

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מִשִּׁיחוֹת שַׁבָּת־פָּרָשֵׁת בָּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַּמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

Introduction

This discourse by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, delivered on Shabbos Parshas Balak, 10 Tammuz 5751 (1991), explores the profound connection between the learning of Torah—especially Torah learned *lishmah* (for its own sake)—and the complete and eternal redemption through Moshiach. The Rebbe intricately links the sixth chapter of Pirkei Avos with the broader framework of redemption, showing how every layer of Torah, from Mishnah to Baraisa to future Torah Chadasha, participates in a single divine continuum. The Rebbe emphasizes how our Torah learning today, even if it feels peripheral or "outside" (like the Baraisos), contains within it the infinite power of Moshiach's Torah. Through this, we not only prepare for redemption—we actually bring it about. This message becomes particularly urgent as the Rebbe points out the imminence of Moshiach's arrival and pleads that such discussions become obsolete—not because they are irrelevant, but because the reality they describe is already here.

(8)

The unique concept of a Shabbos that falls on the Seventeenth of Tammuz (when the fast is postponed) can be explained in two ways:

a) Simply: Since fasting is forbidden on Shabbos—especially a fast associated with undesirable matters (days on which all Israel fast because of the troubles that occurred on them)—since "Shabbos knows no sadness," and more than that, Shabbos is a day of joy ("and on your joyous days"—these are the Shabbasos) and delight ("and you shall call the Shabbos delight")—therefore the fast is postponed from Shabbos to Sunday.

עִנְיָנוֹ הַמְיָחָד שֶׁל יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת שֶׁחָל בּוֹשִׁבְעָה עֲשֶׂר
:בְּתַמוּז (שֻׁהַצוֹם נִדְּחָה') - יֵשׁ לְבָצֵר בְּב' צֻּפָנִים
א) בְּפַשְׁטוּת: כֵּיוָן שֶׁיּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת אָסוּר בְּתַצְנִית,
וְעַל־אַחַת־כַּמָּה וְכַמָּה תַּעֲנִית הַקְשׁוּרָה עִם עִנְיָנִים
בְּלְתִּי רְצוּיִים (יָמִים שֶׁכָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל מִתְעַנִּים בָּהֶם
מִּבְּנִי הַצִּרוֹת שֶׁאֵרְעוּ בָּהָן"), שֶׁהָרֵי שַׁבָּת אֵין עָצֶב
בָּה", וִיתַרָה מִזֶּה, שֶׁיּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת הוּא יוֹם שֶׁל שִׂמְחָה
בָּה", וְיִתַרָה מִזֶּה, שֶׁיּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּתוֹת") וְתַצְנוּג (וְקָרָאתְ
לַשַׁבָּת עֹנָג") – נִדְחִית הַתַּעֲנִית מִפְּנֵי הַשַּׁבָּת לִיוֹם
רִאשׁוֹן שֵׁלְאַחַרי הַשַּׁבַּת

(2)

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On a deeper level, one could say: The postponement of the fast because of Shabbos is not only a delay to a different day, but—primarily—a granting of power to push off and nullify the וּבָעמֶק יוֹתֵר אוּלַי יֵשׁ־לוֹמַר: דְּחָיַתהַתַּעֵנִית מִפּנֵי יוֹם fast entirely. As we find with Tisha B'Av that falls on Shabbos... הַשַּבַּת הַיא (לא רַק דָחַיַה לִיוֹם אַחַר, אֶלַא גַם וּבְעַקַר) and it is postponed until after Shabbos, and Rabbi said: "Since it נָתִינַת כֹּחַ לְדָחִיָּתוֹ וּבָטוּלוֹ מִכֹּל וְכֹל, כָּפִי שֶׁמַצִינוּ was pushed off—it should be fully dismissed" (and how much בָּתִשָּׁעַה בָּאַב שֶׁחַל לָהִיוֹת בִּשַׁבַּת .. וּדְחִינוּהוּ לְאַחַר הַשַּׁבָּת וְאָמַר רַבִּי הוֹאִיל וְנִדְחָה יִדְּחָה" (וְעַל־אַחַת־ כַּמָּה more so regarding the 17th of Tammuz, which is not as severe as Tisha B'Ay, for according to the basic law, when there is no royal וְכַמָּה בְּנוֹגַעַ לְשִׁבְעָה עָשֶׂר בְּתַמוּז שֶׁאֵינוֹ חָמוּר כְּתִשְׁעָה decree and there is no peace, those who wish may fast, those who בָּאַב, שֶׁהַרֵי מֵעִקַר הַדִּין כְּשֶׁאֵין גְזֶרַת הַמַּלְכוּת וְאֵין do not, need not fast—except for Tisha B'Av, since troubles were שַׁלוֹם, רָצוּ מִתְעַנִּין רָצוּ אֵין מִתְעַנִּין", מִלְבַד תִּשְׁעַה doubled on that day), and even more so in light of the בָּאַב הוֹאִיל וְהַכְפָלוּ בּוֹ צַרוֹת"), וְעַד לְהַדְּחָיָה שֶׁבִּימוֹת postponement that will occur in the days of Moshiach, per the הַמָּשִׁיחַי, כִּפְסַק־דִּין הָרַמְבַּ"םיי שֶׁכָּל הַצוֹמוֹת הָאֵלוּ ruling of the Rambam that all these fasts will in the future be עַתִידִים לָבַּטֵל לִימוֹת הַמֵּשִׁיחַ", וִיתַרַה מְזַה, כָּפִי completely nullified in the days of Moshiach—and beyond that, as שָׁמוֹסִיף וְלֹא עוֹד אֶלָּא שֶׁהֵם עֲתִידִים לִהְיוֹת יָמִים the Rambam adds: not only will they be nullified, but they will טוֹבִים וִימֵי שָּׁשׂוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה, שֶׁנֶּאֱמֵריי כֹּה אָמַר ה' צְבָאוֹת become days of celebration and joy, as it says (Zechariah 8:19): צוֹם הַרְבִיעִי וָגוֹ' יָהָיֶה לְבֵית יְהוּדָה לְשָׁשׁוֹן וּלְשִׂמְחָה "Thus says the L-rd of Hosts: The fast of the fourth [month]... shall יוּלְמַעַדִים טוֹבִים וָהָאֱמֶת וְהַשָּׁלוֹם אֶהָבוּ "וּלְמַעַדִים טוֹבִים וְהָאֱמֶת be to the House of Judah for joy and gladness and cheerful festivals—love truth and peace." And one can say that a taste of this nullification and transformation וְנֵשׁ לוֹמֵר, שַׁמֵעֵין זָה (בִּטוּל הַצוֹם וַהַפִּיכַתוֹ לְשַׁשׁוֹן (of the fast into joy and gladness) already happens on a fast day וּלְשָׂמָהַה) נַעֲשָׂה בִּיוֹם הַתַּעֲנִית שֶׁחַל בִּשַּׁבַּת – שַׁלֹא זוּ that falls on Shabbos—not only is the fast cancelled, but it is בָּלְבַד שֶׁהַתַּצֵנִית בָּטַל, אֶלָּא שֶׁמְתָהַפַּךְ לְשִׂמְחָה וְתַצֵנוּג transformed into the joy and delight of Shabbos. דִיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת. Put another way: the relationship of the fast day to Shabbos is וּבָסָגנוֹן אַחֵר קצַת: הַיַּחַס דִיוֹם הַתַּצַנִית לִיוֹם הַשַּׁבַּת twofold: (a) the rejection of the undesirable aspect of the הוּא בָּב' אֶפָנִים: (א) שָׁלִילַת הָעָנָיָן הַבִּלְתִּי רָצוּי דְּיּוֹם fast—which does not belong on Shabbos and is postponed to the ֹהַתַּצְנִית, שֶׁאֵינוֹ שַׁיָּךְ בְּשַׁבָּת וְנִדְחָה מִפָּנָיו לְמָחֶרָתוֹ, (ב) next day; (b) the emphasis of the positive aspect of the הַדְגֶשַׁת הָעִנָיָן הַחִיוּבִי דִּיוֹם הַתַּצֵנִית שֶׁיֶשְׁנוֹ גַּם כְּשֶׁחָל fast—which exists even when it falls on Shabbos (and even more בְּשַׁבָּת (וְאַדְרַבָּה, בִּיָתָר שְׂאֵת וּבְיָתָר עז) – שֶׁמְּתְהַפַּךְ so, with greater elevation and power)—that it is transformed into לשַשון וּלְשָׁמָחַה. joy and gladness. Explanation of the concept: The fast day, in its external aspect, is ב. וּבָאוּר הָעִנְיָן: something undesirable—a form of affliction that opposes will and יוֹם הַתַּעֲנִית בָּחִיצוֹנִיוּתוֹ הוּא־עָנָיַן בָּלְתִּי רַצוּי, עַנּוּיdelight. But in its inner aspect, it is actually something good, as the שָׁהוּא הַפֶּךְ הַרַצוֹן וְהֵענָג, אֲבַל בַּפִנִימִיוּתוֹ הוּא־עָנִיַן verse calls it: "a day of favor to Hashem." "טוֹב, כִּלְשׁוֹן הַכָּתוּב "יוֹם רָצוֹן לַה

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And more specifically, regarding the "Fast of the Fourth [Month]"—the first of the four fasts explicitly mentioned in the Prophets ("The fast of the fourth, the fifth, the seventh, and the tenth")—which in its external aspect is something negative, related to destruction and exile, but in its inner aspect is good.	וּבִפְּרָטִיוּת יוֹתֵר בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְ"צוֹם הָרְבִיעִי", הָרִאשׁוֹן מִד'- יְמֵי הַצוֹמוֹת הַמְפֹּרָשִׁין בַּקַבָּלָה ("צוֹם הָרְבִיעִי וְצוֹם הַחֲמִישִׁי וְצוֹם הַשְׁבִיעִי וְצוֹם הָעֲשִׂירִי") שֶׁבְּחִיצוֹנִיוּתוֹ הוּא־עִנְיָן בִּלְתִּי רָצוּי הַקָּשׁוּר עִם הַחָּרְבֶּן וְהַגָּלוּת, אֲבָל בִּפְנִימִיּוּתוֹ הוּא־עִנְיָן טוֹב
This is even hinted at in the fixed date of the "Fast of the Fourth [Month]" on the seventeenth of the month, which equals "good) in gematria—leading all the way to the complete good of redemption (the true and complete Redemption), since the intent and purpose of destruction and exile is only to reach the elevation and completeness of Redemption. That is, exile is merely an external matter, while its inner truth is Redemption.	כַּמְרְמָּז גַּם בְּהַקְבִיעוּת דְּ"צוֹם הָרְבִיעִי" בְּיוֹם שִׁבְעָה עָשֶׂר בַּחֹדֶשׁ, בְּגִימֵטְרִיָּא "טוֹב", וְעַד לִשְׁלֵמוּת הַטוֹב בַּגְאָלָה (הָאֲמִתִּית וְהַשְׁלֵמָה), כֵּיוָן שֶׁהַכַּוּנָה וְהַתַּכְלִית דְּכְלָלוּת עִנְיַן הַחָּרְבֶּן וְהַגָּלוּת אֵינוֹ אָלֶא כְּדֵי לְבוֹא לְהָעִלּוּי וְהַשְׁלֵמוּת דְּהַגְּאֲלָה (הָאֵמִתִּית וְהַשְׁלַמָה), הַיְנוּ, שֶׁהַגָּלוּת הוּא־עִנְיָן חִיצוֹנִי, וּפְנִימִיוּתוֹ הִיא הַגְאָלָה
Based on this, we can explain what the Gemara says in its interpretation of the verse: "The fast of the fourth shall be to the House of Judah for joy and gladness" — it calls it both a fast and a day of gladness. The Gemara explains: When there is peace, they will be for joy and gladness; when there is no peace—it remains a fast.	וְעַל־פִּי־זֶה יֵשׁ לְבָאֵר מַה־שֶׁכָּתוּב בַּגְמָרָא בְּפֵרוּשׁ הַכָּתוּב "צוֹם הָרְבִיעִי וְגוֹ' יִהְיֶה לְבֵית יְהוּדָה לְשָׁשׁוֹן וּלְשִׂמְחָה גוֹ''', "קָרֵי לְהוּ צוֹם וְקָרֵי לְהוּ שָׁשׁוֹן וְשִׁמְחָה", "בִּזְמֵן שֶׁיֵשׁ שָׁלוֹם יִהְיוּ לְשָּׁשׁוֹן וּלְשִׁמְחָה, אֵין שָׁלוֹם – "צוֹם
At first glance, this is difficult: how can one day be called by two completely opposite names—a fast and joy and gladness? Rather, the answer is that the <i>intention and ultimate purpose (the inner essence) of the fast</i> is its transformation into joy and gladness, which comes <i>after</i> and <i>through</i> the destruction and exile.	ךְּלְכְאוֹרָה אֵינוֹ מוּבָן: אֵיךּ יִקְרָא יוֹם אֶחָד בְּשֵׁמוֹת – הָפְפִּיִים לְגַמְרֵי, "צוֹם" וְ"שָׁשוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה"? אֶלָּא פֵּיוָן שָׁפַּוּנַת וְתַכְלִית (הַפְּנִימִיוּת דְּ) "הַצוֹם" הִיא הָפִיכָתוֹ לְשָׁשוֹן וְשִׁמְחָה, שֶׁבָּאָה לְאַחֲרֵי וְעַלֹ־יְדֵי הַחָּרְבֶּן וְהַגָּלוּת
But during exile, the main focus is on the fast itself ("when there is no peace—it is a fast"), while in the Redemption, its true nature will be revealed: joy and gladness ("when there is peace—they will be for joy and gladness").	אֶלָּא שֶׁבִּזְמֵן הַגָּלוּת מְדְגֶשׁ בְּעִקֶר עִנְיֵן הַצוֹם ("אֵין שָׁלוֹם – צוֹם"), וּבְהַגְּאָלָה יִתְגַּלָּה עִנְיָנוֹ הָאֲמִתִּי – "שָׁשׂוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה" ("בִּזְמֵן שֶׁיֵשׁ שָׁלוֹם – יִהִיוּ לְשָׁשׁוֹן "וּלְשָׂמְחָה

