



HAFTORAH INSIGHTS

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The Journey of a Promise

PESACH - YEHOSHUA 3:5-7, 5:2-6:1, 6:27

There is a moment in this week's Haftorah that feels like the closing of a circle. After forty years of wandering, Bnei Yisrael stand in Gilgal, just having crossed the Yarden. The promise first spoken to Avraham Avinu centuries earlier is now becoming reality. At the Brit Bein HaBetarim, Hashem tells Avraham, וְדַע תְּדַע... וְדוֹר — that his descendants will endure exile and affliction, and then return. Now, standing at the threshold of the Land, those final words — יְשׁוּבוּ הַנְּה — are being fulfilled.

As the Abarbanel explains, Sefer Yehoshua is not merely a narrative of conquest but a testimony to the reliability of Hashem's promise. What was spoken to Avraham, reaffirmed to Yitzchak and Yaakov, and carried forward through Moshe, now takes form. A family of seventy becomes a nation,

entering its land with Torah, identity and purpose.

And yet, before they move forward, they pause. Before battle, before settlement, they renew the covenant. Yehoshua circumcises the nation, restoring the ברית מילה that binds them to Avraham. The Land and the covenant are inseparable as promised to Avraham: וְנָתַתִּי לָךְ... אֶת כָּל-אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן... וְאֶתָּה. To enter the Land is to step into that relationship.

It is here that Hashem declares, הַיּוֹם — “Today I have rolled away the shame of Egypt from upon you.” Gilgal marks a turning point: not only have they left Egypt physically, they have now shed its imprint spiritually. Through Bris Milah and Korban Pesach, they reconnect to the covenant that began with Avraham and was first lived in Egypt.

Perhaps this is why this perek is read on Pesach, because Pesach is not only about leaving — it is about arriving. The Bris Bein HaBetarim reminds us that Jewish history unfolds with direction and purpose. The return in the days of Yehoshua stands as testimony that Hashem's promises endure.

As Chazal teach, בניסן נגאלו ובניסן עתידין, ליגאל. The redemption of the past points toward the redemption of the future. Each year, as we sit at the Seder, we are not only remembering a story — we are stepping back into a covenant. The journey that began with Avraham is still unfolding. ■

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