

until today to understand our history". We shall never allow ourselves to be facile, to be presumptuous, to feel we understand history and G-d's ways. It took those in the desert 40 years to fully appreciate their history, the dynamic of G-d in their history. Understanding His ways is no easy matter.

HAFTORAH YESHAYAHU 60:1-22

This week's *haftorah* is the sixth of a series of seven "*Haftarot* of Consolation." In exhilarating terms the navi describes what will unfold during the Redemption. Beginning with the resurrection of the dead and the ingathering of the exiles, continuing with the joy and abundance the Jewish people will then experience. The navi also spotlights the gifts that will be brought to G-d from all of the nations of the world.

In the end, the Jewish nation will no longer experience the hatred of the other nations, be despised and derided. The day will come when there will no longer be violence nor mourning, Hashem will shine His eternal light on His beloved people. ■



STATS

50th of the 54 sedras; 7th of the 11 in Devarim.
Written on 233 lines (rank: 13th).
21 Parshiyot; 5 open, 16 closed.
122 pesukim - rank: 17 (2nd in Devarim).
1747 words - rank: 16 (2nd in Devarim).
6811 letters - rank: 15 (4th in Devarim).
Pesukim are longer than average for the Torah, but short for Devarim.



MITZVOT

6 of the 613; 3 pos. and 3 prohibitions.

A SHORT VORT

BY RABBI CHANUCH YERES
RAV, BEIT KNESSET BEIT YISRAEL, YEMIN MOSHE

וְהָיָה בְּיוֹם אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲבְרוּ אֶת הַיַּרְדֵּן.....וְהִקַּמְתָּ לָךְ אֲבָנִים גְּדוּלוֹת.....וְכָתַבְתָּ עֲלֵיהֶן אֶת כָּל דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה (כז:ב,ג)
"And it shall be on the day when you shall pass over the Jordan...you shall set up for yourself great stones....and you shall write upon them all the words of this Torah" (27:2,3)

Why the need to set up these great stones immediately upon entering the Land and transcribe the Torah words on them, and not at a later point?

The Abarbanel (1437-1508, Italy) explains that from this text we can distinguish between the Israelites and the other nations. Other societies commemorate their victories in designing landmarks in honor of their war heroes which have portrayed great courage and valor. The Israelites, on the other hand, give first and foremost, special recognition to the Torah and the words it represents. The Israelites understand currently that their victories to come are because of staying loyal to the Torah before their might and strength of their military ability. For this reason, this monument is documented upon arrival into the Land before any major battles, to affirm our faith.

The great biblical interpreter, Onkelos (35-120) points out that the word "Avanim"-"Stones" has a further meaning. Within the word "Even" found "Av" and "Ben" - Father and Son, (Onkelos Bereishit 49:24) perhaps to emphasize the true important message upon entering the Promised Land. We are here to ensure the smooth transition from one generation to the next. With this the Israelites stand apart from other nations by emphasizing our belief in the importance of passing on the tradition over to our children.