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(1)

And something similar applies to a fast day that falls on Shabbos: Since the day of Shabbos is a "day of divine favor", "the most desirable of days You have called it," and it is also associated with Redemption, as emphasized in the Song of the Day—"A psalm, a song for the day of Shabbos," which the Sages say refers to "a psalm for the future to come, for the day that is entirely Shabbos and rest for eternal life"—therefore, when a fast day falls on Shabbos, the aspect of the fast connected with destruction and exile has no relevance; only the aspect of joy and gladness associated with Redemption applies.

וּמֵעֵין זֶה – בְּיוֹם הַתַּעֲנִית שֶׁחָלבְּשַׁבָּת כִּיוָן שֶׁיּוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת הוּא "יוֹם רָצוֹן", "חָמְדַּת יָמִים אוֹתוֹ קְרָאתָ", וְעַד שֶׁקָּשׁוּר עִם הַגְּאָלָה, כַּמָּדְגֶשׁ בְּשִׁירוֹ שֶׁל יוֹם, "מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לִיוֹם הַשַּבָּת", "מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר לָעָתִיד לְבוֹא, לְיוֹם שֶׁכָּלוֹ שַבָּת וּמְנוּחָה לְחַיֵּי הָעוֹלָמִים" – לָכֵן, כְּשֶׁחָל בּוֹ יוֹם הַתַּעֲנִית, לֹא שֵׁיָּדְ בּוֹ עִנְיַן "הַצוֹם" הַקָּשׁוּר עִם הַחְרְבָּן וְהַגָּלוּת, כִּי אִם הָעִנְיָן דְּ"שָּׁשׁוֹן וִשִּׁמִּחָה" הַקִּשׁוּר עִם הַגָּאֵלָה.

This idea is emphasized through the eating and drinking on a fast day that falls on Shabbos, where it is a mitzvah to delight in it with pleasurable food and drink—large fish, meat and wine, rich delicacies and fragrant beverages (fatty meat and aged wine). This not only negates the *affliction*—the abstention from food and drink that defines a fast and is undesirable—but, more importantly, highlights the *joy and delight* in the eating of fine meat and drinking of aged wine.

ְּוְעִנְיֶן זֶה מַדְגָּשׁ בְּהָצְכִילָה וּשְׁתִיָּה בְּיוֹם הַתַּעֲנִית שֶׁחָל בְּשַׁבָּת, שֶׁמִּצְוָה לְעַנְגוֹ בְּ"עֲנְג אֲכִילָה וּשְׁתִיָּה", "דָּגִים גְּדוֹלִים .. בָּשֶׂר ויין", תַּבְשִׁיל שָׁמַן בְּיוֹתֵר וּמַשְׁקָה מְבָשָׁם ("בָּשָׂר שָׁמַן וְיִין יָשָׁן") – שֶׁבָּזָה מְדְגָשׁ לֹא רַק שְׁלִילַת הָעִנּוּי דְהָעְדַּר הָאֲכִילָה וּשְׁתִיָּה, הָעִנְיָן הַבִּּלְתִי רֶצוּי דִּיוֹם הַתַּעֲנִית, אֶלָּא גַּם (וּבְעָקָר) הַשִּׂמְחָה וְהַתַּעֲנוּג שֶׁבֵּאֵכִילַת בַּשַּׂר שָׁמֵן וּשְׁתִיַּת יַיִן יַשַׁן

(It could be suggested that when a fast day falls on Shabbos, one should increase in this delight even more than on all other Shabbasos of the year, to entirely negate the mistaken thought that one should reduce pleasure because it is a fast day.) For this is the true positive concept of the fast day: that it is transformed into a festival of joy and gladness.

שָׁאוּלֵי יֵשׁ־לוֹמֵר שֶׁבְּיוֹם הַתַּעֲנִית שֶׁחָל בְּשַׁבָּת צָרִיךּ") לְהוֹסִיף בָּזָה יוֹתֵר מִבְּכָל שַׁבְּתוֹת הַשָּׁנָה, כְּדֵי לִשְׁלַל הַקָּקָא־סַלְקָא דַּעְתָּךְ שָׁל מִעוּט בָּזֶה בִּגְלַל יוֹם הַתַּעֲנִית"), הָעִנְיָן הַטוֹב דְיוֹם הַתַּעֲנִית, שֶׁמִּתְהַפֵּךְ לְיוֹם טוֹב לְשָׁשׂוֹן וּלְשִׁמְחָה

And one may say that the eating of great fish, fatty meat, and aged wine in the Shabbos meal that coincides with the fast day (and perhaps, as stated above, it should be increased more than on other Shabbos days) hints at the feast that G-d will make for the righteous in the future, when "Your people are all righteous." They will eat from the meat of the Leviathan and the Wild Ox, and drink wine that has been preserved since the six days of creation.

ןְיֵשׁ לוֹמֵר, שֶׁבַּאֲכִילַת דָּגִים גְּדוֹלִים וּבָשֶׂר שָׁמֵן וּשְׁתִּיַת יֵין יָשֶׁן בִּסְעוּדַת שַׁבָּת שֶׁחָל בּוֹ יוֹם הַתַּעֲנִית (שָׁאוּלִי כַּנִּזְכָּר לְעֵיל יֵשׁ־לוֹמֵר שֶׁצָרִיךְ לְהוֹסִיף בָּזֶה יוֹתֵר מִבְּכָל שַׁבְּתוֹת הַשָּׁנָה) מְרְמֶזֶת גַּם הַסְעוּדָה שֶׁעָתִיד הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא לַעֲשׁוֹת לַצַדִּיקִים ("וְעַמֶּךְ כַּלְם צַדִּיקִים") לֶעָתִיד לָבוֹא, שֶׁבָּה יֹאכְלוּ מִבְּשֵׁר הַלְוְיָתָן וְשׁוֹר הַבָּר וְיִשְׁתּוּ יַיִן הַמְשְׁמֶר

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מְשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבַּת־בַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

In addition to the spiritual meanings explained in Chassidic teachings, that meal will also be a physical meal, as it is known that the complete reward in the days of Moshiach (when the fasts will be annulled and transformed into days of joy, gladness, and festivals) is not in Gan Eden—which has neither eating nor drinking (somewhat resembling a fast day)—but rather in the World of Resurrection (also called the World to Come), where souls are in bodies, and where ultimately the soul will derive sustenance from the body itself.

אֲשֶׁר, נוֹסֶף עַל הָעְנְיָנִים הָרוּחָנִיִּים הַמְּרְמָזִים בָּזֶה שָׁנִּתְבָּאֲרוּ בְּדְרוּשֵׁי חֲסִידוּת", תִּהְיָה גַּם סְעוּדָה גַשְׁמִית, כַּיָּדוּעַ שֻׁשְׁלֵמוּת הַשֶּׁכָר דִימוֹת הַמָּשִׁיחַ (כְּשָׁיבְּטְלוּ הַצוֹמוֹת וְיַהָפְכוּ לְשָׁשׁוֹן וּלְשִׁמְחָה וּלְמוֹעֲדִים טוֹבִים) אֵינוֹ בְּגַן עֵדֶן, שָׁאֵין בּוֹ לֹא אֲכִילָה וְלֹא שְׁתִיָּה ("מֵצֵין וְדָגְמַת יוֹם הַתַּעֲנִית"), אֶלֶא בְּעוֹלַם הַתְּחָיָה (שֶׁנְקְרָא בְּכַמְּה־מְקוֹמוֹת "עוֹלָם הַבָּא"), לְנְשָׁמוֹת בְּגוּפִים דַּוְקָא, וַצַּד שַׁהַנִשְׁמַה תּהָיֵה נִיּוֹנִית מִן הַגּוּף.

And especially since after the Shabbos meals, one also holds the Melaveh Malkah meal on Motzaei Shabbos. Since this is connected with the honor of Shabbos (escorting the Shabbos out with honor as we welcomed it in), one should be meticulous with it even on Motzaei Shabbos the 17th of Tammuz—and perhaps even more so than any other Motzaei Shabbos. For this meal, being the "meal of Dovid Malka Meshicha" (King Moshiach), emphasizes most strongly the connection to the days of Moshiach, when fasts will be annulled and transformed into joy, gladness, and festive days.

וּבִפְּרָט שֶׁבְּהֶמְשֵׁךְ לְסְעוּדוֹת יוֹם הַשֵּׁבָּת יִשְׁנָה גַּם סְעוּדַת מְלַנֵּה מַלְכָּה בְּמוֹצָאֵי שַׁבָּת, שֶׁכֵּיוָן שֻׁקְשׁוּרָה עִם כְּבוֹד הַשַּׁבָּת ("לְלַוּוֹת אֶת הַשַּׁבָּת בִּיצִיאָתוֹ דֶּרֶךְ כָּבוֹד כְּמוֹ בִּכְנִיסָתוֹ") נִשׁ לְהַקְפִיד בָּזָה גַּם בְּמוֹצָאֵי שַׁבַּת י"ז בְּתַמּוּז, וְאוּלֵי יֵשׁ־לוֹמֵר עוֹד יוֹתֵר מִבְּכָל מוֹצָאֵי שַׁבָּת — שֶׁלְּהִיוֹתָה "סְעוּדָתָא דְדָוִד מַלְכָּא מְשִׁיחָא", מְדְגָשֶׁת בָּה בְּיוֹתֵר הַשַׁיָּכוּת לִימוֹת הַמְּשִׁיחַ, שֶׁיִּבָּטְלוּ הַצּוֹמוֹת וְיֵהָפְּכוּ לִשְׁשׁוֹן וּלִשָּׁמְחָה וּלִמוֹעֵדִים טוֹבִים.

