

# Parsha Pearls

FROM THE WORDS OF THE GEDOLIM

Vaeschanan 5768

## **The prophecy of the valley of vision: What troubles you, then, that you all go up to the rooftops? (Yishaya 22:1)**

The Gemara (Taanis 29a) says that this verse refers to the destruction of the Temple. The "valley of vision" is Jerusalem, about which many prophecies were said. When the Temple was burning, the young kohanim went up onto the roof of the sanctuary with the keys to the sanctuary in their hands. They said, "Master of the World! Since we did not merit to be trusted custodians, we are handing over the keys to You!" They threw the keys upwards, and a hand came out of heaven and accepted them. Then the young kohanim leapt into the flames.

Rabbi Avraham Lichtenstein was an eighteenth-century rabbi of Prassnysz, in the region of Plotzk, Poland, and author of Kanfei Nesharim. In his commentary Migdenos Avraham on Shir Hashirim, he uses this story to explain the oaths with which G-d adjured the Jewish people not to force the end of exile and not to go up as a wall.

"Heaven forbid for Israel in exile to make any effort with a strong hand, whether through the gentile kings and ministers, or to go up as a wall, all together, each one strengthening the other, saying , 'Let us go to Jerusalem with a strong hand and build the Temple,' or 'Let us pay off the king of Turkey until he sells us all the state of Eretz Yisroel to be ours like it was in ancient times, and we will build the Temple and offer sacrifices.' Heaven forbid for us to do this! We will wait until G-d pours out His kindness from above and sends our redemption through his moshiach, with permission from the King Who sits on high.

"This is the meaning of the hand that came out of heaven and accepted the keys. It can be compared to a person who wants to enter a house, but the house is locked. It appears that the house is ownerless. He wants to break down the door, but we tell him, 'Fool! Stop!' The house does have an owner, the keys are in his hand, and you want to enter by force? You will be considered a burglar! Wait till the owner comes and gives you the keys, and then open the door. Here too, since G-d accepted the keys, how could it occur to us to go up by force without receiving permission from G-d? We must wait until the Owner of the key comes and gives us the key, and then we will go to Zion with song.

"At the same time, G-d warned the nations of the world not to make the exile too difficult for Israel. This is the meaning of the verses in Shir Hashirim (2:6-7) from which the oaths are derived. Israel says to G-d, 'Let His left hand be under my head (i.e. prophecy), and let His right hand embrace me.' G-d replies, 'Look what I have already given you during this exile, and see My great love for you. I have adjured the daughters of Jerusalem – the nations – not to afflict you. So why do you pray so persistently for the return of My love and prophecy – better to wait until the proper time, when it is desired.'



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