

# להביא לימות המשיח

## NEW WORLD

*Current Events Indicate Moshiach's Imminent Arrival*

**The year was 5750. The Iron Curtain had fallen. The world watched wide-mouthed as the walls that had oppressed millions of people for seventy years came crumbling down; giving way to a mass-exodus of Yidden thirsting for meaning and bringing an amazing revival of Yiddishkeit, which had been almost nonexistent beforehand.**

**In numerous *sichos* during that period, the Rebbe explained that these occurrences are not coincidental. The world has clearly begun to show the effect caused by the *avoda* of Klal Yisroel over thousands of years; the refinement of the nations around us is actually the prelude to the times of *geulah*.**

**But this did not start suddenly; so let us go a bit back in time...**

### **DARKNESS**

Looking back at the many years that have passed since the creation of the world, one comes to the realization that overall they have been far from calm or peaceful. While there have been pockets of times of peace and prosperity, they are definitely few and far between. This planet's history seems to be replete with war and bloodshed, animosity between nations and discord among mankind.

Jewish history is even more painful to view. Many of the outstanding events in our history are related to unfortunate occurrences. The *churban habayis*, the

Spanish expulsion, and the tragedies of *tach v'tat*, are only a partial list of the horrific events associated with major turning points in *divrei yemei Yisrael*. It seems that Yidden have spent the generations being expelled from one country to another on good days, suffering pogroms and being murdered on worse ones. These were not isolated events; Yidden have been consistently treated as second-class citizens wherever they found themselves throughout their long history of wandering.

The last century has been no different. We experienced two world wars, which

wrought destruction unparalleled in history, with the Jewish nation going through the Holocaust, suffering a blow it had not underwent since the destruction of the *Beis Hamikdosh* many generations earlier.

In recent times, however, we have been witness to drastic change. Countries seek peace and prosperity for themselves as well as for the world in general, and ethics and morals have become part and parcel of the lives of millions of people. Instead of showing force to attain goals, governments recognize the value of joining forces to tackle issues that they cannot fix on their own.

The Jewish nation has been a part of this turn-around as well. Yidden today live prosperous lives in an unprecedented manner, taking leading positions in all of the major fields of government and commerce in the modern world.

The Rebbe taught us that these wonderful changes that are taking place are not coincidental. Every such event that occurs is in actuality an expression of the world's transformation in preparation for the ultimate redemption.

### **CHASSIDUS IN THE HEADLINES**

Torah explains that Moshiach is not just a personal savior of the Jewish nation; rather he will affect the entire

world, bringing it to a whole different level of consciousness. In the Rambam's words<sup>1</sup>, Moshiach will "improve the entire world, motivating all the nations to serve Hashem together," after which "the occupation of the entire world will be solely to know Hashem." During that time all of the peoples of the world will recognize the true faith, I.e. the Torah and the *Sheva Mitzvos*, with atheists and people of all religions serving Hashem.

The feeling in the world then will be that our entire existence is to serve our Creator, and physical matters will be considered insignificant. As the Rambam writes "all the delights will be available like dust" (meaning that people will consider them as unimportant as dust), and the world will be filled with knowledge of the *Aibershter* "זמלאה הארץ לים מכסים" דעה את ה' כמים לים מכסים.

[The Rebbe once told Reb Shmuel Levitin that when he calls for *hafotzas hama'ayanos* he means that Chassidus should spread so far that the headlines of the newspapers should announce a new *shiur* in Chassidus was founded in this shul. That in such-and-such place there will be a *shiur* at such-and-such time. This is similar to what will be considered meaningful news in Moshiach's times; not empty and vain occurrences, rather *shiurei* Chassidus which bring the world to "know Hashem."]

This universal belief in Hashem will lead to another change, namely that all people, as well as all creations, will live together in peace and harmony. There will no longer be a need to feel superior to

others, and to destroy those they feel negate their existence.

When this will take place, it will not come as a shock to the world. Humankind will already be heading somewhat in that direction and will therefore be prepared for the drastic event that will come upon it.

This trend was already felt almost one thousand years ago. The Rambam writes that "the deeds of *Yeshe Hanotzri* and the *Yishme'ali* [i.e. Mohammed] who arose after him will only serve to prepare the way for Moshiach's coming, and for the improvement of the entire world, motivating the nations to serve Hashem together."

