

Parsha Pearls

Toldos 5768

And the children moved inside her, and she said, "If so, why did I ask for this?" And she went to consult with Hashem. And Hashem said to her, "Two nations are in your belly, and two peoples will emerge from your loins..." (25:22-23)

The Sages say that when Rivka passed by the door of a yeshiva, Yaakov kicked, and when she passed by the door of a house of idol worship, Esav kicked. If she was upset that she would be giving birth to a wicked son, why then was she comforted when the prophet told her that two nations were in her belly?

Rabbi Yaakov David Willowski of Slutzk (1845-1913), known as Ridbaz, answers that Rivka thought she was carrying only one child. We know that the worst enemies faced by the Jewish people are its internal enemies. Jews who dress like gentiles, talk like gentiles, and eat non-kosher food do not have much influence on good Jews. Whatever they say will probably be ignored. The real danger is the Jew who dresses like a Torah Jew, does mitzvos, goes to the synagogue, studies Torah, and yet

spreads heretical ideas. Rivka Imeinu thought she was carrying such a child – righteous and wicked all at once. But when she heard that there were two children, one righteous and the other wicked, she was reassured (Nimukei Ridbaz).

Today we face both the secular Zionists and the religious Zionists. But members of this latter group pose the greater threat because of their observance and dedication to the Torah. Furthermore, secular Zionism as an ideology is becoming increasingly weak over the years as the secular Jews' connection to Judaism grows weaker. Religious Zionism, on the other hand, continues in full force, and threatens to dominate the Jewish people. We must give our attention to fighting the influence of this dangerous movement.