



לקוטי שיחות  
PROJECT  
LIKKUTEI  
SICHOS

## Floods of Knowledge

### Sicha Summary

Chelek 15 | Noach | Sichah 2

#### **The Verse:**

*“In the six-hundredth year of Noach’s life... all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened” (Bereishis 7:11).*

#### **The Zohar:**

The *Zohar* reads this verse as a prophecy: *“In the sixth century of the sixth [millennium, i.e., from the mid-18th to the mid 19th century], the gates of supernal wisdom and the wellsprings of earthly wisdom will open up. This will prepare the world to be elevated in the seventh [millennium, i.e., the messianic era]” (Zohar 1:117a).*

“Supernal wisdom” refers to the inner secrets of the Torah; the “wellsprings of earthly wisdom” refers to scientific knowledge. And indeed, in the mid-nineteenth century, the world experienced a surge of scientific advances as well as an outpouring of texts that demystified the secrets of the Torah, presented in accessible language.

#### **The Question:**

The opening of the “gates of supernal wisdom” seems to be a proper preparation for the Messianic Era — a time defined by knowledge of G-d. But how does the rapid pace of scientific advances prepare the world for the Messianic future?

#### **The Explanation:**

“Everything that G-d created,” the *Mishnah* says, was for the express purpose of furthering Divine awareness in the world. (*Avos*, 6:11) The scientific advances of the past century served this purpose in three ways:

- a) Amongst the scientific discoveries, was the discovery of radio waves and long-distance communication. This ability to hear what is being said in a distant place is a material example of G-d’s omniscience. Previously, people could only grasp the concept of G-d’s omniscience, “an Eye that sees and an Ear that hears,” (*Avos* 2:1) intellectually. Now, one can appreciate this reality in a tangible, material way. Observing this phenomenon prepares man for the Messianic Era, when humanity will not only understand the reality of G-d, but they will see G-dliness in an overt, physical sense.
- b) The advent of modern communication technologies enables man to spread the wellsprings of the inner Torah to the entire world. This is integral to the Messianic vision, when the entire world will know G-d.
- c) Scientific progress deepens a person’s understanding of mystical truths such as the unity of G-d and Creation. Previously, science believed matter to be composed of many discrete elements. But as science develops further, it finds that the diversity within the universe is only superficial, and that the universe is essentially the unification of form and matter.

Thus, the twin advances of mysticism and science work in tandem to prepare the world for the Messianic Era. As we study the inner Torah and deepen our understanding of G-d’s unity, we begin to see the unity discovered by science as an expression of the Divine truth. This primes the world for the coming of Moshiach, when humanity will see the truth of G-d’s unity with their physical eyes.