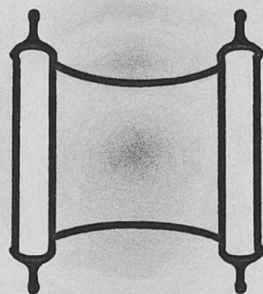


בס"ד

Reb Meir of Premishlan

Divrie Meir

Parshas Vayechi



*Dedicated In Honor Of:
Anonymous*

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וְאֲנִי נָתַתִּי לְךָ שֶׁכֶם אֶחָד עַל אֶחִידָה אֲשֶׁר לָקַחְתִּי מִיַּד הָאֱמֹרִי בְּחַרְבִּי וּבִקְשָׁתִי מִחַ, כֹּב

And I — I have given you Shechem — one portion over your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Emorite with my sword and with my bow (Genesis 48:22)

We find in Parshas Vayechi that Yaakov said, “which I took ... with my sword and with my bow,” and the Targum Onkelos translates, “with my prayer and with my supplication.” Say from here that warfare accomplishes nothing; only prayer to the G-d, Creator of all the worlds, accomplishes.

מְצִינוּ בַּפָּרָשָׁה וִיחִי שְׁאָמַר יַעֲקֹב אֲשֶׁר לָקַחְתִּי וְכו' בְּחַרְבִּי וּבִקְשָׁתִי, וְתַרְגּוּם אוֹנֵקֶלוֹס בְּצִלּוֹתִי וּבִקְעוּתִי, אָמַר מַעֲתָה כִּי הַמִּלְחָמָה לֹא תִפְעַל מְאוּמָּה, אֲךֹּ הַתְּפִלָּה לֹא-ל בּוֹרֵא כָּל הָעוֹלָמִים פּוֹעֵלֶת

[NOTE Summary

Rabbi Meir of Premishlan explains the verse in Parshas Vayechi where Yaakov says he took Shechem “with my sword and with my bow.” The Targum Onkelos renders this as “with my prayer and with my supplication,” teaching that true victory is not achieved through physical combat. While battles may be fought with weapons, their outcomes ultimately depend not on military might but on heartfelt connection to Hashem through prayer. Prayer reaches beyond human limitation, for it engages the Creator of all worlds, whose will alone determines success.

Practical Takeaway

When facing challenges, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, we must remember that our real strength lies in turning to Hashem with sincere prayer. Effort is necessary, but it is tefillah that draws down blessing and changes reality.

Chassidic Story

It is told that Rabbi Meir of Premishlan once heard of a Jewish family being threatened by hostile townspeople. Some urged him to intervene by sending strong men to guard their home. Rabbi Meir shook his head and walked straight to the shul. There, he opened the Aron Kodesh and poured out his heart in prayer. Within the hour, the would-be attackers mysteriously dispersed without a fight. When asked what had happened, Rabbi Meir said softly, “They thought they were coming to battle us. But the moment they met my ‘sword and bow’—prayer and supplication—they had no strength left to harm.”

END NOTE]