



## HAFTORAH INSIGHTS

BY REBBETZIN DR. ADINA  
SHMIDMAN  
DIRECTOR,  
OU WOMEN'S INITIATIVE



# Carved from Courage, Hewn from Hope

Have you ever felt completely alone — as if you were standing apart from the entire world? I know I have. In the months since October 7, that feeling has been sharper than ever — as an individual, as part of Am Yisrael, and as part of a nation so often misunderstood and misjudged. There have been moments when the weight of isolation felt heavy, almost overwhelming.

The Navi recognizes these feelings and reassures us that isolation is not necessarily a weakness. He points us to Avraham and Sarah — seemingly alone in their viewpoints and messages to the world — a single couple standing apart from the world. Yet from that solitude came an entire nation, blessed by Hashem and destined to transform history. Yeshayahu tells us: if Hashem could build a people from one man and one woman, He can certainly rebuild and renew us now.

The Navi is speaking to us — רְדִפֵּי צֶדֶק, מְבַקְשֵׁי ה' — *those who pursue righteousness and seek Hashem even in the darkness of exile*. To find hope, he says, הִבִּיטוּ אֶל צִוְרֵי הַחֲצִבָּתָם — *look back to your beginnings*. Yeshayahu urges us to remember Avraham, separated from the masses like *a single stone cut from a mountain*, recognizing the One G-d amidst rampant paganism. He directs us to recall Sarah, *the*

*quarry from which you were hewn*, who shaped and refined the family that would become Am Yisrael.

The Radak notes, this is especially comforting when we remember how long Avraham and Sarah waited for a child. We too have been waiting for the redemption for so long — and in these months since October 7, the longing feels more profound. Yet, just as their long-awaited blessing brought forth a people that changed the world, so too our redemption, when it comes, will be vast and far-reaching beyond anything we can imagine.

This restoration will not be partial — כִּי נַחֵם ה' צִיּוֹן נַחֵם כָּל חֲרִבוֹתֶיהָ — *Hashem will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her ruins*. Every desolate place will be renewed, וַיִּשְׂם ה' מִדְבָּרָהּ כְּעֵדֶן, וְעֲרִבְתָּהּ כִּגְן ה' — *and He will make her wilderness like Eden and her desert like the garden of Hashem*. This redemption will not be silent; it will overflow with שִׂשׂוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה... — *joy and gladness, thanksgiving and the sound of song*. ■

**Jonathan Rosenblum, DPM**

**050-595-5161**

Pediatric and Geriatric Foot Care, Bunions,  
Hammertoes, and Diabetic Wound Care