

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

לרפואה שלימה ליוסף יצחק בן ברכה

PARSHAS LECH LECHA

Experience the Connection

This week's Parsha, Lech Lecha, starts when Avram is seventy-five years old. Hashem tells him his first command, to go to a land that He will show him.

Why doesn't the Torah tell us about his early life, how he recognized his Creator, how he came to understand that Hashem is the one true G-d, and the sacrifices he made, standing up for his belief in Hashem? Why doesn't the Torah tell us about the kind of person he was, as it does by Noach, "Noach was a righteous man...?" What lesson is the Torah trying to impress on us by starting the story of Avram with a command?

Avram was the first Jew. His life is a lesson on what being a Jew is all about. The Torah only shares stories of Avram that provide a lesson for us on how to be a Jew.

By opening with Hashem's first command to Avram, Hashem is sending us a message. That the connection between Hashem and a Jew is not based on one's understanding of Hashem, so that the greater the understanding, the greater the

**G-D CHOSE YOU
AND THAT'S
ENOUGH TO
MAKE YOU
SPECIAL.**

connection. Rather our connection is because he chose us regardless of our philosophical or theological understanding. Our connection is greater than any understanding. It is an intrinsic

connection with Hashem, because He chose us like He chose Avram.

By not describing Avram's character, Hashem stresses this point. That a Jew is always connected, regardless of his-or-her spiritual state.

Also, opening with a command tells us that our purpose is, first and foremost, to do Hashem's commandments. The way we experience this connection is by doing Mitzvahs.

Don't make the mistake of thinking that you need to reach some spiritual level to start doing Mitzvahs. The opposite is true. By doing Mitzvahs, you experience the infinite connection that is always there.

This week,* many are experiencing this connection by the Great Challah Bake, where thousands of Jewish women are getting together to do the Mitzva of Challah, and by a global Shabbat, where Jews all over the world are uniting to keep Shabbos. If you can take part, wonderful. If not, find a Mitzvah that you can do regularly and if you are already keeping the Mitzvahs, find a way to do them better.

Have a beautiful Shabbos, and may it truly be a unifying one.

*This article was written in 2015

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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