



## SIMCHAT SHMUEL

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This Shabbat is known as *Shabbat Chazon*- the *Shabbat* of Vision.

Most associate that this *Shabbat* is called *Shabbat Chazon* because of the *Haftara* we recite from the first chapter of *Sefer Yeshayahu*, of *Yeshayahu's* Vision of the *Churban* of *Yerushalayim*. However, these days leading up to *Tisha B'Av* are not simply a time for us to reflect on the past, and the pain and loss of the *Batei HaMikdash*, and the subsequent lengthy exile of the Jewish People, but also an opportunity for us to begin to perceive and envision a better tomorrow.

*The Aish Kodesh, the Rebbe Piascetzna of zy'a*, suggests that though we associate the message of this *Haftara* to be *Yeshayahu's* vision of the *churban*, giving us perspective and context to enable us to reflect on the tragic events that led to our exile, the *Haftara* concludes with the verse: *Tzion B'Mishpat Tipadeh, V'Shaveha BiTzdaka* - *Zion shall be redeemed with justice, and those that return to her with*

*righteousness...*The Rebbe, as he does in so many of his powerful teachings, is reminding us that even when the Jewish people are besieged with pain and suffering, we must hold steadfast to the belief that *Yishuat Hashem K'Heref Ayin*- that *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*, can bring salvation with the blink of an eye! Even when our circumstances seem bleak, and it is beyond our capability to perceive from our limited human perspective how it might be possible, **a Jew must always believe that indeed *Yishuat Hashem K'Heref Ayin*.**

Our *Chazal* teach us in *Masechet Shabbat*, that one of the fundamental questions which each of us will be asked after 120 years, when they leave this world, is *tzipita liyishua*- Did you anticipate and long for redemption?

*The Netivot Shalom, the Admor of Slonim zy'a*, explains that there is a fundamental difference with the simple belief in the concept of redemption and anticipating that redemption. Anticipating redemption is one of the fundamental tenets of Jewish life, not simply to believe intellectually or conceptually in the idea of redemption, but to believe that that redemption, that better tomorrow for the entire world is indeed within our reach. The true question explains the Rebbe, is how much do we really want that redemption? Have we demonstrated strongly enough that we believe it is within our sight and reach?

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The **Kedushat Levi, Reb Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev zy'a**, explains that on *Shabbat Chazon*, each and every member of *Klal Yisrael* is shown a vision of the *Beit Hamikdash*. That vision is meant to inspire us, remind us that indeed the *geula* we have all been longing for is a real, tangible, attainable goal.

*Yehi Ratzon*, as we read the prophetic words of *Yeshayahu* on this *Shabbat Chazon*, may we indeed be moved to recall all the tragic events that led to our exile, but simultaneously be inspired to envision that a better tomorrow is within our reach, and do everything in our capability to move the world closer to that better tomorrow. ■



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