



BUILDING A JEWISH HOME

28 Iyar, 5748-1988

To the Annual Convention of the Lubavitch Women's Organization

When the Jewish People were in the desert, Moshe was instructed by G-d to prepare the Jews for how to behave after their arrival in the Land of Israel. G-d told Moshe to instruct the Jews, "When you come into the Land, the Land shall observe a Shabbos – a rest – for G-d."

The meaning of this: When you will enter the Holy Land, your Land – as the verse continues, the Land G-d promised, with a certainty, to give to the Jews – then what should the Jews do? The land shall observe a Shabbos, the soil should rest and fulfill the Mitzva of Shmita knowing that it is a "Shabbos for G-d." Observing Shmita makes the very soil holier – we connect the land, directly, with fulfilling G-d's command.

The question is asked: The law that the land rest is only in the seventh year, in other words, they work the land for six years and only afterwards is Shmita observed.

And here Moshe was instructed that when he prepares the Jews to enter Israel – what is the first commandment? The observance of Shmita a commandment to be observed several years after entering the land?! He should first have instructed them on laws relevant immediately, and only after that about what to do years later?

One of the answers: We see the behavior of a devoted mother, – all mothers, and certainly a Jewish mother – when she "enters the land," when she ventures to establish her personal 'land' – her home and family – which involves a house, a domain; with dishes, furniture and more making a proper home – bright and alive...

We see that when a true 'Baalaboste' establishes her home she does so in a way that will serve not only in weekday circumstances, when you can get by with the bare essentials, but a true Baalaboste establishes even her material requirements in a manner that the home is a happy place where Shabbos will be observed with joy, enthusiasm, and in abundance.

And the Festivals are observed there, which are "called holy," – the holiness of Shabbos is 'called' to those days; thereby making them holidays.

And of course, the husband provides the funds necessary to do so in the most plentiful and abundant manner, – as a Jew should prepare for festivals and for Shabbos – in an abundant, joyful and pleasurable manner, "you shall lack nothing in it." Moreover, guests are invited, as is the Jewish custom – to invite guest in addition to the family members.

True holiday joy amongst Jews is when a guest attends the festive meals, and likewise on Shabbos.



פרשת בהר

Then G-d blesses and promises "When you will enter the land" – when a Jewish woman enters, begins, her own home and family, she immediately has all G-d's blessings – "the land will rest" – that from the first, day she is able to celebrate Shabbos and festivals there, and to invite guests.

And this doesn't limit her, rather, it should add abundance and joy to her own Shabbos and holiday experience – because she has guests! And this becomes a shining example for all Jewish women and girls around her, who, for whatever reason, did not have the good fortune and true inspiration of Yiddishkeit – for lack of a true Jewish upbringing.

This shining example will help them achieve that same spirit.