The world's preparation for the *geulah* is accomplished by Yidden learning Torah and doing mitzvos, through which they slowly gather the lost sparks of *kedusha* and return them to their proper source. By doing so they gradually prepare the world to be befitting of a higher revelation of *Elokus*, which will take



A GROUP OF RUSSIAN CHILDREN PASS BY THE REBBE DURING THE LAG B'OMER PARADE, 5747.

place with the coming of Moshiach. It is therefore seemingly inevitable, that after many generations of work, that we have begun to gradually have an effect on the world around us. The changes are strikingly similar, and actually the prelude to, the ultimate change that will transpire when the efforts are finally concluded.



U.S. PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN AND SOVIET GENERAL SECRETARY MIKHAIL GORBACHEV SIGNING THE INF TREATY TO ELIMINATE THEIR NUCLEAR MISSILES



OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT: AIRMEN AND KURDISH REFUGEES UNLOAD FOOD SUPPLIES FROM A US ARMY HELICOPTER DURING OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT, AN EFFORT TO AID THE REFUGEES WHO FLED THE FORCES OF SADDAM HUSSEIN IN NORTHERN IRAQ

### THE BEGINNING OF THE END

Since we live in a time that most of the efforts have been completed, we are able to see with our own eyes how the world has begun a trend towards unity and belief in Hashem.

In the 5743, the Rebbe began promoting an innovative idea designed to engage a specific group of people in a way that had never been done before. While all the previous *mivtzoim* were directed towards Yidden, the Rebbe now urged that we teach the world in general about the code of ethics and morals designated by the Torah: namely the *Sheva Mitzvos B'nei Noach*.

The world accepted the urging in a wondrous way; until our times, the Jews were viewed as a 'second-class' nation, and Yidden themselves preferred to keep their religious practice at home. Suddenly, everyone acknowledged the value of the Jewish nation and their religion. This was to the point that the proclamation of President Ronald Reagan in honor of the Rebbe's eightieth birthday read as follows:

"The Lubavitcher Rebbe . . . has provided a vivid example of the eternal validity of the Seven Noahide Laws, a moral code for all of us regardless of religious faith. May he go from strength to strength."

On Purim 5747, the Rebbe himself explained that this *mivtza* is in fact more suitable for our times than for the past:

"The reason that Yidden didn't try to affect the nations in previous generations, is simply because it would endanger their lives. Today however, speaking to a non-Jew regarding the *Sheva Mitzvos* is not a danger; rather it is something that he will appreciate and respect. This proves that there has been a clear change in the world, and it is a change for the good."

On the following Shabbos Hagadol, the Rebbe continued on the same topic:

"The President of the country has spoken publicly about the importance of the *Sheva Mitzvos* for every individual, and he has repeated this idea several times. It has indeed been accepted, not only in this country, but in many others as well; including those that are still not ready to accept them as a commandment of the Creator of the world, instead they do so only as rational a moral value.

"The very fact that the president has spoken about this concept is a clear sign from on High that this is an important and vital task. We find ourselves at the 'end of days,' and we have therefore begun working with the non-Jews, in order to prepare the world for the time when we will all serve Hashem together.

"However, apparently we have not done enough, so we have been shown a clear signal by the fact that the President has spoken in this regard, that we must add to our efforts; for 'the hearts of kings and ministers are in the hands of Hashem.'"

### OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT

Several years later, another event occurred, which strengthened the view that countries are slowly getting closer to an era of goodness and kindness.

In the end of Nissan 5751, a revolt took place in northern Iraq, with thousands



of Kurds protesting the oppression they were subjected to be under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein.

Iraqi forces had brutally suppressed earlier Kurdish revolts and had even used chemical weapons in doing so. When Iraqi forces subdued this uprising, more than one million Kurdish refugees fled to Iran and Turkey. Hundreds of thousands of additional Kurds remained along the border of Iraq and Turkey, where thousands died due to a lack of food, water, clothing, blankets, shelter, and medical supplies.

In response, the United States organized a task force and launched Operation Provide Comfort, delivering as many as 600 pallets of supplies per day. In addition to the airdrops, US Air Force aircraft flew thousands of tons of cargo from the United States to Turkey.

During a *sicha*<sup>2</sup>, the Rebbe explained the uniqueness of the occurrence:

“It is well known that this country has recently used its might to help and save people in a distant place, sending vast amounts of soldiers from its army, together with food, clothing, and medication. Instead of using the food and clothing for the citizens of this country, they are using it to save an unfortunate people, especially small children, from the cold, and even from the opposite of life.