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מִשִּׁיחוֹת שַׁבָּת־פָּרָשֵׁת בָּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַּמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

(7)

This concept (that the Shabbos empowers the postponement and nullification of the Fast of the Fourth Month and its transformation into a Yom Toy, a day of joy and gladness in the Days of Moshiach) can be connected to the weekly Torah portion, Parshas Balak. One of the unique features of Parshas Balak (especially in the section specifically related to Shabbos) is that it contains a clear reference in the Torah itself to the coming of Moshiach—as ruled by the Rambam: "The King Moshiach... the Torah has testified about him... in the portion of Bilaam it says, and there he prophesied about two Meshichim: the first Moshiach, which is David who saved Israel from their enemies, and the final Moshiach who will descend from him, who will save Israel at the end of days. And there it says, 'I see him but not now'—this is David; 'I behold him but not near'—this is the King Moshiach. 'A star shall shoot forth from Yaakov'—this is David. 'A scepter shall arise from Israel'—this is the King Moshiach. 'And he shall strike the corners of Moav'—this is David. 'And he shall break all the children of Sheis'—this is the King Moshiach. 'And Edom shall be a possession'—this is David. 'And he shall be a possession' etc.—this is the King Moshiach."

וְיֵשׁ לְקַשֶּׁר עִנְיָן זֶה (הַנָּתִינַת כּּחַ דְּיוֹם הַשַּבָּת לְּדְחַיַּת וּבְטוּל "צוֹם הָרְבִיעִי" וַהְפִיכָתוֹ לִיוֹם טוֹב וְיוֹם שְׁשׁוֹן וְשִׂמְחָה בִּימוֹת הַמָּשִׁיחַ) עִם פֶּרָשַׁת הַשָּׁבוּעַ, פֶּרְשַׁת בּלֹק.

מֵהָעִנְיָנִים הַמְיָחָדִים שֶׁבְּפָרְשׁת בָּלָק (וּבִפְרָט בְּחֵלֶּק הַפָּרָשָׁה הַשַּיָּךְ בִּמְיָחָד לִיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת) שֶׁבָּה נִתְפָּרֵשׁ בַּתּוֹרָה עַל־דְּבַר בִּיאֵת הַמָּשִׁיחַ – כִּפְסַק־דִּין הָרַמְבַּ"ם: "הַמֶּלֶךְ הַמָּשִׁיחַ .. הַתּוֹרָה הַעִידָה עָלָיו .. בְּפָרְשַׁת בִּלְעָם נְאֱמֵר וְשָׁם נִבָּא בִּשְׁנֵי הַמְשִׁיחִים, בַּמָּשִׁיחַ הָּרְאשׁוֹן שָׁהוּא דָּוִד שֶׁהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל מִיַּד צָבִיהֶם, וּבַמָּשִׁיחַ הָאַחֲרוֹן שֶׁעוֹמֵד מִבָּנָיו שָׁמוֹשִׁיעַ אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאֲחַרוֹנָה וְשָׁם הוּא אוֹמֵר אֶרְאָנוּ וְלֹא עַתָּה – זֶה דָּוִד, אֲשׁוּרָנוּ וְלֹא קָרוֹב – זֶה מֶלֶךְ הַמָּשִׁיחַ .. וְקַרְאֵל – זֶה מֶלֶךְ הַמְּשִׁיחַ. וּמְחַץ פַּאָּתֵי מוֹאָב – זֶה דָּוִד .. וְקַרְקַר כָּלֹ בְּנִי שָׁת – זָה הַמֶּלֶךְ הַמָּשִׁיחַ .. וְהָיָה אֵדוֹם יִרִשָׁה – זַה דַּוֹד

One can say that the Torah's testimony about Moshiach in the portion of Bilaam—which emphasizes "Hashem your G-d did not desire to listen to Bilaam, and Hashem your G-d turned the curse into a blessing for you"—hints at the transformation of exile into redemption, and the transformation of fasts into joy and gladness and festive holidays.

ְוְיֵשׁ לוֹמַר, שֶׁבָּזָה שֶׁ"הַתּוֹרָה הַנִּידָה עַל מָשִׁיחַ בְּפָּרְשַׁת בִּלְעָם", שֶׁבָּה מִדְגָּשׁ "שָׁלֹא אָבָה ה' אֱלֹקֵיךּ לִשְׁמֹעַ אֶל בִּלְעָם וַיַּהַפֹּךְ ה' אֱלֹקֵיךְ לְךְ אֶת הַקְלָלָה לִבְרָכָה" – מְרַמֶּזֶת הֲפִיכַת הַגָּלוּת לְגְאָלָה, הֲפִיכַת הַצוֹמוֹת לְשָׁשוֹן וּלְשִׂמְחָה וּלְמוֹעֲדִים טוֹבִים.

".. וְהָיָה יָרֵשָׁה וְגוֹ' – זֶה הַמֶּלֶךְ הַמַּשִׁיחַ "

Similarly, the portion read at Minchah of Shabbos—Parshas Pinchas—concerns Pinchas, who is Eliyahu, the one who brings the news of Redemption.

וְעַל־דֶּרֶדְ־זָה בַּפָּרָשָׁה שֶׁמַּתְחִילִין לְקְרֹא בְּמִנְחַת שַׁבָּת, בָּרָשֶׁת פִּינְחָס – "פִּינְחָס זָה אֵלִיָּהוּ", מְבַשַׂר הַגְּאָלָה.

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מְשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבַּת־בַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

And in more specific detail—regarding the content of the portion: The census of the Jewish people, "Take the sum of the entire congregation of the children of Israel from twenty years old and upward..." is also connected and alludes to the tenth census of all the Jewish people. As the Midrash says: "Israel were counted in ten places... and one is for the future," as it says (Micha 7:14), "Until the flock passes under the hand of the one who counts"—either by Moshiach, or by Hashem Himself.

וּבִפְּרָטִיוּת יוֹתֵר – בְּנוֹגֵעַ לְתָכֶן הַפְּרָשָׁה מִנְיֵן בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל, "שְׂאוּ אֶת רֹאשׁ כָּל עֲדַת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִבֶּן עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וָמַעְלָה" גו' – שָׁקְשׁוּר וְרוֹמֵז גַּם לַמְּנְן הָעֲשִׂירִי דְּכָל בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל, כִּדְאִיתָא בַּמְדְרָשׁ: "בַּעֲשָׂרָה מְקוֹמוֹת נִמְנוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל... וְאָחָד לֶעָתִיד לָבוֹא", שָׁנֶאֱמֵר "עַד תַּעֲבֹרְנָה הַצֹּאן עַל יְדֵי מוֹנָה" – עַל־יְדֵי הָשְׁיִחָאִי, אוֹ עַל־יְדֵי הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְּ־הוּא בְּעַצְמוֹ.

The division of the Land—"To these the Land shall be divided as an inheritance... to the greater you shall give more, and to the lesser less... nevertheless, by lot shall the Land be divided"—since only the *manner* of dividing is stated, and not the details of the tribal division (as appears later in Matos and Masei), we can say that this also alludes to the final and complete division of the Land in the Days of Moshiach, the Land of Ten Measures, which will be divided among thirteen tribes (including Shevet Levi).

חַלְקַת הָאָרֶץ – "לָאֵלֶה תַּחָלֵק הָאָרֶץ בְּנַחַלֶּה גּוֹ', לָרַב תַּרְבָּה נַחָלָתוֹ גּוֹ', אַדְ בְּגוֹרֶל יַחָלֵק אֶת הָאָרֶץ גּוֹ'" – שָׁבֵּיוָן שָׁנַּתְפָּרִשׁׁ רַק אֹפֶן חַלָּקַת הָאָרֶץ, וְלֹא פְּרָטֵי הַחְלָקָה לִי"ב שְׁבָטִים (כִּבְפָּרְשַׁת מַטּוֹת וּמַסְעֵי שֶׁלְאַחֲרִי־כַן) – יֵשׁ לוֹמֵר דְּזֶה כּוֹלֵל גַּם הַשְׁלֵמוּת דַּחֲלָקַת הָאָרֶץ בִּימוֹת הַמָּשִׁיחַ, "אֶרֶץ עֶשֶׂר אַמּוֹת", (שַׁהִּתְחַלָּק לִי"ג שָׁבַטִים (גַּם לִשָׁבַט לַוִי

Likewise, the portion speaks of the holiday offerings—Pesach, Shavuos, and Sukkos (preceded by the offerings of the Tamid and of Shabbos, whose offering is doubled)—this alludes to the transformation of fast days into joyous festivals, whose stature will be greater than all the present-day festivals, for the festivals of today will be nullified in the future, like a candle in daylight, compared to the revelations of the Days of Moshiach—and how much more so, compared to the new festivals that will be instituted in the Days of Moshiach.

ְּוְקֶרְבְּנוֹת הַמּוֹעֲדִים – בֶּּסָח, שָׁבוּעוֹת וְסֵכּוֹת (לְאַחֲרֵי הַהַּקְדְּמָה דְּפָרָשֵׁת קָרְבֵּן הַתָּמִיד דְּכָל יוֹם, וּקְרְבֵּן שֶׁל יוֹם הַשֵּׁבָּת שֶׁקְרְבָּנוֹ כָּפוּל) – שָׁבָּזָה מְרֵמֶזֶת הַפִּיכַת הַצּוֹמוֹת לְשָׁשׁוֹן וּלְשִׁמְחָה וּלְמוֹעֲדִים טוֹבִים, שֶׁמַּעֲלֶתָם תִּהְיֶה גְּדוֹלָה יוֹתֵר מִכָּל הַמּוֹעֲדִים שֶׁבִּוְמֵן הַזָּה, שֶׁהַרֵי הַמּוֹעֲדִים שַׁבְּזְמֵן הַזֶּה יִבְּטְלוּ לֶעָתִיד לָבוֹא כְּשְׁרַגָּא בְּטִיהָרָא (כְּנֵר בַּצְּהְרִים), לְגַבֵּי מַעֲלַת הַגִּילוּיִם דִּימוֹת הַמְּשִׁיחַ, וְעַל אַחַת כַּמָּה וְכַמָּה לְגַבֵּי מַעֲלַת הַיָּמִים טוֹבִים שֶׁיִּתְחַדְּשׁוּ

[One can say that the fast days that will be transformed into festivals will be even greater than Purim, which will not be nullified in the future—as it says: "These days of Purim shall never pass from among the Jews, and their remembrance shall not cease from their descendants." The novelty of Purim is that it will not be nullified—but even in comparison with the revelations of the Days of Moshiach that surpass Purim, the greatness of Purim will still be felt. All the more so, the new festivals that will be created in the Days of Moshiach will certainly be even greater than Purim.]

ְוְיֵשׁ לוֹמֵר, שֶׁהַצּוֹמוֹת שֶׁיַּהָפְּכוּ לְמוֹעֲדִים טוֹבִים יִהְיוּ] נַעֲלִים יוֹתֵר גַּם מִימֵי הַפּוּרִים שֶׁלֹּא יִבְּטְלוּ לָעָתִיד לְבוֹא, כְּמוֹ שֶׁכָּתוּב "וִימֵי הַפּוּרִים הָאֵלֶה לֹא יַעַבְרוּ מִתּוֹךְ שֻׁבָּרָם וְזִּכְרָם לֹא יָסוּף מִזְרְעָם" – שֶׁהָרֵי הַחִּדּוּשׁ שֶׁבָּהָם הוּא שֶׁלֹּא יִבָּטְלוּ, הַיְינוּ, שֶׁגַּם בְּיַחַס לְמַעֲלַת הַגִּילוּיִים דִּימוֹת הַפְּשִׁיחַ שֶׁלְמַעְלָה מִימֵי הַפּוּרִים תִּהְיֶה שֶׁיִתְחַדְּשׁוּ בִּימוֹת הַמָּשִׁיחַ יִהְיוּ נַעֲלִים יוֹתֵר מִימֵי הַרָּיִרם.

