

Lasting Change

We find ourselves in the three weeks of mourning,
Therefore on sad things the Haftoras are focusing,
But since the Haftoras were selected by Divine Providence it is clear,
That a connection to the Parsha they still share.

The beginning of the Haftorah tells how Yirmeyahu became a Navi,
In the Parsha it speaks about Pinchas who acted courageously.
The revealed connection that we see,
Is that they each came from a non Jewish family.

Pinchas was the grandson of Yisro,
And Yirmeyahu descended from Rachav we know.
The Jews belittled them both for this reason,
Therefore Hashem clarified that their lineage was from the Kohanim.

They both acted when the Yidden were on a low spiritual level,
To do Teshuvah they both aroused the Jewish people.
There were many great leaders who did the same,
But Yirmeyahu and Pinchas are linked together like a chain.

To understand the uniqueness of Yirmeyahu,
We need to compare him with Yishayahu.
Yishayahu's prophecy focuses on consolation,
While Yirmeyahu is only concerned with destruction.

Yeshayahu contains the word Yeshua, which means salvation.
While Yirmeyahu has the letters which spell mar, a bitter sensation.
Yeshayahu lived in a time of Divine revelation,
While Yirmeyahu lived in a time of concealment and rejection.

This pattern follows into their mode of operation,
Yeshayahu motivated Teshuvah through speaking about redemption.
While Yirmeyahu motivated Teshuvah through speaking about destruction,
Like Yirmeyahu, Pinchas brought about atonement through rejection.

As a reward for turning Hashem's anger away from the Yidden,
He was granted priesthood for him and his children.
What was so unique about Pinchas's action,
That the reward of a "covenant of peace" he was given?

A covenant of peace, why don't we find Moshe being given,
For the many times that he turned Hashem's anger from the Yidden?
When Moshe asked Hashem to appoint a man over the congregation,
Hashem did not transfer Moshe's position to his children.

The difference is that Moshe calmed Hashem's anger through praying,
While Pinchas motivated the Yidden to do Teshuvah through acting.
"Among them" he acted zealously,
He had an effect on the Jewish people and averted the decree.

Moshe acted with Mesiras Nefesh that involved his soul only,
He said, "If you don't forgive the Yidden, from the Torah erase me."
While Pinchas risked his life physically,
He was saved from the tribe of Shimon miraculously.

Moshe's service followed the path of revelation,
From above he transmitted the Torah to the Jewish nation.
Just like light dispels darkness automatically,
The light of Torah dispels the darkness naturally.

Pinchas's service followed the path of elevation,
 To refine the lower plane was his mission.
 "Pinchas is Eliyahu" our sages say,
 They refined the physical in a permanent way.

There is a difference between these two paths,
 Only the light that comes from refining the lower plane lasts.
 At the time of revelation the lower plane is illuminated brightly,
 When the revelation ceases it remains on the level it was previously.

The giving of the Torah caused the spiritual impurity to depart,
 But the change wasn't internalized entirely in each person's heart.
 Therefore by the evil inclination they were still controlled,
 And they served a calf made of gold.

On the other hand, Pinchas's atonement,
 Has a continuous achievement.
 Therefore the reward that was given to him was measure for measure,
 The "covenant of peace," he was granted forever!

Between Pinchas and Yirmeyahu we now see the connection,
 Their role was to change the opposition.
 They transformed darkness into light,
 So that "as day will shine the night."

This relates to their similar non Jewish origins,
 They were involved with elevating their personal lower dimensions.
 Despite the fact that there were Jews that belittled them,
 They broke the lower plane and motivated the people to return to Hashem.

To our Divine service there is a lesson,
 The key to lasting transformation,
 Is to extend oneself beyond the realm of holiness,
 In the world we need to make a difference.

A Jew can protest and ask how can I prevail over the darkness,
 In a time of Galus where there is a concealment of G-dliness?
 Not only that but we are expected to transform the 3 weeks of sadness,
 Into a time of happiness and gladness!

In the first of the Haftorahs of the three weeks we have the clue,
 Hashem speaks to Yirmeyahu,
 And to every soul that passes through,
 The three worlds of Beriah, Yetzirah and Asiyah too.

"When I had to yet form you in the womb, I knew you."
 Every Jew possesses an actual part of Hakadosh Baruch Hu,
 A soul whose essence is so holy,
 It existed before Hashem desired to create a world so lowly.

"Before you emerged from the womb, I designated you,"
 Before birth the entire Torah you knew.
 Although at birth an angel causes you to forget the entire Torah,
 The knowledge remains within the inner dimensions of the Neshama.

We possess the inner strength is the truth,
 But the Neshama complains, "I do not know how to speak for I am a youth."
 From the challenges of the world, how will it persevere?
 To be a prophet onto the nations, it does fear.

Hashem answers, "Say not, 'I am a youth,' but go wherever I send you!
 Do not fear them because I am with you," is the message to every Jew.
 Even when we are in a Galus filled with pain,
 Hashem is with us, on this lowly physical plane.

Existing in a body with an animal soul in this world is our situation.
 If we don't want to be broken, without fear we must persist in our mission,
 So that we can have Eliyahu Hanavi's revelation,
 Who will announce and bring about the ultimate redemption!