“When they heard that people are suffering—although they are not their relatives, and they never had a connection to them—they immediately rushed to help them.

“We see how the nations are performing acts of goodness and kindness, which reveals furthermore that ‘there is a master to this palace.’ It is a preparation to the time when “והיתה לה המלוכה” with the true and complete redemption.”

### “STUBBORN-HEARTED NATIONS”

While the United States embraced the *Sheva Mitzvos*, deep changes were affecting other parts of the world. As mentioned, the citizens of the Soviet Union began to feel waves of openness and liberty flowing subtly through government circles. During the years 5750 and 5751, which the Rebbe coined as ‘*shnas nissim*’ and ‘*shnas ar’enu niflaos*,’ the waves exploded into a rushing current of freedom that shockingly swept away the Communist entity, which had for so many decades ruthlessly crushed any semblance of religion.

During the previous seventy years, people living in the USSR had been dictated to live a life according to the Communist ideals. Concepts such as G-d, religion, and Judaism were considered

contraband, and woe to the parent that tried to “indoctrinate” his or her children with such fallacies.

Now, however, there was a total turn-around; Yiddishkeit was not only permitted, but the government endeavored to support it and to help spread its influence.

The similarities to Moshiach’s times are quite obvious. The very fact that the non-Jewish government tried to be of assistance to the Yidden in their country, especially in the spreading of the belief in one G-d, is an expression of their ‘readiness’ for the *geulah*.

Moreover, on Shabbos Bereishis 5751, the Rebbe demonstrated how we can see the advent of the *geulah* in three additional factors of these wondrous events.

Firstly, Moshiach’s coming will be a miraculous occurrence; the turnover

### ACHDUS HASHEM

The Rebbe explained on different occasions<sup>6</sup> that many of the things we take for granted in today’s day and age are really forerunners for Moshiach. For example, just as Moshiach will bring wealth and prosperity to the world, so too we in our generation are privileged to live with economic standards that our ancestors could only dream of.

Another aspect of the upcoming era is world harmony, in which all will realize that the only true existence is that of the *Aibershter*, and that all other existences come from him. In other words, they will feel that all of the many elements of the creation—people, animals, ideas, etc.—are all really one, Hashem himself. The Rebbe noted during a *farbrengen* in 5738 that we see this materializing; there is a tendency to create a general unity to reach common universal goals, and this is not limited to the political sphere:

“We find a wondrous thing: In previous generations, the style of business was ‘each to his own.’ However, as business and economics progress, there is a constant search to find ways to join together with others, and to connect different branches of commerce together.

“...This is the case even more in regards to science. As the generations pass, there is a growing thought process that does not view ideas as independent concepts, rather seeks to find the common denominator between many different theories, and even to unify many different and wide ranging parts of *chochmos chitzoniyos*.”

in Russia was undoubtedly a wondrous event which was not possible within the limits of natural occurrence. Additionally, the revolution had brought a government that strove to exist by principals of *tzedek* and *yosher*, as the entire world will do when we arrive at the “end of time.” And third was the mass exodus of Russian Jews to freedom, which the Rebbe compared to the *kibbutz galuyos* (ingathering of the exiles), which Moshiach will carry out at the beginning of his reign.

### MIRACLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

On another occasion the Rebbe continued to expound on the same topic, connecting it with occurrences taking place in other areas, pointing out an additional underlying factor.

The Rebbe said<sup>3</sup>:

“There are those who are surprised by the claim that we are standing at the end of the *golus*; they ask, ‘Where do we see this? It seems that the world, year by year, is running its normal course!’ It is very surprising that they don’t pay attention to the well-known and widely publicized

events that are taking place in the world.

“In the recent years, extreme revolutions have taken place throughout the world, completely changing the face of governments. And in Hashem’s kindness, they take place quietly, without war and bloodshed *rachmana litzlan*; to the point that day-to-day life, business etc., continues to take place normally, as if nothing has changed, even though there has been a complete turnaround in the leadership of the country.

“First and foremost in Russia, where—after a period of seventy years of a strict and fearful regime who terrified the entire country, to the point that one would be exiled to Siberia for stating a critical comment regarding the administration—there has suddenly been, in a short period of time, a radical change in the government. And this has spread to other places as well.