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מִשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבָּת־בָּרָשַׁת בָּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַּמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

(7)		
We can further elaborate on the unique virtue of a Shabbos that falls on the Seventeenth of Tammuz, the beginning of the "Three Weeks" (and similarly, a Shabbos that falls on Tisha B'Av, the end of the Three Weeks)—as compared to other Shabbosos that occur in the middle of the Three Weeks:	ןיֵשׁ לְהוֹסִיף וּלְבָאֵר הַמַּצְלָה דִיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת שֶׁחָל בּוֹ שִׁבְעָה עָשֶׂר בְּתַמּוּז, הַתְּחָלַת בִּין הַמְּצָרִים (וְעַל־דֶּרֶהְ־זֶה יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת שֶׁחָל בּוֹ תִּשְׁעָה בָּאָב, סִיּוּם בֵּין הַמִּצְרִים) – לְגַבֵּי שְׁבָּת הַשַּׁבְּתוֹת שֶׁבְּאָמְצַע יְמֵי בֵּין הַמִּצְרִים:	
It is known that the three weeks of Bein HaMetzarim (the "narrow straits") are like a desert in time. Yet there is a preparation of healing before the affliction: three Shabbosos during this time, and in each Shabbos, two Shabbosos shine (the actual Shabbos and its influence over the seven days of the week), totaling six iterations of double Shabbosos (3 times 2), illuminating seven days each—and this subdues the spiritual "desert of the nations" and the 42 journeys in the wilderness, which allude to the general time of exile from the Holy Land. That is, through the Shabbosos, the Three Weeks are rectified.	יָדוּעַ שָׁג' שָׁבוּעוֹת בֵּין הַמְּצָרִים בִּזְמֵן – כְּמוֹ מִדְכָּר בְּמָקוֹם. וּמַקְדִּים רְפוּאָה – ג' שַׁבָּתוֹת שֶׁבָּהָן, וּבְכָל שֵׁבָּת ב' שַׁבָּתוֹת, נִמְצָא ו' (ג'־פְּעָמִים ב') פְּעָמִים ז' (ז' יְמֵי הַשָּׁבוּעַ שֶׁבָּהָם מֵאִיר מִבְּחִינַת ב' שַׁבָּתוֹת שֶׁבְּכָל שַׁבְּת). עַל־יְדֵי־זֶה מַכְנִיעִים הַמִּדְבָּר – "מ"ב" (מ"ב הַמַּסְעוֹת שֶׁבְּמִדְבֵּר הָעַמִּים, שֶׁרוֹמֵז עַל כְּלָלוֹת זְמֵן הַגָּלוֹת מֵאֶרֶץ־הַקֹּדֶשׁ), הַיְנוּ – שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי הַשַּׁבָּתוֹת נַעֲשֶׂה הַתִּקוּוְ הַבִּין הַמִּצָרִים	
In this regard, there is a distinction between the Shabbosos that occur in the middle of the three weeks, and those that fall at the beginning or end of the three weeks (i.e., when the 17th of Tammuz or Tisha B'Av itself falls on Shabbos):	וּבְעַנְיָן זָה יֵשׁ חָלּוּק בֵּין הַשַּׁבָּתוֹת שֶׁבְּאָמְצֵע ג' הַשְּׁבוּעוֹת רָהַשַּׁבָּת שֶׁבְּהַתְחָלַת (וְסִיּוּם) ג' הַשָּׁבוּעוֹת:	
In most years, the Shabbosos fall only in the middle of the three weeks. In those cases, the negative aspect of Bein HaMetzarim—destruction and exile—is felt more strongly at the beginning and end of the period. Therefore, the focus is on the need for rectification, and the actual rectification happens through the Shabbosos, whose theme is Redemption.	בְּרֹב הַשָּׁנִים שֶׁהַשַּׁבָּתוֹת הֵם רַק בְּאָמְצַע ג' הַשָּׁבוּעוֹת דְּבֵין הַמְּצָרִים – מִדְגָּשׁ יוֹתֵר (בַּתְּחָלֶּה וּבַסוֹף) הָעְנְיָן הַבִּלְתִּי רָצוּי דְּבֵין הַמְצָרִים – הַחַרָבָּן וְהַגָּלוּת, וּבְהָמְשֶׁךְ לָזֶה (וּלְאַחֲרֵי־זֶה) מִדְגָשׁ הַצּוֹרֶךְ בְּתִקוּן, וְהַתִּקוּן בְּפֹעַל – עַל־יְדֵי הַשַּׁבָּתוֹת שֶׁעִנְיָנָם גְּאֵלָה	
But in years when the 17th of Tammuz (beginning of the three weeks) or Tisha B'Av (end of the three weeks) falls on Shabbos—one can say that the main emphasis is on the positive aspect of the 17th of Tammuz and of Bein HaMetzarim: that the narrowness is itself a preparation and introduction (and therefore part of) the expansion of the true and complete Redemption. That's why both the beginning and end fall on a Shabbos, whose theme is Redemption.	והאמחי והשכח דגאכה האמחים והשכמה – שככו	

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

משיחות שַבַּת־פַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

Put a bit differently: in the Shabbosos that fall in the middle of the Three Weeks (in most years), the primary emphasis is on negating the undesirable aspect of Bein HaMetzarim—namely the rectification of destruction and exile. But in the Shabbosos that fall at the beginning or end of the Three Weeks (as in this year's calendar setting), the emphasis is on the positive quality within Bein HaMetzarim itself—where the destruction and exile are not felt, and instead it is seen as preparation for Redemption.

וּבָסָגְנוֹן אַחֶר קצַת: בַּשַּׁבַּתוֹת שֶׁבָּאַמְצֵע ג' הַשַּׁבוּעוֹת (בַּרֹב הַשַּׁנִים) – מִדְגֵשׁ בִּעַקּר שָׁלִילַת הַעְנָיַן הַבַּלְתִּי רָצוּי דְּבֵין הַמְצָרִים – תִּקוּן הַחֲרָבָּן וְהַגָּלוּת; וְאִילּוּ בַּשַּׁבַּתוֹת שֶׁבְּהַתָּחָלַת וְסִיּוּם ג' הַשַּׁבוּעוֹת (כְּבָקְבִיעוּת עָנָה זוֹ) – מִדְגָשׁ בְּעָקָר הָעִנְיָן הַטוֹב דְּבֵין הַמְּצָרִים – שׁלֹא נִרְגָשׁ הַחַרָבָּן וְהַגָּלוּת, אֶלָא הַהַכָנָה לַגְאַלָה

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And one may say that the advantage of a Shabbos that falls on the Seventeenth of Tammuz — compared to the Shabbasos during the Three Weeks that follow it — is especially emphasized (and in a loftier manner) in Parshas Balak.

וָיֵשׁ לוֹמַר, שֵׁמַעַלַת יוֹם הַשַּׁבַּת שֲחַל בּוֹ שְׁבָעַה עַשַּׂר בָּתַמוּז לָגַבֵּי הַשַּׁבַּתוֹת דְּבִין הַמָּצַרִים שַׁלְאַחַרֵי־זֵה, מָדְגָשֶׁת גַם (וּבָאפֶן נַעֲלָה יוֹתֵר) בְּפָרָשַׁת בָּלָק:

In preface: the Torah portions read during the Three Weeks which are also related to the fast days and Tishah B'Av that fall during this time — are Matos, Masei, and Devarim. And in years when Matos and Masei are combined, also Pinchas is read during the Three Weeks. However. Parshas Balak is never included among the Three Weeks, because even when read on a Shabbos that is the 17th of Tammuz, the beginning of the Three Weeks (the "Fast of the Fourth Month") is postponed until Sunday, which corresponds to Parshas Pinchas.

ּוּבָהַקדָּמָה - שֶׁהַפָּרָשִׁיוֹת שָׁקוֹרִין בָּג' הַשַּׁבַּתוֹת דְּבִין ַהַמָּצַרִים שֶׁהַמּוֹצַדִים שֶׁל כָּל הַשָּׁנָה.. אוֹ תַּצַנִיּוֹת וְט' בָּאַב בָּכַלָן יַשׁ-שַׁיָּכוּת לְאוֹתָן הַפַּרַשִׁיוֹת שֶׁחָלוֹת בָּהֶן") הֶם מַטוֹת מַסְעֵי וּדְבַרִים, וּבַשַּׁנִים שֵׁמַטוֹת מַסְעֵי מְחַבַּרִין, קוֹרִין גַּם פִּינָחַס בָּבֵין הַמְצַרִים, מַה־ שֵׁאֵין־כֵּן פַרשָׁת בַּלֵק שַׁלְעוֹלַם אֵינַהּ בִּכְלֵל בֵּין הַמִּצְרִים", כִּי גַם כָּשֶׁקוֹרִין פַּרַשֶׁת בַּלַק בַּשַּׁבַת שֶׁחַל בּוֹ י"ז הַמּוּז, נִדְחַה הַתָּחָלַת בֵּין הַמָּצָרִים" (צוֹם הָרְבִיעִי") לְיוֹם רָאשׁוֹן שַׁלָאַחַרֵי הַשַּׁבָּת שָׁשַׁיָּךְ לְפָּרְשַׁת פִּינְחָס

From this, we understand there is a distinction between the form of אָבָּלָה שַׁבָּפַרְשַׁת פִּינָחָס redemption described in Parshas Pinchas ("Pinchas is Eliyahu") and the form of redemption in Parshas Balak ("in the portion of Bilaam ... he prophesied about both Meshichim"). The redemption in Parshas Pinchas, because it is related to the Three Weeks, emphasizes primarily the rectification of destruction and exile. By contrast, the redemption in Parshas Balak — since its connection to the Three Weeks is only above and beyond them — emphasizes not the repair of exile, but the intrinsic virtue and completeness of redemption itself, redemption in its purity (even when there is no preceding state of destruction or exile).

(פִּינְחָס זֶה אֵלִיָהוּ") לְאֹפֶן הַגְּאָלָה שֶׁבְּפַרְשַׁת בְּלָק הָגָאַלָה - (בָּבָעשׁת בִּלְעַם .. נְבָּא בִּשָׁנֵי הַמְשִׁיחִים") שַׁבָּפַרָשֶׁת פִּינָחָס, כִּיוָן שֶׁשַׁיָּכֵת לְבֵין הַמְּצַרִים, נִרְגָּשׁ וּמְדָגֵשׁ בָּה בִּעִקַר הַתִּקוּן דְהַחָרְבֶּן וְהַגָּלוּת, מַה־ שָׁאֵין־כֵּן הַגָּאַלָה שֶׁבָּפַרַשַׁת בַּלַק, כֵּיוַן שֶׁהַיַחַס שַׁלָה לְבֵין הַמָּצַרִים הוּא בָּאֹפֵן שַׁאֵינַהּ שַׁיַּכֵת כִּי־אָם לְמַעְלַה מָבֵּין הַמָּצְרִים, נִרְגֶשׁ וּמְדְגָשׁ בָּה בְּעָקָר (לֹא הַתִּקוּן דְּהַחָרְבֶּן וְהַגָּלוּת, אֶלָא) מַצֵלַת וּשְׁלֵמוּת הַגְאַלָה ּכְשַׁלְעַצְמָה, גָאַלָה בִּטָהֶרֶתָה (גַם אָם לְפָנֵי־זֶה אֵין מַצָב ("שֶׁל חַרְבֶּן וְגָלוּת")

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מְשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבַּת־בַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

This point is further emphasized in the way the Torah testifies about the coming of Moshiach in Parshas Bilaam. When the Rambam explains that the Torah testified about him, he first cites the verse: "And Hashem your G-d will return your captivity and have compassion on you, and He will return and gather you... even if your outcasts are at the ends of the heavens... and He will bring you," and then he adds: "Also in the portion of Bilaam it is stated — and there he prophesied about the two Meshichim."

