



HAFTORAH INSIGHTS

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Rooted in Trust

We are very familiar with this pasuk from this week's haftorah found in bentching, בְּרוּךְ הַגִּבּוֹר אֲשֶׁר יִבְטַח בּוֹ, וְהִיָּה ה' מְבַטְחוֹ. It is a pasuk we say often, almost instinctively. Yet it pays to pause and explore it more carefully. If the man trusts in Hashem, what is added by saying that Hashem is his trust?

An insight in the *Ahavat Yehonatan*, authored by Rabbi Yonatan Eybeschutz, suggests that the pasuk is not repeating itself but rather it is describing two distinct levels of trust. The first is a person who places his trust in Hashem, believing that He will save him from his difficulties. The second is deeper. It describes a person who has resolved that salvation has already come. He does not only trust that Hashem will save him. He lives with the inner clarity that, in some essential way, he already has.

This is a transformative shift. It suggests that Hashem is not only where one turns, He is where one already stands. How does a person arrive at such a level? The *נביא* continues, וְהִיָּה כְּעַץ שֶׁתּוֹלַד עַל מַיִם... The *Ahavat Yehonatan* explains that the water refers to Torah. Through constant immersion in Torah, a person internalizes a broader vision, that the salvation of Israel through Hashem is enduring and absolute. Salvation is not only a future moment. It is a condition that already exists within the relationship between Hashem and His people. The tree is no longer searching for water, it is planted by it.

And so, וְלֹא יִרְאֶה כִּי יָבֵא חֶם. The heat still comes and the challenges remain, but they are no longer the defining reality. Even the inner pull of the yetzer hara loses its force when a person is rooted in something deeper. וְהִיָּה עֲלֵהוּ רֵעֵן. Its leaves remain fresh. Even when the righteous themselves endure difficulty, there is a quiet assurance that rootedness yields חיים, growth, and continuity.

To begin with יִבְטַח בּוֹ is to turn toward Hashem. To grow toward מְבַטְחוֹ is to live, as much as we can, with the profound awareness that we are already within Hashem's embrace. Not because everything is resolved, but because we know Who holds it all. ■

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