

SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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Vayeshev

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How could the Shevatim who were so holy,
Sell their brother Yosef into slavery?
Did they have free choice, was it their decision,
Or did Hashem make it happen?

The Shevatim did have free choice and seemingly did fail,
They each benefitted from the sale.
Yosef was sold for twenty pieces of silver,
Two pieces of silver which equals a half-Shekel coin were given to each brother.

To atone for this sin,
The Yidden were required to bring a donation,
Of a half-Shekel coin yearly,
Which was used to bring sacrifices on behalf of the entire community.

Additionally, another form of payment for selling the firstborn of Rachel,
Is that every father must redeem his firstborn son for five Shekel,
This is a positive, holy and good Mitzvah that we do,
Five Shekel equals 20 pieces of silver, which was Yosef's total value.

While the brothers did sin and each needed atonement for their soul,
At the same time, the sale was the seed that Hashem planted for his goal.
Hashem's goal was that the Jewish people would have the power to be redeemed in the future,
In order for that to happen, Yosef first needed to be owned by a community of ten Yidden together.

Because when ten Jews come together, the Shechinah rests and they have a צבור power,
 So no matter what would happen to Yosef after,
 Nothing could take away the fact that to Hashem, Yosef first did belong,
 So the Yidden would never be fully enslaved in Egypt and they would be redeemed before long.

The connection we now see, between Yosef being sold into slavery,
 And the Mitzvah of redeeming a firstborn baby.
 Only to Hashem do we truly belong, the message is clear,
 We have nothing and no one to fear.

The connection we also see, between Yosef being sold into slavery,
 And the giving of the half-Shekel coin to buy sacrifices for the community.
 It was the power of the community that made the sale happen unfortunately,
 So to gain atonement, we must use the power of the community for good constantly.

We have one more question to discover,
 Who was the tenth brother?
 Binyamin and Reuven weren't there,
 And Yosef didn't want the sale to happen, it is clear.

Who we consider the tenth brother is a mystery,
 Because if there would have been ten men with the Shechinah shining openly,
 Then the sale would have never happened it is true,
 The revelation of the Shechinah had to be hidden from view.

According to who the tenth brother may have been,
 Will be a lesson for how our Ahavas Yisrael must deepen.
 If Reuven was the tenth because he got the money and didn't protest when he did return,
 Not to separate ourselves from other Jews, even when we disagree, is what we learn.

The other option is that Yosef himself was the tenth man in the community,
 Because he is the main player in the story.
 The lesson in this case is that even when like Yosef, someone causes you pain,
 You should still love them because it is Hashem who is making it happen for your gain.

We now understand,
 That our free choice and Hashem's plan go hand in hand.
 Hashem can twist and take even the poor choices of man,
 To fulfill His perfect plan!

We also understand the power of community,
Although the brothers formed a community to sell Yosef into slavery,
The power of the community is what eventually set the Yidden free,
For redemption we need unity!