ְעִנְיָן זָה מִדְגָשׁ גַּם בָּאֹפֶן שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה הֵעִידָה עַל בִּיאַת הַמָּשִׁיחַ בְּפָּרָשַׁת בִּלְעָם: כְּשֶׁהָרַמְבַּ"ם מְכָאֵר שֶׁהַתּוֹרָה הֵעִידָה עָלָיו", מַקְדִים תְּחִלָּה שֶׁנָּאֱמֵר וְשָׁב ה' אֱלֹקֶיךּ אֶת שְׁבוּתְדּ וְרַחֲמֶךְ וְשָׁב וְקִבָּצְדְ וְגוֹ' אִם יִהְיָה נִדְּחַדְּ בִּקְצֵה הַשָּׁמֵיִם וְגוֹ' וְהַבִיאַךְ ה'", וְאַחַר־ כָּדְ מוֹסִיף אַף בְּפָּרָשֶׁת הִבָּלִעַם נָאֵמֵר וִשָּׁם נָבֵא בִּשָׁנִי הַמְּשִׁיחִים.

And the distinction between them is as follows: In the verse "And Hashem your G-d will return your captivity and have compassion on you..." the emphasis is primarily on the redemption from exile. Whereas in Parshas Bilaam, the emphasis is on the advantage and completeness of redemption as it is in and of itself — the kingdom of David (the first Moshiach), and its perfection in the kingdom of the final Moshiach who will descend from him — even without exile.

וּמַהַחַלּוּקִים שָׁבֵּינֵיהָם" – שֶׁבַּפָּסוּק וְשָׁב ה' אֱלֹקֶיךְ אֶת שְׁבוּתְדְּ וְרַחֲמֶךְ וְגוֹ" מִדְגֶשֶׁת בְּעָקֶר הַגְּאֶלָה מִן הַגָּלוּת, וְאָלוּ בְּפָרְשֵׁת בִּילְעָם מְדְגֶשֶׁת מֵעֲלַת וּשְׁלֵמוּת הַגְּאֶלָה כְּשֶׁלְעַצְמָה, מַלְכוּת דָּוִד (מְשִׁיחַ הָרִאשׁוֹן), וּשְׁלֵמוּתָה בְּמֶלְכוּת מַשִׁיחַ הָאַחַרוֹן שֵׁעוֹמֵד מִבָּנַיו (גַּם לְלֹא גָּלוּת,

For in the prophecy of Bilaam there is no mention of a state or condition of exile — rather, on the contrary, a state of freedom, even to dominion over all nations: "Behold! A people that dwells alone and among the nations shall not be reckoned," "Behold! A people, like a lion cub, arises, and like a lion, lifts itself up; it does not lie down until it consumes prey...", "His king shall be raised up higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted," and finally: "I shall see him, but not now... A star shall go forth from Yaakov, and a scepter shall rise from Israel..." where he prophesied about the two Meshichim — and the prophecy progresses with ever-increasing greatness and praise of Israel in ascent after ascent.

שֶׁהָרֵי בִּנְבוּאַת בִּילְעָם לֹא נִזְכָּר עַל־דְּבַר מַעֲמֶד וּמֵצֶב שֶׁל גָּלוּת, אֶלָּא אַדְרַבָּה, מֵעֲמֶד וּמֵצֶב שֶׁל חֵרוּת -וְעַד לְשִׁלְטוֹן עַל כָּל הָעַמִּים – הֶן עָם לְבָדָד יִשְׁכֹּן וּבַגּוֹיִם לֹא יִתְחַשָּׁב", הֶן עָם כְּלָבִיא יָקוּם וְכַאֲרִי יִתְנַשֶּׂא לֹא יִשְׁכַּב עַד יֹאכַל טֶרֶף גוֹ", וְיָרֹם מַאֲגַג מַלְכּוֹ וְתִנָּשֵׂא מַלְכָתוֹ, וְעַד לְאָרְאָנּוּ וְלֹא עַתָּה אֲשׁוּרֶנּוּ וְלֹא קָרוֹב דְּרַךְ כּוֹכָב מְשָׁיחִים" – שֶׁהוֹלֵךְ וּמוֹסִיף בְּמַעֲלָתָם וְשִׁבְחָם שֶׁל ישׂראל בַּעלוּי אחר עלּוּי

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מְשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבַּת־בַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

And based on this, we can explain and sweeten the reason for the emphasis in Parshas Bilaam — where the prophecy is about the two Meshichim — on the Exodus from Egypt: "E-l who brought them out of Egypt," "E-l who brings him out of Egypt," in the manner of the verse "As in the days when you came out of Egypt, I will show you wonders." For in this is emphasized that the redemption through the King Moshiach is not only because of the necessity to take the Jewish people out of all the exiles that followed the Exodus from Egypt, but also — and primarily — as an addition and exalted perfection beyond the Exodus from Egypt, to the point of "wonders" (even if those later exiles had never occurred).

ְּוַעַל־פִי־זֶה יֵשׁ לְבָּאֵר וּלְהַמְתִּיק הַטַעַם לְהַדְּגֶשַׁת הַיְצִיאָה מִמִּצְרַיִם (אַ־ל מוֹצִיאָם מִמְצְרָיִם", אֵ־ל מוֹצִיאוֹ מִמִּצְרַיִם") בַּפָּרָשָׁה שֶׁנִּבָּא בִּשְׁנֵי הַמְשִׁיחִים" עַל־דֶּרֶה מֵה־ שָׁבְּזָה מַדְגָּשׁ שֶׁהַגְאָלָה עַל־יְדֵי מֶלֶה הַמְּשִׁיחַ הִיא "69 – שֶׁבְּזֶה מַדְגָּשׁ שֶׁהַגְאָלָה עַל־יְדֵי מֶלֶה הַמְּשִׁיחַ הִיא לֹא רַק בִּגְלַל הַהָּכְרַחַ לְהוֹצִיא אֶת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִכָּל הַגָּלִיּוֹת, שֶׁנְתַוֹסְפוּ לְאַחֲרֵי הַיְצִיאָה מִמִּצְרַיִם, אֶלֶּא גַּם וּבְּעָקָר בְּתוֹר הוֹסָפָה וּשְׁלֵמוּת נַעֲלֵית יוֹתֵר מַהַיְצִיאָה מִמִּצְרִיִם עַד לְאֹפֶן שֶׁל נִפְלָאוֹת" (גַּם אִלּוּ לֹא הָיוּ

And similarly with what is written (later in the Torah portions read during the Three Weeks): "These are the journeys of the children of Israel who went forth from the land of Egypt" — in plural — to indicate that the Exodus from Egypt is not only the initial departure and first journey from Raamses to Sukkos, but includes all the individual journeys in the wilderness of the nations, until "Yarden Yereicho," which alludes to the complete and true redemption through our righteous Moshiach, who will judge (Yereicho = scent and judgment), for these are all part of the Exodus from Egypt in its ultimate completeness — and in this is emphasized the virtue and completeness of the redemption as it is in and of itself (even without the need to repair destruction and exile).

ְּעַל־דֶּרֶךְ מַה־שָׁכָּתוּב (בְּהָמְשֵׁךְ הַכָּּרְשִׁיוֹת דְבֵין
הַמְּצִרִים) אַלָּה מַסְעֵי (לְשׁוֹן רַבִּים) בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר
יִצְאוּ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרִים"70 -שֶׁהַיְצִיאָה מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם הִיא
לֹא רַק יְצִיאָה וּנְסִיעָה רִאשׁוֹנָה שֶׁנָסְעוּ מַרַעְמְסֵס
לְסְכּוֹת, אֶלֶּא גַּם כָּל פְּרָטֵי הַמַּסְּעוֹת בְּמִדְבֵּר הָעַמִּים, עַד
לְיַרְבֵּן יְרַחוֹ, שֶׁרְוֹמֵז עַל הַגְּאֶלָה הָאֲמִתִּית וְהַשְׁלַמָה
עַל־יְדֵי מְשִׁיחַ צִּדְקֵנוּ דְּמוֹרַח (יְרֵחוֹ) וְדָאִין [=מֵרִיחַ וְדָן]
עַל־יְדֵי מְשִׁיחַ צִּדְקֵנוּ דְּמוֹרַח (יְרֵחוֹ) וְדָאִין [שְׁרִיתַ וּשְׁלָבַיְה בְּשָּלְעַצְמָה (גַּם לִּוֹלֵי
מִדְגָשֶׁת מַעְּלַת וּשְׁלֵמוּת הַגְּאֶלָה בְּשֶׁלְעַצְמָה (גַּם לִוּלֵי
.(בְּבָרְקּוּן הַתַּלְנָן וְהַגָּלוּת

(7)

And in all of the above, there is an additional unique elevation (even in comparison to other years in which the 17th of Tammuz falls on Shabbos Parshas Balak) in *our* generation:

וּבְכֶל־הַנִּזְכֶּר לְעֵיל נוֹסֶף עַלוּי מִיחָד(גַם לְגַבֵּי שְׁאָר הַשָּׁנִים שֶׁבָּהֶם חָל י"ז תַּמּוּז בְּשֵׁבָּת פָּרְשַׁת בָּלָק) בְּדוֹרֵנוּ :זֵה

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מִשִּׁיחוֹת שַׁבָּת־פָּרָשֵׁת בָּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַּמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

And by way of introduction — just as explained above that in years when the 17th of Tammuz falls on Shabbos, what is emphasized is primarily the "good" within the 17th of Tammuz and the Three Weeks — that the destruction and exile are not felt, but rather the preparation for redemption, due to the emphasis on the concept of redemption that Shabbos brings — so too it is in the general progression of the generations: the closer we come to the true and complete Redemption, the more the feeling of destruction and exile on these days weakens, and the more the feeling grows of preparation for the Redemption, the "good" within the 17th of Tammuz and the Three Weeks.

וּרְהַקְדָּמָה – שֶׁכְּשֵׁם שֶׁנִּתְבָּאֵר לְעֵיל שֶׁבַּשָׁנִים שֶׁשָׁבָּהֶם
חָל י"ז הַּמּוּז בְּיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת מֵּדְגָּשׁ בְּעָקֶר הַטּוֹב" שֶׁבְּי"ז
הַמּוּז וּבְג' הַשְּׁבוּעוֹת, שֶׁלֹא נִרְגֶשׁ הַחַרְבָּן וְהַגָּלוּת אֶלָּא
הַהַּכְנָה לַגְּאֻלָּה מִצִּד הַדְּגָשֶׁת עִנְיֵן הַגְּאֻלָּה בְּיוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת,
בֵּן הוּא גַּם בִּכְלָלוּת הַדּוֹרוֹת, שֶׁכְּכָל שֶׁהוֹלְכִים
וּמִתְקַרְבִים יוֹתֵר לַגְּאֻלָּה הָאֲמִתִּית וְהַשְּׁלֵמָה, פּוֹחֵת
וְהוֹלֵךְ הָרֶגֶשׁ הַחַרְבָּן וְהַגָּלוּת שֻׁבְּיִמִים אֵלֶה, וּמוֹסִיף
וְהוֹלֵךְ הָרֶגֶשׁ הַהַּבָנָה לַגְּאֻלָּה, הַטּוֹב" שֶׁבִּי"ז תַּמּוּז וּבְג'
הַשְּׁבוּעוֹת

And in the language of the Gemara, in explaining why the fasts are called both "fast" and "joy and gladness": "When there is peace, they shall be [days] of joy and gladness; if there is a royal decree — [they are] a fast; if there is no decree and no peace — if [people] desire, they fast, if they desire not, they do not fast." That is — when the intensity of exile is weakened ("no royal decree"), the force of the fast is also weakened (for "if they desire, they do not fast"), and we draw closer to the time when "they shall be for joy and gladness." And this concept is particularly emphasized in the innovation of *our* generation.

