



## SIMCHAT SHMUEL

BY RABBI SAM SHOR  
DIRECTOR, TORAH INITIATIVES,  
OU ISRAEL

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 Piaseczna 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 *Yeshuat 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 *Yeshuat Hashem K'Heref Ayin*.**

***The Kedushat Levi, Reb Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev zy'a***, suggested another slightly different interpretation of the significance of this *Shabbat Chazon*, this *Shabbat* of vision. On this *Shabbat*, explained *Reb Levi Yitzchak*, each and every one of us is shown a vision of the third *Beit HaMikdash*.

The ***Lubavitcher Rebbe zy'a***, further explains that the revelation of *Shabbat Chazon* is of such intensity that although the *Beit HaMikdash* is shown "from a distance," to the extent that there are some who do not see it at all, nevertheless, this revelation is so powerful, that it becomes internalized within every single Jew. *Hashem* allows our souls a glimpse of a world of complete peace, a world which is empowered through the knowledge and awareness of the Divine presence, a world that has begun to see and actualize our innate potential for greatness and *kedusha*.

*Yehi Ratson*, 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, and as we also reflect upon the many painful and frightening experiences of these past many months, may we simultaneously be inspired to envision the *Beit HaMikdash*, and everything it represents, and may we merit to do everything in our capability to move the world closer to that brighter tomorrow that we continue to long for. In essence, may we be blessed with the capacity to both envision and experience a world of peace, unity, and concern for one another. ■