



אמרי בנימן

דברי תורה, מחשבה וסיפורים מאוצרו של
הגאון רב בנימן קמנצקי זצ"ל

*A Dvar Torah from the writings of Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l,
transcribed by his grandson, Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky*

5780 - Parshas Terumah - He Has Our Back

Parshas Terumah discusses the building of the Mishkan. According to many commentaries, the purpose of the Mishkan was to atone for the terrible sin of the Golden Calf. The Jews committed this sin in response to a misconception that Moshe Rabbeinu died, leaving them without a leader. Hashem wanted to annihilate the Jews after they sinned, but Moshe begged Hashem to spare them, which He did. Hashem then commanded the Jews to build a place from Him on Earth, so He will rest His shechina amongst us. Interestingly, the Torah only recounts the story of the sin of the Golden Calf two weeks after the commandment to build the Mishkan - in Parshas Ki Sisa. Why is that?

Rabbi Paysach Krohn, in his book, Around the Maggid's Table, tells a fascinating story of Divine Providence. Mr. Heshy Millet of Brooklyn came to shul one day and discovered an elderly gentleman, a regular in shul, looking extremely depressed and agitated. "What is the matter?" he asked.

"I am so distressed, that it is hard for me to explain." He began. "Last week I had a burglary in my home, and the thieves stole my ancient megillah which is a family heirloom! I cannot believe it is gone, and I have not gotten back to myself for the past week."

Mr. Millet was shocked, but he immediately responded. "I know exactly where your megilla is!"

Only a few days prior, Mr. Millet's nephew told him about a robbery he had in his shop. "The thieves stole some equipment and cash, but besides that, they really made a mess! They left my place a wreck! Beer bottles, wrappers, and garbage were all over the place, but the strangest thing is, that as I was cleaning up and assessing the damage, I found a megillah on the floor! I have no idea where it came from, or what to do with it!"

As the old man was talking, Mr. Millet immediately realized that his nephew was in possession of the stolen meggillah! He called his nephew, and only a short time later, the old man in shul was reunited with his precious meggillah.

My grandfather Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l explains. Hashem has many ways in which He runs His world. One of His commonly found methods of ensuring the continuity of the Jews is to "Prepare the cure before the illness." We find this phenomenon in the story of Purim, when Mordechai overhears a plot to kill the king and reports it, thus gaining favor in the eyes of Achashveirosh, even before Haman devised his plot to kill the Jews.

And yes, we find it here too. Even though in reality the sin of the Golden Calf happened before the commandment to build the Mishkan, but Hashem placed in the Torah the command for the remedy before the actual sin.

The order may be backward, but the message is forward. Hashem is looking out for our benefit - and has our back.

Good Shabbos!

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