וּבִלְשׁוֹן הַגְּמֶּרָא בְּבֵאוּר הַטַּעַם שֶׁקָּרֵי לְהוּ צוֹם וְקָרֵי לְהוּ שָׁשׁוֹן וְשִׁמְחָה", בִּזְמֵן שֶׁיֵשׁ שָׁלוֹם יִהְיוּ לְשָׁשׁוֹן וּלְשִׁמְחָה, יֵשׁ גְּזֵרַת הַמֵּלְכוּת צוֹם, אֵין גְּזַרַת הַמַּלְכוּת וְאֵין שֶׁלוֹם רָצוּ מִתְעַנִּין רָצוּ אֵין מִתְעַנִּין", הַיִּינוּ, שֶׁכַּאֲשֶׁר נָחֲלֵשׁ תֹּקֶף הַגָּלוּת, אֵין גְּזֵרַת הַמַּלְכוּת", נָחֲלֵשׁ תֹקֶף הַצוֹם" (כִּי־אִם רָצוּ אֵין מִתְעַנִּין"), וּמִתְקֻרְבִים יוֹתֵר לַזְּמֵן שֶׁיָּהִיוּ לְשָּׁשׁוֹן וּלְשִׁמְחָה". וְעִנְיֵן זֶה מִדְגָּשׁ בָּמִיחָד בְּהַחָדוּשׁ שֶׁבְּדוֹרֵנוּ זֵה.

Throughout all the generations before this one (since the negative events of the 17th of Tammuz, from which also stemmed the events of Tisha B'Av), the month of Tammuz was associated with matters that are the opposite of joy—destruction and exile. But in our generation, something new has been revealed in the month of Tammuz: a matter of joy and redemption—the redemption of the honor and holiness of my teacher and father-in-law, the Rebbe, leader of our generation, on the 12th–13th of Tammuz (whose elevation and fulfillment, in the form of "זְיָבֶלָּה" occurred on Shabbos, the 17th of Tammuz).

בְּמֶשֶׁךְ כָּל הַדּוֹרוֹת שָׁלְפְנֵי־זֶה (מֵאָז הַמְאֹרָעוֹת הַבִּּלְתִּי רְצוּיִים דִּי"ז תַּמּוּז שָׁמָּהֶם נִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּ גַּם הַמְאֹרָעוֹת דְּתִשְׁעָה בְּאָב) הָיָה חֹדֶשׁ תַּמוּז קָשׁוּר עִם עִנְיָנִים דְּהָכֶּךְ הַשִּׁמְחָה, חָרְבָּן וְגָלוּת, וְאִלוּ בְּדוֹרֵנוּ זֶה נִתְגַּלָּה בְּחֹדֶשׁ תַּמוּז עִנְיָן שֶׁל (שִׁמְחָה וּגְאָלָה – גְאֲלַת כְּבוֹד־קְּדְשַׁת מוֹרִי וְחָמִי אַדְמוֹ"ר נְשִׂיא דּוֹרֵנוּ בִּי"ב־י"ג תַּמוּז (שְׁצֵלִיָּתָם וּשְׁלֵמוּתָם בְּאֹבֶּן דְּוַיְכַלוּ" נַצְשֵׂית בְּיוֹם הַשַּבָּת (יִ"ז תַּמוּז

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מְשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבַּת־בַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

And in the words of the one who experienced the joy and the redemption, in his famous letter: "Not me alone did the Holy One, וּכָדָבָרִי בַּעַל הַשְּׂמָחָה וָהַגָּאַלַה בִּמְכַתַּבוֹ הַיַּדוּעַ שֵׁלֹא blessed be He, redeem on the 12th of Tammuz, but also all those אוֹתִי בָּלְבֵד גַּאֵל הַקַּדוֹשׁ־בַּרוּדְ־הוּא בִּי"ב תַּמוּז, כִּי אָם who cherish our holy Torah, who observe the mitzvos, and even גַם אֶת כַּל מְחַבָּבֵי תּוֹרַתַנוּ הַקְּדוֹשָׁה, שׁוֹמְרֵי מִצְוַה, וְגַם those who are referred to by the name 'Yisrael'"—this is a ָאָת אֲשֶׁר בָּשֶׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל יִכַנָּה", גָּאַלָּה דְכַל בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל, redemption of all the Jewish people. And it is connected with the הַקְּשׁוּרָה גַם עִם הַגְּאֻלָּה הָאֲמִתִּית וְהַשְּׁלֵמָה עַל־יְדֵי true and complete redemption through our righteous Moshiach, "מְשִׁיחַ צִּדְקֵנוּ כֵּיוַן דְשֵׁם גָּאַלָּה עַלַה". since the title "redemption" has already been applied. Especially since this initiated the completion of the mission of וּבִפָּרָט שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי זֶה הִתְחִיל שְׁלֵמוּת הֶעִנְיָן דְּיָפוּצוּ "Your wellsprings shall spread outward"—even in the lower מַעִינֹתִידְ חוּצַה גַּם בַּחַצִי כַּדוּר הַתַּחִתּוֹן, וּבָאֹפֵן שֶׁמְמֵנוּ hemisphere—and in a way that the wellsprings extend to all ends מָתַפַּשִׁטִים הַמַּעִיַנוֹת בָּכַל קַצְוֵי הַבֵּל, שַׁיּוֹהִי הַהַכַּנַה הַכִי of the earth. This is the ultimate preparation for the coming of אַחַרוֹנַה לְבִיאַת מִשִׁיחַ צִּדְקַנוּ "אַחַרוֹנַה לְבִיאַת Moshiach Tzidkeinu. And the explanation for this is: Since, according to all the signs stated by our Sages regarding the generation of "footsteps of וָהַהַסְבַּרָה בַּזָה - שֶׁכֵּיוַן שֶׁעַל־פִּי כַּל הַסִימַנִים שֶׁבִּדְבָרֵי Moshiach," our generation is the final generation of exile and חַכַמֵינוּ־זַ"ל אוֹדוֹת דָּרָא דְעָקְבָתָא דְמְשִׁיחָא, דּוֹרֵנוּ זֶה (therefore) the first generation of redemption—then, even when הוא דור הָאַחַרון שֶׁל הַגָּלוּת וּ(בְּמֵילָא) דור הָרָאשׁון the time arrives of the original destruction and exile (beginning on שֶׁל הַגָּאַלָּה, לָכֶן, גַּם בְּבוֹא הַזְּמֵן שֶׁאֵרַע הַחַרְבָּן וְהַגָּלוּת the 17th of Tammuz), what is primarily emphasized is not the יהָקל מִי"ז תַּמוּז) מָדְגֵּשׁ בָּעָקָר (לֹא תִקוּן הַעָנָיַן הַבְּלְתִּי rectification of the undesirable event itself, but rather the good רצוּי שֶׁכַּזֶה, אֶלָא) הַטוֹב" שֶׁבַּדָבַר, שַׁזוֹהִי הַהַּכַנַה within it—this being the preparation for the true and complete לַגָּאַלָּה הַאַמְתִּית וְהַשְּׁלֵמַה. redemption. And all of this is enhanced even more by the fulfillment of the וּבְכַל זֶה נָתְוַסֶּף עוֹד יוֹתֶר עַל־יִדֵי שָׁלֵמוּת הַעֲבוֹדָה mission of spreading Torah and Judaism and disseminating the דָהַפָּצַת הַתּוֹרָה וָהַיָּהָדוּת וַהַפָּצַת הַמַּעִינוֹת חוּצַה בַּחַצִי wellsprings outward in the lower hemisphere (as a result of the כַדוּר הַתַּחָתוֹן (כָּתוֹצָאָה מֵהַגָּאֻלָּה דִּי"ב־י"ג תַּמוּז) redemption of the 12th–13th of Tammuz) over the course of fifty בְּמֵשֶׁךְ יוֹבֵל שַׁנִים. years. And if at the beginning of this era, my teacher and father-in-law the Rebbe, leader of our generation, issued a proclamation אֲשֶׁר, אָם בָּהַתְחָלַת תִּקוּפָה זוֹ יָצָא כָּבוֹד־ קִדְשַׁת מוֹרִי "Immediately to teshuvah, immediately to redemption," and וָחָמִי אַדְמוֹ"ר נִשִּׂיא דּוֹרֵנוּ בַּהַכְרָזָה לְאַלְתַּר לְתִשׁוּבָה testified that all aspects of the work have already been completed, ָלְאַלְתֵּר לְגָאַלָּה", וְהֶעִיד שֶׁכָּבָר סִיָּמוּ כָּל עִנְיָנֵי הָעֲבוֹדָה, and all that remains is to "polish the buttons"—and even that וּצָרִיכִים רַק לְצַחָצֵחַ הַכַּפָּתּוֹרִים", וְיתֵרַה מְזַה, שֶׁכָּבַר polishing has already been completed!—and now all that is סִימוּ גַּם צָחָצוּחַ הַכַּפָּתּוֹרִים", וּצָרִיכִים רַק לַעַמֹד הַכֵּן required is to stand ready ("stand prepared, all of you") to greet אָדְקֵנוּ מָעָיחַ צִּדְקֵנוּ פָּנֵי מִשִׁיחַ צִּדְקֵנוּ (עִמְדוּ הַכֶּן כַּלְּכֵם"), Moshiach Tzidkeinu—then, at the end of this era, it is absolutely

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מְשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבַּת־בַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

certain, without any doubt whatsoever, that the time for the redemption has already arrived. And in conclusion of this period, without any doubt whatsoever, הַרי בָּסיוּמה שֵל תַּקוּפה זוֹ, בַּודאי וּבַודאי לְלֹא כֹּל ספק the time of the redemption has certainly arrived. And in the וּסְפֵק סְפַקַא שֵׁכָבַר הָגִּיעַ זְמַן הַגָּאָלַה, וּבָלְשׁוֹן language of our Sages: "All the deadlines have passed." And also חָכֶמֵינוּ־זַ"ל "כָּלוּ כָּל הַקְּצִין" וְגַם עִנְיַן הַתְּשׁוּבָה the matter of teshuvah (as stated in the continuation of the (כָּהַמְשֶׁךְ הַמַּאֲמָר וְאֵין הַדָּבָר תָּלוּי אֶלָּא בִּתִשׁוּבָה") הָיָה discourse, "the matter depends only on teshuvah")—this too has כָּבַר בִּשָׁלֵמוּת, כּוֹלֵל גַם הַשָּׁלֵמוּת דְּ"משִׁיחַ אֶתָּא already been completed, including the completion of "Moshiach לְאַתָּבָא צַדְּיקִיָּא בָּתִיוּבְתָּא", מִצַּד נִיצוֹץ מָשִׁיחַ has come to bring the righteous to repentance," by virtue of the *שַבַּכל־אַחד וְאָחד מישַׂראל spark of Moshiach found in every single Jew. Therefore, since we are literally at the threshold of the true and הָרֵי כִּיוַן שַׁנִּמְצַאִים בִּסְמִיכוּת מַמֵּשׁ לַגִּאַלַה הַאֲמִתִּית complete redemption, what is felt and emphasized more and more וָהַשָּׁלֻמָה, נָרָגָשׁ וּמֻדְגָשׁ בִּיוֹתֵר וּבִיוֹתֵר הַטוֹב" דִּי"ז is the good of the 17th of Tammuz and of the "Three Weeks," יַם לְהָעִלּוּי "הָמָצָרִים", שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי זֶה בָּאִים לְהָעִלּוּי through which we reach the elevation and fulfillment of the true וָהַשָּׁלְמוּת דָּגָאַלָּה הַאֲמְתִּית וְהַשָּׁלְמַה. and complete redemption. (n) And an additional novelty in our generation itself – in this very

year: In addition to the fact that we are truly standing in close proximity to the true and complete Redemption, this year is (may it be) "a year in which 'I will show you wonders" – as per the roshei teivos (initials) of the year's count which has spread throughout Jewish communities – the year in which the prophecy will be fulfilled, "As in the days of your exodus from the land of Egypt, I will show you wonders." And already, there have been visible wonders in actuality, testifying that this is the year in which the King Moshiach is revealed, up to and including the moment when "the King Moshiach comes .. and proclaims to the Jewish people: 'Humble ones, the time of your Redemption has arrived!'" (as the Yalkut Shimoni states), and up to the declaration that "Behold, this (King Moshiach) is coming"—meaning, he has already come, that is, we are already standing on the threshold of the beginning of the days of Moshiach, on the threshold of the beginning of the Redemption, and immediately, its drawing forth and completion.

