A SHORT VORT

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

וראה את הדם על המשקוף ועל שתי המזוזות ופסח ה' על הפתח ולא יתן המשחית לבוא אל בתיכם.....לחק לך ולבניך עד עולם (יב:כג-כד)

"And when he sees the blood upon the lintel and on the two side posts, G-d will pass over the door and will not let the destroyer come into you home... this is an ordinance for you and your sons forever." (12:23,24)

The Ibn Ezra and Ramban both comment that the verse seems to imply that the command of placing the blood on the doorposts applies every single year and yet the Rabbis explained that this ceremony of applying the blood on the doorposts was only the year of the exiting from Egypt?

A further question raised by the Mechilta from the verse "the blood shall serve as a sign for you" (12:13), hints to the fact that the blood was only visible to those sitting in the home, so how could G-d, so to speak, see the blood if it was not placed on the outside part of the door?

The Tal Shichakim (Rabbi Chaim Yitzchak Korev 1872-1957 St. Louis) explains that as the Jewish people were formed as a nation their initiation process included observing all the commandments relating to Pesach in their home. This will serve as the basis of their Jewish identity and family. The placing of the blood on the inside of the door signaled the proclamation that the Israelites would always be unique and special, keeping their home practices separated from the gentile surroundings. For the future generations, the Paschal blood would be replaced with observance of the mitzvot as the citadel of defense for our Jewish home against outside threats and assimilation.

Chag Sameach

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