

LIVING TORAH

פרשת בשלח

ב"ה

REMEDY FOR A TURBULENT WORLD

Farbrengen – 10 Shevat, 5746-1986

How can we say that "the reign will be G-d's" —that it is certain that people will fulfill their purpose as G-d desired? How can we be sure that G-d's Will will be achieved, and the world will be "G-d's garden," —a source of pleasure for G-d?

We currently see the confrontation and opposition between two blocs. And the entire world is split along these lines, especially in the past few years.

But G-d provided the remedy, as well. In recent years it has been discovered how the minutest quantity of matter can accomplish great or terrible things:

To change a regime, a system, in a large area of the world, in years bygone required great armies, over long periods of time, with large artillery, in order to reach the farthest corners and effect meaningful change.

What has changed in the past few years is that now with the smallest quantity—even an atom, properly guided by the capacity and intelligence granted us by G-d, used for the good, a minute quantity can achieve change, which can instantaneously affect the entire world.

In previous generations these capabilities were not revealed. They existed in nature then as well, but people hadn't discovered them. Nothing in the world exists for naught: As long as the problem did not exist, there was no reason to reveal the solution.

Now a situation exists where "a small child leads them": It doesn't have to be someone who controls a large army, infinite laboratories, or the like. He could be a "young child" — "small" in quantity. As long as he has the required intellect, and uses it properly, he can —by pressing one button— create a positive transformation across the entire world.

World events in the past few years and months have taught us this lesson: A small child can change the world. If he knows which button to press, and knows how to press it, he can change the entire world, that it should be in accordance with G-d's will, with righteousness and justice.

But in order to give us free choice, G-d also left the option to, Heaven forbid, choose the opposite. But G-d wants us to "choose life": He wants the person to prove that he is an intelligent being, that he chooses righteousness and justice because he understands that it is life. Hence there must be an alternative to life. Therefore G-d gives us the option: "I have placed before you today life and good," but also the opposite.

G-d suggests, and grants the capacities and intellect and begs each person to contemplate, and use the talents he was granted for life and goodness. That is the concept of free choice.

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This also answers the question: What can one person do? How, through his one action, can he bring about "salvation and deliverance to the entire world?"

The answer is: The person pressing the button doesn't need to be the greatest scholar, doesn't need to understand how the atom works or how through pressing this button it will reach the other end of the world. All that is required of him is the simple action: Press the right "button" at the right time, and do it properly.

So too in our lives: It makes no difference whether he understands. All that matters is that he does the proper action. This was established for the entire world at the Giving of the Torah: When G-d gives an instruction, "we will do" must precede "we will understand." This is translated practically, in day-to-day life. Everybody knows it, without a leap of faith, that he can accomplish great things.

When G-d—through His messengers or His Torah— brings you to the right "button" at the right time and tells you that all you need to do is press, then you are the one who literally brings salvation and deliverance to the entire world, in all corners of the Earth.