ּוְחַדּוּשׁ נוֹסֶף בְּדוֹרֵנוּ זֶה גּוּפָא – בְּשָׁנָה זוֹ
נוֹסֶף לְכָדְ שָׁנְּמְצָּאִים בְּסְמִיכוּת מַמְּשׁ לַגְּאָלָה הָאֲמִתִּית
וְהַשְּׁלֵמָה, הָרֵי, שָׁנָה זוֹ הִיא (תְּהֵא) שְׁנַת נִפְלָאוֹת
אַרְאָנוּ" (כְּהָרָאשִׁי־תֵבוֹת דְּמִנְיֵן הַשָּׁנָה שֶׁנָּה שֶׁנְּהְ שֶׁנְּתְּפַשִׁט
בִּּמְפוֹצוֹת יִשְׂרָאַל), הַשָּׁנָה שֶׁבָּה יְקְיָם הַיָּעוּד כִּימֵי צֵאתְדְּ
מֵאָרֶץ מִצְּרִיִם אַרְאָנוּ נִפְלָאוֹת", וּכְּכֶר רָאוּ בְּפפֹעַל
בִּוֹ", וְעַד לְשָׁעָה שָׁמֶּלֶךְ הַמְּשִׁיחַ בָּא .. וְהוּא מַשְׁמִיעַ לָהֶם
בּוֹ", וְעַד לְשָׁעָה שָׁמֶּלֶךְ הַמְּשִׁיחַ בָּא .. וְהוּא מַשְׁמִיעַ לָהֶם לִישְׁרָאֵל עֲנָוִים הִגִּיעַ זְמַן גְּאֲלַתְכֶם" (כְּדְבָרִי הַיַּלְּוּט
שְׁמְעוֹנִי), וְעַד לַהַּכְרָזָה שֶׁהִנָּה זֶה (הַמֶּלֶךְ הַמְּשִׁיחַ)
בַּמְתוֹנִי), וְעַד לַהַּכְרָזָה שֶׁהְנֵּה זֶה (הַמֶּלֶךְ הַבְּלִים בְּבִּר עַל סַף
בַּתְחָלֵת יְמוֹת הַמָּשִׁיחַ, עַל סַף הַתְּחָלֵת הַגְּאָלָה, וְתַכָּף

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

משיחות שַבַּת־פַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

And since this is the case, it is certain that on the 17th of Tammuz (which falls on Shabbos) and throughout all three weeks of Bein HaMetzarim in this year, there is an emphasis on the Redemption—not just the preparation for Redemption, but that the וְלֹא רַק הַהַכָּנָה לַגָּאַלָה, אֶלָא שָׁהַגָּאָלָה בָּאָה בִּפְעַל מַמָּשׁ Redemption itself is taking place in actual fact on this holy Shabbos day, even before the beginning of the "Bein HaMetzarim" period, and consequently, these days will be transformed into joy and gladness and good appointed times.

וְכֵיוַן שֵׁכֵּן, בָּוַדָּאִי שֵבִּי"ז תַּמוּז (שַׁחַל בִּשַׁבַּת) וּבְכַל ג' ָהַשֶּׁבוּעוֹת דְּבֵין הַמָּצָרִים" בִּשָׁנָה זוֹ מַדְגָשׁ עִנִין הַגִּאַלָה, בִּיוֹם הַשַּׁבַּת־קדָשׁ זֶה, עוֹד לְפָנֵי הַתְחָלַת (בִּין הַמְצָרִים, וּרְמִילָא, יִהָפְכוּ יָמִים אַלוּ לְשָׂשׁוֹן וּלְשִׂמְחָה וּלְמוֹעֲדִים

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From this it is understood that during the Bein HaMetzarim period of this year, there must be a particularly intense tumult and excitement, with increased strength and intensity, regarding everything connected to the study of Geulah (Redemption) and Moshiach, and the construction of the Third Beis HaMikdash. It is well known and publicized throughout Jewish communities for many years now about the custom that during the days of Bein HaMetzarim, we increase in learning Torah topics related to the Beis HaBechirah (Holy Temple), based on the words of the Midrash: "'Come and see,' when Hashem showed Yechezkel the image of the Beis HaMikdash, what did He say? 'Inform the House of Israel about the House and let them be ashamed of their sins, and measure the form' (Yechezkel 43)." Yechezkel said before the Holy One, Blessed be He: "Master of the World, until now we are in exile in the land of our enemies—and You are telling me to go and inform the Jewish people of the structure of the Beis HaMikdash? Can they build it now? Let them be until they go up from exile—and only afterward I will go and tell them." Hashem said to Yechezkel: "Because My children are in exile, should the building of My House be annulled?! Great is its study in Torah as its actual building. Go tell them to study the form of the Beis HaMikdash in the Torah, and in the merit of their reading and studying it, I will consider it as if they are engaged in its actual construction."

וּמְזָה מוּבֶן שַׁבִּימֵי בֵּין הַמְּצַרִיםדְשַׁנָה זוֹ צַרִיךְ לְהִיוֹת שְׁטוּרָעם מְיָחָד בְּיָתָר שְׂאַת וּבְיָתָר עוֹ בְּכָל הַקְשׁוּר לְלָמוּד עִנְיָנֵי גְאוּלָה וּמָשִׁיחַ וּבִנְיַן בֵּית־הַמִּקְדָשׁ

יָדוּעַ וּמְפָּרְסָם בִּתְפוּצוֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל מִכַּמָּה־וְכַמָּה שַׁנִים עַל־דְבַר הַמִּנָהָג שֶׁבִּימֵי בֵּין הַמָּצָרִים מוֹסִיפִים בִּלְמוּד הַתּוֹרָה בִּעִנְיָנֵי בֵּית הַבָּחִירָה, עַל יִסוֹד דְּבָרֵי הַמְּדְרַשׁ: בא וּרְאָה כְּשֶׁהַקַּדוֹשׁ־בַּרוּדְ־הוּא מַרְאָה לִיחַזְקָאל אַת"בא וּרְאָה כָּשֶׁהַקַּדוֹשׁ־בַּרוּדְ־הוּא צוּרַת הַבַּיִת מָה הוּא אוֹמֵר, הַבֵּד אֵת בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵת הַבַּיִת וְיִכָּלְמוּ מֵעֲוֹנוֹתֵיהֶם וּמֶדְדוּ אֶת תָּכְנִית", אָמַר יָחֶזְקֵאל לְפָנֵי הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא, רְבּוֹנוֹ שֶׁל עוֹלָם, עַד עַכְשָׁו אַנוּ נִתוּנִים בַּגוֹלָה בָּאֶרֶץ שׂוֹנָאֵינוּ וְאַתָּה אוֹמֶר לִי לֵילֶך וּלְהוֹדִיעַ לְיִשָּׂרָאֶל צוּרַת הַבַּיִת?.. וְכִי יִכוֹלִין הֵן לַצַשׂוֹת? הַנִּיחַ לַהֶם עַד שֵׁיַעַלוּ מָן הַגּוֹלַה, וַאַחַר־כַּךְ אַנִי הוֹלֵךְ וְאוֹמֶר לָהֶם. אַמֶּר לוֹ הַקַּדוֹשׁ־בַּרוּדְ־הוּא לִיחָזָקֵאל: וּבָשָׁבִיל שֶׁבַּנֵי נָתוּנִים בַּגוֹלַה יָהֵיֶה בִּנָיַן בֵּיתִי בַּטֵל?! גַּדוֹל קָרָיָתָה בַּתּוֹרָה כִּבְנְיָנָה, לֵךְ אֱמוֹר לָהֶם וְיָתְעַסְקוּ לְקָרוֹת צוּרֵת הַבַּיִת בַּתּוֹרֵה, וּבִשְׂכֵר קָרַיַּתַה שַׁיָּתִעַסְקוּ לְקָרוֹת בָּה אֲנִי מַעֵלֵה עַלֵיהֶם כְּאָלוּ הֶם "עוֹסְקִין בָּבִנְיַן הַבַּיִת

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

משיחות שַבַּת־פַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

And this raises a question requiring further thought: Regarding the start of the study of Beis HaBechirah on the 17th of Tammuz that falls on Shabbos—does Shabbos override the entire time frame of Bein HaMetzarim, such that the Three Weeks officially begin on Sunday? Or does Shabbos only push off the fast, while the negative elements of Bein HaMetzarim still begin on Shabbos itself?]

וְצַרִיךְ עִיּוּן בָּנוֹגֵעַ לְהַתְחַלֵּת הַלְּמוּד בִּעָנִינֵי בֵּית הַבָּחַירָה בִּי"ז בָּתַמוּז שֶׁחַל בִּשְׁבַּת – הַאָם הַשְּׁבַּת דּוֹחַה אָת כָּלַלוּת הַזָּמֵן דְּבֵין הַמְּצַרים, וְהַתְּחַלַת בֵּין הַמְּצַרים בָּקְבִיעוּת כָּזוֹ הִיא בִּיוֹם רָאשׁוֹן, אוֹ שֶׁהַשַּׁבָּת דּוֹחָה רַק [?אֶת הַצּוֹם, וְהָעִנְיָנִים הַבִּּלְתִּי רְצוּיִים דְּבֵין הַמְּצָרִים [?אֶת הַצּוֹם, וְהָעִנְיָנִים הַבִּּלְתִּי

And based on the above—that in this year in particular (in addition to the special emphasis in our generation as a whole), the focus is on the good of the 17th of Tammuz and of Bein HaMetzarim, since הַהַדְגָשָׁה הַמְיָחֶדֶת שֶׁבָּכְלָלוּת דּוֹרֲנוּ זֶה) מַדְגֵשׁ רַק הַטוֹב we are standing at the threshold of the Redemption, which is coming immediately and literally at once—it is understood that the study of the laws of the Beis HaBechirah this year must be of a completely different nature:

ּוְעַל־פִּי הָאַמֵּר לְעֵיל שֶׁבִּשָׁנָה זוֹ בִּמְיֻחָד (נוֹסֵף עַל דִי"ז תַּמוּז וּדְבֵין הַמָּצָרִים, כִּיוַן שֶׁעוֹמְדִים עַל סַף הַגָּאַלָּה שֶׁבָּאַה הֶכֶף וּמִיָּד מַמָּשׁ – מוּבָן, שֶׁלְמוּד הָלְכוֹת בֵּית הַבָּחִירָה בִּשַׁנַה זוֹ צַרִיךְ לְהִיוֹת בָּאֹפֵן אַחֵר לְגַמְרִי:

First and foremost—this learning should not be motivated by the intensification of the emotion of mourning, or by the effort to repair the deficiency caused by the destruction of the Beis HaMikdash. Rather, it should come (even had there not been a destruction) from the longing and yearning for the greatness and perfection of the Third Beis HaMikdash, about which it is said: 'Greater will be the glory of this latter House than the former'—a greatness that has never existed before (not in the Second Beis HaMikdash, not in the First, and not even in the Mishkan made by Moshe), and therefore it was never destroyed. It will come as an addition and enhancement over the level of the Mishkan, the First, and Second Temples (and not merely in a way of restoring something previously taken as a collateral).

