



G-D'S BUSINESS DEALS

Machne Israel Development Fund – 4 Tishrei, 5750-1989

Today is the Tuesday of the "Ten Days of Return." At this time, G-d is available to every Jew as an individual, and certainly when they become a community. Particularly a group whom G-d entrusted with a responsibility, by giving them special means and resources – beyond what is given to most people.

This is because G-d sees great potential in them: The fact that G-d granted them greater resources and more success for He is confident that it will benefit the community at large. Indeed, it will benefit the entire Jewish nation.

This is also why, as the Talmud relates, "Rebbi honored the wealthy." Rebbi committed the Torah's Oral Law to writing, by publishing its foundation, the Mishna. He evidenced great confidence in those people whom G-d endowed with abundant material resources.

The main reason for this: Since G-d Himself trusts them, and gives them special talents and capabilities, as well as the ability to carry out their decisions in full. G-d does so for He wants them to reach higher. They do so by not just deciding to do good, but by actually doing good!. In a manner that "others will see and do the same." They become a living example for all the people around them, particularly for those with whom they do business.

For we see that people who work together as partners in the same business, develop a closeness to one another and learn from each other. Each one improves himself, by seeing the example set by his partner, or by his partner's partner. The ripple effect creates a great community, of more and more partners in all good activities. Experience has shown that this brings ever greater success.

Especially as your numbers have grown, Torah states, "G-d will not turn away a multitude," when a strong community of Jews has developed, and together they have all reached the same decision, to support the same good effort with all their capabilities; they have G-d's blessing to carry out their decision.

It is also certain that, as in material matters, "one who has one hundred, desires two hundred," when you see that you were successful in this good endeavor, that will strengthen your desire to do twice as much. Having seen your great accomplishments, you will not be satisfied with what you achieved in that one day or in that hour, and you will redouble your efforts to do double twice as much!

Obviously, G-d doesn't, Heaven forbid, remain in debt. Credibility is essential for any good businessman. If he wants to be trusted, and wants peoples' cooperation, he earns



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peoples' trust by making sure to keep his promises. In fact, no one needs to remind him of his promise, nor to demand its fulfillment; he fulfills it on his own.

Such is the behavior of true business people. A basic business principle, a foundation, is that for every single promise, whether in writing or not, he stands by his word. He knows that the word of a trustworthy person is as good as a promise, and he surely fulfills them.

Moreover: He does so happily and eagerly, not because people are demanding it of him, harassing or bothering him, but rather of his own initiative. This is rewarded, like every good deed. every good deed in this world is eventually rewarded by G-d. Sometimes the reward is delayed; whether it is a physical reward or a spiritual one; but eventually the reward is received in its entirety.

This further encourages every wealthy person, especially as a group: First and foremost, to utilize the gathering for a positive purpose, not only for themselves and their partners, but to benefit all Jews and the entire Jewish nation. And to use this occasion, as mentioned, not because it is demanded of them, but rather because they themselves insist upon it. Furthermore, you should not be satisfied with doing so yourself, but rather to influence all the Jews around you, and even the non-Jews, for they, too, are obligated to keep the Seven Noahide Laws, and are obligated to give charity.

This is the reason most business people, especially in the United States, do business with both Jews and non-Jews. They have this mission, according to the Torah, with regard to non-Jews. Just as we have a mission to affect every Jew in Jewish practice, we were given a mission from G-d transmitted through Moshe at Sinai, as described by Maimonides – to influence non-Jewish acquaintances and friends to use their talents to have a positive effect on their surroundings in all matters of charity.

In this way, we transform the opportunity, this entire country, into a land that is worthy for G-d to declare it "a sanctuary for Me." We build places of holiness for G-d, whether they are holy structures, or holiness in our business, or holiness accomplished by taking from our business and giving a tenth, or a fifth, to charitable causes.

And may G-d say of our efforts "I will dwell amongst them"; that as much success as He has granted in the past, from now on, He will grant us many times more.

