

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

PARSHAS DEVARIM

Positive in Any Situation

This Shabbos is called Shabbos Chazon - The Vision- named for the Haftora, the Vision of Isaiah.

Our Parsha starts with a rebuke of the Jewish people, and Moshe lectures them on many of their failings. It ends however, on a positive note. Moshe tells them that when they enter the land and go up against Canaan, they should not fear because Hashem will fight for them.

So too, in the Haftora, Isaiah starts his vision with a rebuke, only to turn around and end on a positive note "Zion will be redeemed through justice..."

These readings are always read on the Shabbos before Tisha B'Av, the fast of the 9th of Av, the saddest day on the Jewish calendar.

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It commemorates the destruction of both our temples in Jerusalem and much more.

The rebukes found in our Parsha and Haftora seem to fit the theme of Tisha B'Av, but how does the positive ending fit?

It's for us to realize that though Tisha B'Av is a sad day, all the sadness connected to it has a positive purpose. None of the suffering was in vain.

Even more, we will see with clarity how our efforts and suffering were that which accomplished the ultimate redemption.

This helps answer a second question.

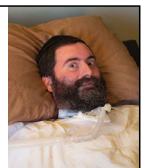
When Moshiach comes, Tisha B'Av will be celebrated as a happy day. Why? True, all sadness will end, but its history remains a sad one?

When Moshiach comes, Tisha B'Av will be celebrated as a happy day. Not merely because all sadness will end, but even more, we will see the positive in all the Tisha B'Av events.

Each of us finds ourselves in difficult situations from time to time. It's hard to see the positive in it. But if you stop and recognize, that Hashem placed you in that specific situation, you will realize that there must be a positive purpose. Though you might not be aware of what the purpose is, you will be able to keep upbeat and positive.

Now, with our soldiers fighting for the safety of our brothers and sisters in Israel, we must be positive and do our part by adding in Torah, Tefilah (prayer), and Tzedakah in their merit. Through this, we merit the last words of our Parsha "Do not fear them, Hashem will fight for you."

Despite facing one of life's most difficult challenges, Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz continues to spread joy and faith to thousands around the globe. Diagnosed in 2012 with ALS, Rabbi Yitzi is now 95% paralyzed and no longer able to speak or breath on his own. Thanks to the miracle of technology, Rabbi Yitzi continues to spread his wisdom through his eyes, focusing on each and every letter of these Torah articles. Rabbi Yitzi, his wife Dina and their seven children are the Rebbe's Shluchim to Temecula, California.



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