

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RABBI YITZI

לרפואה שלימה ליוסף יצחק בן ברכה

PARSHAT SHELACH

We Are Greater Than Angels

In this week's Parsha, Shelach, we read about the spies that toured Israel, conspired against Moshe and Hashem, and gave a twisted report aimed at getting the Jewish people to doubt that Moshe, or for that matter, Hashem, would be able to conquer the land of Israel.

One of the arguments they used was, "And there we saw the *Nefilim*, the children of a giant, from the *Nefilim*, and we were as grasshoppers..."

Who were these *Nefilim*? Why would the Jewish people even consider that they would be too powerful for Hashem to conquer? Especially after all the miracles they witnessed. What lesson can we derive from here with regard to the nature and the abilities of the Jewish people?

Rashi explains that the *Nefilim* we are referring to here are the descendants of *Shamchazai* and *Azael*, two angels that assumed material form and descended to Earth in the days of Enosh (before the flood).

These angels came down with pure intentions, but their involvement in the physical world corrupted them so much so, that they were involved in the beginnings of idol worship. Hence they are called *Nefilim*, fallen angels.

When the flood came and killed all the people, the children of the *Nefilim* survived.

The spies felt that involvement in the physical would take the Jewish people away from their spiritual focus. They would be better off staying in the desert, where they were free of all material pursuits and the difficulties of making a living. In the desert, all their needs were taken care of, and they were free to bask in spirituality. Entering the land meant having to work the land for food, the need to make a living, and other physical needs that would take them away from their spiritual focus.

This is what the spies meant with their argument, "We saw the *Nefilim*..." If these great angels, with pure intentions, fell so low, then we, who are like grasshoppers compared to them, don't stand a chance.

And if Hashem didn't destroy them with the flood, perhaps "somehow," He won't be able to destroy them now. Even though this argument is foolish, it was enough to cast doubt.

The answer to this came from Joshua and Caleb. "If Hashem desires us, He will take us to this land... Hashem is with us, don't fear them."

First of all, we are different than these angels because Hashem wants us. He wants us in the land, in the physical. And it is there where we are meant to accomplish our purpose.

Secondly, we are greater than angels because Hashem is with us. Unlike angels, we have a *Neshama*, a G-dly soul that is actually a part of Hashem. While angels are spiritual beings, we are G-dly beings with the ability to fuse the physical world with spirituality and G-dliness. We don't have to fear entering the mundane, physical world. We need to embrace it and uplift it to holiness. This is what Hashem created us for. We can do what no angel can because we are greater than angels.

We need to recognize our abilities and that we are special. This in itself gives us the strength to overcome so much and fills us with a sense of obligation to the world. To keep to a higher standard and to be Hashem's ambassadors to the world. To bring out the G-dly essence of the world and uplift the world.

May we witness our accomplishments soon, with the coming of Moshiach.

"Thank You Rebbe!

Your post about Lou Gehrig Day and finding positivity touched my heart and soul! I want to wish you a Shabbat Shalom filled with love, blessings and lots of positivity. Amen

- Lynne K, Miami

RABBI YITZI WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND YOUR MESSAGE TO:
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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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