

# SICHA POEM

PROJECT LIKKUTEI SICHOS | 5783 - YEAR OF HAKHEL



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## Matos-Masei

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When in the Three Weeks Matos and Masei are combined  
They allude to the general theme of the time  
Which is the descent into Galus and a struggle for survival  
And the possibility of Geulah and Mashiach's arrival

How do they allude to the Three Week's theme?  
Here's two names for the 12 Tribes and what they mean:  
"Shevet" which means tree branch that has moisture inside  
And "Matah" which means tree branch that is hard and dry

When the Jewish people are called by the name Shevatim  
It shows on their "moisture" - their connection to Hashem  
And when they're called Matos it refers to a time  
When they're detached from their connection to the Divine

This detachment is true of the souls when it's sent  
Into a body on earth, an extreme descent  
And to the Jews as whole when they're sent for a while  
Down to wander in Galus and experience exile

But the purpose of this "hardening" and spiritual decay  
Is to lead to the second parshah, "Journeys" – Massei  
By first experiencing "Matos" – descent and spiritual pain  
We are propelled to new growth and gain

For when we reach deep into our soul's G-dly fire  
 We can propel ourselves to a level even higher  
 "Journeying" on to places on a loftier plane  
 Which previously would have been impossible to attain

We can also explain this in another way  
 And say there's down and up in Matos and also in Massei  
 Each Parshah alludes to the descent we go through  
 And the ascent that will follow for every Jew

"Matos" – the hardness we attain from our fall  
 Actually leads to a positive "hardness" that's not bad at all  
 We become stubborn and strong to fulfill the soul's mission  
 And it's the hardness of Galus that produces this condition

"Massei" – the journeys of which the parshah does tell  
 Can allude to the downward exile journey from Eretz Yisroel  
 Or the journey of the soul as it leaves its lofty base  
 And descends into a body and physical space

This negative journey into exile or into a body so coarse  
 Is meant to bring to new journey back to our source  
 The trek of the soul an even higher ascension  
 And the journey of our nation to the ultimate redemption

This all is the theme of the Three Weeks we're in  
 We mourn yet we know the process of Geulah did begin  
 The hard Galus is a prelude to our "Matos" strength and power  
 And to our "Massei" journey towards Geulah every day and every hour!

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