



פֶּרֶשׁת שׁוֹפָרִים

SICHA 14 ELUL 5740 – TO THE SUMMER CAMPS

*Free Translation**

We find ourselves now, in the month of Elul.

This is the time when, as the Alter Rebbe says, “the King is in the field.” There is no need for hard work or preparation to “meet” with the Almighty and crown Him as our king and G-d, for He is with every Jew “in the field.” He is not in His Royal Palace, concealed in His throne room, but with every Jew in the field.

The Alter Rebbe emphasizes that “He shows them a smiling countenance,” a happy face, “and receives them graciously.” He welcomes each of them with a radiant, pleasant face and anticipates their requests, so that He may fulfill them.

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This is connected also to the fact that during the month of Elul, when the “King is in the field,” we blow the Shofar daily, aside for Shabbat and the day before Rosh Hashanah. As we have done just now, after the prayers, in addition to the daily Shofar blowing after the morning prayers at the beginning of the day.

The reason for the Shofar blowing is, to remind the Jewish People of the awe of G-d. “Is the Shofar ever sounded in the city and the people do not tremble?” To evoke the awe of G-d, which brings one to study Torah and to fulfill its Mitzvot, as mentioned earlier.

The Torah and Mitzvot are recalled anew, as though they were given “this very day,” through the blowing of the Shofar.

As cited from the verse, the reason for Shofar blowing is so that “they tremble”: But the point of the “trembling” is not the awe itself, rather the result which it brings to, indeed the foremost result: Learning Torah and fulfilling Mitzvot with joy.

For there is another reason for blowing the Shofar: It is customary when crowning a king, to blow the Shofar as an expression of joy in having anointed a ruler, as Rabbi Sa’adya Gaon explains at length.

Similarly, the Shofar blowing during the month of Elul — today’s Shofar blowing, which we have just now fulfilled — it is to remind each of us, as well as all Jewish

*) Taken from the subtitles that appear on the screen.



פרשת שופטים

people everywhere, about the fear and awe of G-d. To fulfill what it says in today's Torah portion⁶: To study Torah and fulfill its Mitzvot.

Beginning with the Mitzvah of "you have distinguished," that we accept G-d as King "this very day."

This connects to another concept as well: It is customary, and it is mentioned in the Torah, that when a king is crowned he offers gifts to all those who crowned him.

So now that, as mentioned earlier⁷, each of you— and certainly other Jewish children and adults— has presented gifts to G-d, in the form of verses of Torah and fulfillment of Mitzvot; indeed, you have given abundantly and with a "smiling and pleasant face."

This further increases the gifts from the King; gifts that G-d, King of all kings blessed be He, gives each of you, and every Jew wherever he may be.

Beginning with the foremost gift; we will prepare for the coming year, and G-d will inscribe it and seal it as a good, sweet year — visible and revealed goodness, for all people in all their needs.

In addition to the most essential blessing the true and complete redemption through our righteous Moshiach, may it be speedily in our days.



6) In Parshas Ki Savo (when the Sicha was said), Ch. 26

7) By the directors of the Camps, after saying the 12 Pesukim, at the beginning of the Rally.