



"Would it be that My people listen to me, if Israel would go in My ways, I would subdue their enemies in a instant, and turn My hand against their foes."

King David, Psalm 81

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Rabbi's Blessings

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

We find that in the Bible, Rashi states (Gen, 30:2) when Rachel desired children and had none, she asked Jacob her husband that he should have prayed for her. Jacob's response was, "God has withheld children from you, not from me". Possibly implying that her prayer was the important one.

A rabbi mentioned that the person's prayer is the essential one, and not what someone else prays for you.

The reason for this is that prayer, when performed correctly, has an elevating reaction on the one praying. The ideas one ponders when praying actually raise his knowledge and awareness of these concepts to a higher level. When one adheres to these values, he is more under God's Providence, and will experience a different, more perfected existence than before, now benefiting from God's involvement in his life to a higher degree, as Maimonides points out in the Moreh Nevuchim.

It is the raising of one's perfection that causes this good. God is not the One who changes in this scenario. As the Rambam stated, it is like something distant from a fire. As it approaches the flame, it is affected differently, although the fire never changes.

Such is our relationship with God. The more distant, the more in darkness we are. The closer we come, the more God's system of providence effects us. However, God never changed. What is perfect - God - can be no more perfect, and therefore, He cannot change. Therefore, we cannot change God. Even through our prayer. As God said Himself, (Malachi, 3:6) "I am God, I do not change....". This concept also explains the mishneh in Pirkei Avos, (Ethic of the fathers) where 10 miracles are said to have been created at sunset on Friday of the Six Days of Creation. All other miracles

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ASK YOUR CHILDREN:

"If God made everything, does it make sense that He needs help from anyone else?"
Have your children email us with their answers: questions@mesora.org

SUGGESTED READINGS:

SEE THESE AND OTHER ARTICLES AT OUR SITE

Maimonides' 13 PRINCIPLES

THE BASIC FOUNDATIONS WHICH ALL JEWS MUST KNOW AS TRUE. WE URGE YOU TO READ THEM:
www.mesora.org/13principles.html

God's Existence Belief or Proof?

www.mesora.org/belieforproof.html

God's Land Without God?

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY:
www.mesora.org/openletter/openletter2.html

Ditheism

RABBI MOSHE BEN-CHAIM

Reader: Thank you for a quick response. If you don't mind I'd like to ask you a few more questions. One other person with whom I discussed this topic, told me that the information about Christians not having share in olam haba is totally incorrect since Christianity is considered permissible for Gentiles (but not for Jews). He used the term schituf when referring to Christianity and claimed non-Jews are not commanded against schituf.

What do you think about this opinion Rabbi?

Mesora: "Shituf" means partner, or in this context, ditheism - more than one god. Judaism follows reality,

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Questions & Answers

E-mail us: questions@mesora.org

Reader: Dear Mesora, I opened your weekly letter with great anticipation, expecting to read some words of insight and encouragement. Instead, you have trivialized the situation in Israel. It's not that I don't agree with what you wrote. However, people are expecting to understand why this is happening NOW.

Based on your "analysis", Hashem should never have "allowed" the state to be created and "reward" the seculars with the thought that what they were doing is right. Certainly the hundreds of Yeshivot, growing every day, should never have proliferated, under the secular Zionist regime. If you have nothing to new to say, I think you should leave the answers to others. Hag Sameach.

Mesora: You do not agree with the text of the Shema which forecasts the ousting of Jews from Israel when they commit idolatry? Doesn't the Prophet many times admonish the people to keep the Torah when bad tidings hit our nation?

No new words need to be spoken. The old, authentic Torah warnings are what we must apply to our current situation. We don't need a new answer, God gave the answer to us time and time again through the Prophets. We need to realize through rational conviction the Torah is true and apply its complete teachings which need no new points. God knew He taught us a complete and decisive message when we veered from the Torah in the past. He need not repeat Himself.

To earn God's perfect Providence, keep His perfect Torah.

Editor's Comments: This reader should understand clearly, that when the government does not follow halachic rulings - the land will be filled with problems. Why is that so difficult to understand? These rulings include who Israel allows to settle in the land, how those people live and what Israel is obligated to do when those people oppose the law. However, since the government allows Arabs to corrupt its land, it must deal with and suffer through those consequences brought on by those hateful people (The PLO) and also suffer the consequences of NOT establishing a government founded on Torah law. This is absolutely clear.

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