

JEWISH STUDY NETWORK

Parshat Ki Tavo The Power of Giving

This week's parsha contains a rousing description of the infinite blessings which await the Jewish people when they follow the Torah in the Land of Israel. In one verse, the Torah states:

“Hashem will give you abounding prosperity in the issue of your womb, the offspring of your cattle, and the produce of your soil in the land that Hashem swore to your fathers to assign to you.” (Devarim 28:11)

The Chasam Sofer (Rabbi Moshe Sofer, 1762-1839) notes the use of the term “vehosircha,” “[Hashem] will give you abounding prosperity” in reference to “the issue of your womb.” He interprets the verse homiletically, based on a letter (almost certainly erroneously) ascribed to Rambam in which the author addresses his son:

“Know, my son, that unfortunate man in this lowly world has no rest. Praiseworthy is the man whose days are finished quickly, without much distress...” (Iggeros haRambam)

R. Sofer says that every individual has a particular mission in life. There is Torah he must study and mitzvos he must perform before he leaves this world. This, however, could potentially result in his living a very short life, if he is devout and learned. It is thus a great blessing to receive the gift of children, or even others who depend on one's goodwill. By tying his destiny to theirs, he may hope to receive many more years of blessing. Thus the pasuk states that Hashem will give Israel gifts of further life by blessing them with expanding families and holdings, enabling them to live long and blessed lives.

Shabbat Shalom
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