“A similar event has taken place in China. In recent times there has been a revolution within the inner circle of the leadership, which also affected their relationship with other countries. And likewise in India, where within a short

period of time, the long-standing regime was replaced. And the same is occurring in many other countries, even in distant islands, as is well known.

“Revolutions within governments and administrations were once automatically accompanied by blood-soaked wars dragging on for long periods of time, disrupting lives, and leaving destruction and devastation in its wake.

“There is no need to search in the distant past; we have seen this clearly in the terrible destruction during World War II, *lo takum pa’amayim tzara*.

“Yet in our times, even larger revolutions have taken place, and they have occurred without bloodshed, but in silence and serenity. One of the reasons for this is, that after so much work has been done, the nations have almost been completely “*nisbarer*,” and all we have left is פכים קטנים, “small vessels.”

### SWORDS BEATEN INTO PLOWSHARES

The changes in the USSR affected people on an international scale, for it also brought about the end of the Cold War which had dragged on for the previous forty years.

The stalemate that the eastern and western hemispheres had been holding for all those decades had led to an unimaginable amount of spending on weapons, ammunition, and especially nuclear warfare; as each side felt that it had to be ready for an all-out war against the other.

The current new reality, however, led to a conference under the auspices of the United Nations during which the United States as well as Russia undertook a resolution to drastically decrease spending on weapons, directing funds instead towards bolstering the economy and to assisting in humanitarian aid.



RUSSIAN CHILDREN SAY SHEMA IN A NEWLY FOUNDED RUSSIAN CAMP, CIRCA 1991



PHOTO: JEM/THE LIVING ARCHIVE / 146591

During the Shabbos farbrengen a short while later<sup>4</sup>, the Rebbe explained the lesson we can learn from the recent events:

“One of the promises of the *geulah* in regards to the actions of the nations, is וכתתו חרבותם לאיתים...לא ישא גוי אל גוי חרב ולא ילמדו עוד מלחמה (They will beat their swords into plowshares...nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore).

“In recent days heads of states have been announcing their reduction of weaponry, enhancing instead their commitment to the economy of the country and of the entire world. This is a clear indication of the beginning of the fulfillment of this promise.

“די העכסטע צייט”<sup>5</sup> the highest time, we can already see a beginning of the effect of Melech Hamoshiach on the nations. Hashem has affected the hearts of the kings of the nations to announce together that וכתתו חרבותם לאיתים.

“Additionally, the fact that the conference took place in the city of the *nossi hador* suggests that this is all a result of the spreading of Torah and Yiddishkeit throughout the world, which was done—and continues being done—by the *nossi* of our generation, the Moshiach of the generation; to the point that the world is not worthy for the beginning of the effect of Moshiach<sup>5</sup>.

### HAMAASE HU HA'IKAR

As always, everything we learn and see must have an effect on our daily lives. In one of the *sichos* we brought above, the Rebbe concluded:

“Any event that takes place in the world is in reality an outcome of the work of *B'nei Yisrael*. Therefore, when Yidden add in their efforts, it automatically creates a change in the state of the entire universe.

“Our mission should therefore be to add in our activities, which will in turn affect the world around us, strengthening the true reign of the Creator of the world. This will ultimately cause the revelation

of Hashem’s kingship, and the entire world will be filled with knowledge of Hashem, למים לים מכסים.” **D**

1. הל' מלכים פי"א הלכה ד'
2. Hisva'aduyos 5751 Vol. 3 Pg. 187
3. Sefer Hasichos 5750 Vol. 1 Pg. 159
4. Shabbos Parshas Mishpotim 5752
5. It is worthy to note, that the United Nations, which was created to promote unity and peace between nations, was formed in the “lower hemisphere” soon after the arrival of the *nossi hador* to this very area (beginning with the decision that was undertaken in the middle of the war, around 5702, and mainly at the end of the war, approximately in 5705), and it chose its dwelling place in the city of the *nossi*, and then built their unique building (around 5711). This all emphasizes the idea that the peace and unity between countries is an outcome of the actions of the *nossi* in being “*mivarer*” the world (through spreading Torah and Yiddishkeit, as well as justice and morality throughout the world). And as the effect of the *nossi* grows, so too does the effect of the organization created to add in world peace, including the fulfillment of the promise “They will beat their swords into plowshares” which is the foundation of this union. (Sefer Hasichos 5752 Pg. 365 Ft. 26).
6. Hisva'aduyos 5751 Vol. 4 Pg. 50