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A SHORT VORT

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

"And Israel encamped before the mount." - (19:2) - ויחן שם ישראל נגד ההר (יטב).


Why does the pasuk use the word "Vayichan" in the singular form when referring to the group of Israel?


Rashi explains that at this moment the Israelites achieved a level of total unity as one. "As **one person**" refers to one unit, "**with one heart**" signifying one goal.


However, Rashi uses almost the same phrase describing the Egyptians chasing (Nasa-in the singular) the Israelites into the Yam Suf but in the reversed order. "**With one heart**" "**as one person**". Is this an insignificant change on the part of Rashi?


Rabbi Yosef Fulstein offers an insight into the comprehensive explanation of Rashi. There is a major difference between the Egyptians attitude and the Israelites. The Egyptians were rallied together in their animosity towards the Israelites. It was their "lev echad", their passion of hatred that forged them together as "ish echad" yet only lasted for that fleeting moment. However, at the base of Mount Sinai, we first attained a long-lasting unity as a people "k'ish echad", which generated the ensuing all-inclusive feeling for one another with common purpose and objective "b'lev echad". This everlasting purpose adopted as a nation was the precondition for receiving the Torah.
- Shabbat Shalom

SHAVUOT REMINDERS

 Eruv Tavshilin is prepared on Thursday May 21 before Yom Tov.

 Yizkor is recited on Shavuot. (Light a Yizkor candle before Yom Tov).

 Light an extended candle before Yom Tov in order to light candles Friday night for Shabbat.

 The Book of Rut is read on the morning of Shavuot