

Knesset Israel

Your Beverlywood Shul

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Parshat Vaera

By Rabbi Avraham Scheffres

In parashat Vaera, Hashem uses four languages of redemption. *Vehotzaitee* – I will lead you out (of Egypt); *vehitzaitee* – I will deliver you (from any type of servitude); *vega'altee* – I will redeem you; *valakachtee* – I will take you (as My people) (Shemot 6:6-7). Mefarshim explain some of the differences in the intention of each language and on Pesach we commemorate the four by drinking four cups of wine. Why does Hashem need to use four expressions of redemption? He could have used one pasuk that tells us that we are going to leave *Mitzraim* and included would be everything that comes with that freedom. Would we not have understood the message with fewer words?

A little later in the parsha, Moshe asks Hashem a question about going to Paroh – 'Bnei Yisrael have not listened to me; how do you expect Paroh to listen, and I don't speak well (ibid 6:12)?' Moshe was of course referring to a previous verse, which explains that Bnei Yisrael did not listen to Moshe because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage (ibid 6:9). The Sefat Emet explains that Moshe deduced that Paroh might not listen to him as a result of the response he received from Bnei Yisrael; if he did not succeed in penetrating the hearts of Bnei Yisrael, how could he achieve anything on their behalf.

There are a few observations to be made here. One is that even when Hashem used four expressions to tell Bnei Yisrael that He was taking them out of *Mitzraim*, they were not able to hear Him based on their feelings at that time. Another observation is that Paroh may not want to listen to Moshe since Moshe did not have the backing of his own people. In addition, Paroh may not want to listen because he is not interested in losing his entire slave work force. Furthermore, Moshe adds at the end of the pasuk (ibid 6:12) that he does not speak well which means that he would have a difficult time communicating his message; this is not the fault of the listener. We can see that at times communications may not go well because of the audience and/or the presenter. When this happens, what is the best action to take?

When communication fails, the best action to take is precisely what Hashem is doing. Use multiple methods to explain something and if need be repeat the message. People may not be ready to hear and it is quite possible that the presentation is not clear enough. Using different languages, being detailed, and repeating shows that effort is being put forth to communicate. In today's world of fast computers and communications, we may tend to think that people should 'get it' at the same speed. We forget that people, unlike computers, have feelings, run on different speeds, and may not be on the same 'band' as others; they therefore require patience in presentation and reception. In communicating with people, one may think that, as with computers, a few short words will elicit a desired response. Not so. The Torah, clearly, tells us the timeless message that effectively reaching the hearts of people requires us to articulate well, be patient and understanding.

Shabbat Times

Erev Shabbat Jan 8, 2015 / 27 Tevet, 5776

Candle Lighting.....3:59 pm to 4:42 pm
Mincha.....4:45 pm

Shabbat Day Jan 9, 2015 / 28 Tevet, 5776

Shacharit.....9:00 am
Kiddush.....11:30 am
Mincha.....4:40 pm
Havdalah / Shabbat Ends.....5:44 pm

Mazal Tov

Happy Anniversary Mark & Jessica Kligman! (Jan 11)

Shabbat Mevarchim Sh'vat

Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat will be on Monday.