





# ALYSSA GREENBERG GUSH CHAPTER DIRECTOR

# THE ETERNAL NATION DOES NOT FEAR THE LONG PATH

נבואה שנצרכה לדורות בואה שנצרכה לדורות - prophecies that are written in the Torah are those that were needed for all generations. Everything written in the Torah has ongoing relevance to our lives, and one of our main responsibilities is to find these connections and learn from them.

In Parshat Eikev, this task feels almost too easy. The parsha is filled with eerie sentiments that feel all too relevant in this day and age.

כִּי תֹאמֵר בִּלְבָבְךְ רַבִּים הַגּוֹיִם הָאֵלֶה מִמֶּנִי אֵיכָה אוּכַל לְהוֹרִישָׁם: לֹא תִירָא מֵהֶם (דברים ז:״ז)

"When you say in your heart, these nations are too great! How can we ever drive them out?" Do not fear them."

Hashem knows that as Bnei Yisrael stand at the brink of entering Eretz Yisrael, they fear the very same thing we often fear today: the lack of swift and immediate success in removing our enemies and bringing peace

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to our land.

But Hashem tells us that this slow and gradual process should not be a cause for fear: זָכֹר תִּזְכֹּר אֵת אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה יְ-ה אֱלֹהֶיךְ לְפַרְעֹה זָכֹר מִצְרַיִם (שם ז:יח)

"You shall remember well what Hashem your God did to Pharaoh and to all of Egypt."

Just as Hashem swiftly defeated our enemies in Egypt, He will bring justice again-even through a longer, more drawn-out process. If we trust in Him and stay steadfast in His ways, He will ultimately deliver our enemies into our hands and bring peace to our land.

עם הנצח לא מפחד מדרך ארוכה

The Eternal Nation does not fear the long journey, because in the end, Hashem will deliver our enemies into our hands.

Be'ezrat Hashem, may we all be zocheh to witness the fulfillment of the הַבְּרִית וְאֶת־הַחֶּסֶּד - the covenant and kindness promised to our forefathers-and to enjoy the beautiful land of our heritage in peace.



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#### THE GIFT OF DOING

Have you ever felt the difference between waking up five minutes before you need to leave the house and waking up an hour before? Chances are, you wake up much faster when you have only five minutes.

Now consider another case: it's summer,

and you wake up with nothing on your to-do list, no hangouts, no commitments, just you and your bed. How long does it take to get up then?

When we have a purpose, a reason to get out of bed, it happens much quicker and easier.

While **Bnei Yisrael** were in the desert, everything was provided for them. Food literally fell from the sky, their clothes grew with them, and their feet didn't wear out. Every need was taken care of.

But is that the best way to live?

Having a sense of purpose and responsibility amplifies our determination and motivation to act.

This week's parsha focuses on the transition that **Bnei Yisrael** are about to undergo-from life in the *midbar*, where everything was provided and they had the space to unite as a nation, to a life where they would need to wake up, plant seeds, grow crops, build tools, and so much more.

This transition gave them more control, but also more responsibility. These responsibilities contributed to their sense of purpose, their sense of accomplishment, and their state of doing.

It's vital to remember that the strength to accomplish all of this comes not from overt miracles, but from a shift in Hashem's involvement-He now gives us the strength to act:

"כִּי הוּא הַנֹּתֵן לָךְ כֹּחַ לַעֲשׁוֹת חַיִּל

"For it is He who gives you strength to succeed."

May we wake up each day with that strength-to accomplish our responsibilities and goals.

Shabbat Shalom!



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