל" (תהלים קז:ל). His prayer, the "מטה עז", "staff of strength", sticks in its throat: "חֵיל בָּלַע וַיִּקְאֵנוּ" (איוב כ:טו), "he swallowed wealth and vomits it up", even its own life force, the converts. So "וַיִּשְׁמַע יְתֵרוֹ" (שמות יח:א).
- Converts make glory known like thunder: "ק-ל הַכְּבוֹד הִרְעִים" (תהלים כט:ג). Glory spreads prophecy: "נִבְיָא" (דברים י:כב) "בְּשִׁבְעִים נֶפֶשׁ יָרְדּוּ".
- Glory heals, and prayer multiplies with each Jew who joins: "שֶׁלֶשׁ אַבְנִים בּוֹנוֹת שֶׁשָּׂה בָתִּים" (ישעיה לג:כד) "וּבֹל יֹאמַר שָׁכֵן חֲלִיתִי".
- Prophecy purifies the imagination, where faith lives, so we must search for a true leader. Through faith, "אֲמוֹנַתְךָ בְּלִילוֹת" (תהלים צב:ג), the world will be renewed, and the song of nature, "הַשְּׁמַיִם מְסַפְּרִים" (תהלים יט:ב), gives way to the new song (שיר חדש).
- Rosh Hashanah, the lungs and Og's story hold it all: Moshe "מַחֲיָה בְּקֶרְסָלָה" (ברכות נד:), struck his heel. And "כִּי חָק לְיִשְׂרָאֵל הוּא", "תקעו בחדש שופר" (תהלים פא:ה), the staff of strength.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

Before correcting someone, ask whether your words will leave a good scent. In hard times, pray firmly, and welcome one more Jew to your minyan.

In the full shiur: 1. Reproof and the Scent of the Soul · 2. The Voice That Waters the Garden · 3. Prayer, Compassion and Daas · 4. The Staff of Strength · 5. Yisro, Thunder and the Spread of Prophecy · 6. Healing, the Sun, and One More Neighbor · 7. Imagination, Faith and the True Leader · 8. Sinai, Faith, and the Renewal of the World · 9. The New Song, and Yissachar's Shoulder · 10. Rosh Hashanah and the Shofar Blasts · 11. The Lungs: Breath, Mind and Song · 12. Og and the Mountain · 13. The Ants, Moshe's Axe, and the Heel · 14. The Opening Verse Explained

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