לְכַל לְרֹאשׁ – שֶׁהַלְּמוּד הוּא לֹא מָצֵד הַתַּגַּבָּרוּת רֶגֵשׁ הָאֲבֵלוּת וְהַהִּשְׁתַּדְלוּת לְתַקֵּן הַחֶסְרוֹן דְחָרְבַּן בֵּית־הַמָּקדָשׁ, אֶלָּא (גַם לִילֵי הַחַרָבַן) מִצַּד הַכּוֹסֶף וַהַהִשָּׁתוֹקְקוּת לַמַּעַלַה וָהַשָּׁלֵמוּת דְּבֵית־הַמָּקְדַשׁ הַשְּׁלִישִׁי, עָלָיו נָאֱמַר "גָּדוֹל יִהְיֶה כְּבוֹד הַבַּיִת הַזֶּה הָאַחַרוֹן מִן הָרָאשׁוֹן" – גַּדְלוּת שֶׁלֹּא הָיְתָה מֵעוֹלָם (לֹא בְּבַיִת שֵׁנִי, וְלֹא בְּבַיִת רָאשׁוֹן, וְלֹא בַּמִּשְׁכַּן שֶׁעַשָּׁה משֶה), וּמִמֵּילָא לֹא הָיָה בַּהֶם חַרְבַּן – וּבַאַה בִּאֹפֵן שֶׁל הוֹסָפָה וּשָׁלֵמוּת עַל מַעֲלַת הַמִּשָׁכָּן, בַּיִת רָאשׁוֹן וּבַיִת שַׁנִי (וַלֹא רַק בָּאֹפֵן שֵׁמַחַזִירִים דַבַר שֵׁהַיָה מְקַדֵם (שַנַלְקָח בַּתוֹרת משַכּוֹן).

And more importantly: the learning must come with a definite and complete awareness that this is not just "halachah for the times of Moshiach," but rather, it is actual, practical halachah for the very next moment—since the future Beis HaMikdash that we are awaiting is already built and complete (above in Heaven), and it will be revealed and descend from Heaven at any moment!

ועוד וִעְקַר – שֶׁהַלְּמוּד הוּא מָתּוֹךְ יִדִיעַה וְהַכַּרָה בָּוַדַּאוּת גְמוּרָה שֶׁאֵין זֶה "הָלְכְתָּא לְמְשִׁיחָא", כִּי אִם, הַלְכָה לְמַעֲשֶׂה בְּפֹעַל בְּרָגַע שֶׁלְאַחֲרֵי־זֶה, כִּיוָן שֶׁמִּקְדַּשׁ הֶעָתִיד שֶׁאָנוּ מְצַפִּין – בָּנוּי וּמְשֵׁכְלָל (כְּבָר עַתָּה לְמַעְלָה), וְתֵכֶף וָנָלֶה וְיָבוֹא מִשָּׁמֵיִם!

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

משיחות שַבַּת־פַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

In line with what has been emphasized in recent times regarding the special increase in Torah study on the topics of Geulah and Moshiach—not (only) as a segulah to hasten and bring closer the coming of Moshiach and the Redemption, but (also and primarily) in order to begin living with matters of Moshiach and Geulah, to live in the reality of the time of Moshiach, by having the mind saturated and permeated with understanding and grasp of Moshiach and Geulah as explained in Torah. And from the mind, this spreads and penetrates into the emotions of the heart, and ultimately into actual behavior in thought, speech, and action—in a בְּמַחֲשָׁבָה דָבּוּר וּמַצֲשֶׂה – בְּאֹפֶן הַמַּתְאִים לִּזְמַן מְיָחָד זֶה manner appropriate for this unique time in which we stand at the threshold of Redemption and can literally point and say: "Behold! This (the King Moshiach) is coming!"

ועל־דֶרֶךְ הַמִּדָבַּר בַּתִּקוּפַה הַאַחַרוֹנַה בִּנוֹגֵעַ לַהוֹסַפַה הַמְיַחֶדֶת בָּלְמוּד הַתּוֹרָה בִּעְנְיָנֵי גָאוּלָה וּמַשִּׁיחַ – לֹא רַק) בָּתוֹר סָגוּלָה לְמַהֶר וּלְקָרֵב בִּיאַת הַמֵּשִׁיחַ יָהָגָאַלָּה, אֶלָּא (גַם וּבָעָקָר) כָּדֵי לְהַתְחִיל "לְחִיוֹת" בְּעִנְיָנֵי מָשִׁיחַ וּגְאֻלָּה, לְחִיוֹת "עִם הַזְּמַן" דִּימוֹת הַמָּשִׁיחַ - עַל־יִדֵי זָה שֶׁהַשֶּׂכָל נַעשָה מִמֶלָא וְחַדוּר בַּהַבַנַה וָהַשָּׂגָה בְּעִנְיָנֵי מָשִׁיחַ וּגְאֻלָּה שֶׁבַּתּוֹרָה, וּמֵהַשֵּׂכֶל מָתְפַּשֵּׁט וְחוֹדֵר גַּם בָּרֶגָשׁ הַלֵּב, וְעַד לְהַנְהָגָה בִּפֹעַל שׁעוֹמִדִים עַל סַף הַגָּאַלָּה, וּמַרְאִים בָּאֶצְבַּע שֶׁהְנֵּה זֶה - ('(הַמֶּלֶךְ הַמָּשִׁיחַ) בָּא! כו

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And further clarification is needed regarding the necessity and greatness of studying Torah on the subjects of Moshiach, Geulah, and the building of the Third Beis HaMikdash as a form of entering into the beginning of the Days of Moshiach, with the following introduction:

וְיֵשׁ לְהוֹסִיף בָּבַאוּר הַצֹּרֶךְ וְהַמַּעֲלָה דְלְמוּד הַתּוֹרָה בְּעָנִינֵי מַשִּׁיחַ וּגָאַלָה וּבָנַיַן בֵּית־הַמִּקְדָּשׁ הַשִּׁלִישִׁי בָּכָנִיסָה לָהַתְחַלַת יִמוֹת הַמֵּשִׁיחַ וּבָהַקְדַּמַה:

Although our Sages said that "Moshiach will come when people are distracted," this does not contradict—G-d forbid—conscious thought and contemplation in a way of daas (meaning: that one connects their awareness in a deep, strong, and internalized way, fixing their thought firmly on the idea) about matters of Moshiach and Geulah. And most importantly, to know and recognize that we are already entering the era of Moshiach, and that "Behold—he is coming!" Since all the deadlines have passed, and we have already done teshuvah and completed all aspects of our Divine service perfectly (as detailed earlier in sections 7–8), the phrase "distraction" means something higher than daas—that after the matter penetrates into one's conscious awareness through thought and contemplation, it then becomes ingrained in a way that transcends awareness.

אַף שַאַמָרוּ חַכַמֵינוּ־זַ"ל שַׁמַשִׁיחַ בַּא בָּהֶסֶח הַדַּעַת", אֵין זָה בָּסְתִירָה חַס וְשַׁלוֹם לְמַחַשַּׁבָה וְהַתְבּוֹנְנוּת בָּאֹפָן שֵׁל דַעַת" (שֶׁמְקַשֶּׁר דַּעָתּוֹ בָּקֶשֶׁר אַמִּיץ וְחָזָק מָאֹד וְיִתְקַע מַחֲשַׁבָתוֹ בָּחֹזֶק") בִּעִנְיָנֵי מַשִּׁיחַ וּגָאַלָה וּלְכֶל לְרֹאשׁ הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה וְהַהָּתְבּוֹנְנוּת לֵידַע וּלְהַכִּיר שָׁעוֹמְדִים כְּבָר בְּהַכְּנִיסָה לִימוֹת הַמָּשִׁיחַ, הִנֵּה זֶה בָּא", כִּיוָן שֶׁכְבָר כָּלוּ כַּל הַקצִין, וּכָבַר עַשׁוּ תִּשׁוּבַה, וְסִימוּ כַּל עִנִינֵי הַעַבוֹדַה בָּשָׁלֵמוּת, כָּכָל פָּרָטֵי הַדְּבָרִים הָאֲמוּרִים לְעֵיל (סְעִיפִים־ זַ־ח)] - כִּי, הָסַח הַדַּעַת" פֶּרוּשׁוֹ לְמַעְלָה מִן הַדַּעַת", הַיִנוּ, שַׁלְאַחַרֵי שֶׁעִנְיָן זָה חוֹדֵר בְּדַעִתּוֹ (עַל־יִדֵי הַמַּחַשָּׁבָה וְהַהָּתִבּוֹנְנוּת כוּ'), הַרֵי־זָה נַעֲשָׂה אֶצְלוֹ בָּאֹפֵן שָׁ(בָּהֶפָּח וּלְמַעְלָה מִן הַדְּעַת.

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מְשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבַּת־בַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

And practically speaking—even though there has been much 'commotion" about this matter in recent times, especially in this וּבָנוֹגֵעַ לְפַעַל – לַמָרוֹת הַשָּׁטוּרַעם" שָׁבַּדָּבַר בַּתִּקוּפַה year which was declared as the year of "I will show you הַאַחַרוֹנָה בִּשַׁנָה זוֹ, תַּהָא שָׁנַת נָפָלַאוֹת אַרְאַנוּ, לְאַחַרי wonders"—and even after witnessing wonders that attest that "this רָאַיַת הַנָּפָלַאוֹת הַמְעִידוֹת שַׁזוֹהִי הַ שַׁנַה שָׁמֵלֶךְ הַמַשִּׁיחַ is the year in which the King Moshiach is revealed," we still see ("נָגַלָה בּוֹ", רוֹאִים שֶׁיָשִׁנוֹ קשִׁי (עֵס קוּמָט אַן שָׁנֵוער) there is difficulty ("it's hard to internalize") in absorbing the לְהַחְדִּיר הַהַכַּרָה וְהַהַרְגָּשָׁה שֶׁעוֹמְדִים עַל סַסֵף יְמוֹת recognition and feeling that we are actually standing at the הַמַּשִׁיחַ מַמַּשׁ עַד threshold of the Days of Moshiach, to the point of beginning to ַר שַיַּתְחִילוּ לָחִיוֹת" בָּעָנִינֵי מַשִּׁיחַ וּגָאַלַה. כו (' שֵׁיַּתְחִילוּ לָחִיוֹת" live with the consciousness of Moshiach and Geulah. And one of the reasons for this (in addition to the inner exile, since וּמַהַטִעַמִים לַזֵה (נוֹסֵף עַל הַגַּלוּת הַפִּנִימִי כִּיוַן שֵׁחַסֵר the matter of "I will show him wonders" is still lacking — as per עַדַיָן בָּהַעָנָיַן דָאַרָאַנּוּ נָפָלַאוֹת" כָּהַלַשוֹן וָהַסֶּדֵר the precise wording and order of the verse, "As in the days of your אָרָאָנוּ נְפָלָאוֹת (כִימֵי צֵאתָךְ מֵאֶרֵץ מְצָרַיִם אַרְאָנּוּ נְפָלָאוֹת "): exodus from the land of Egypt, I will show him wonders"): ָהָדִּיּוּק דָאַרָאַנּוּ נָפָלַאוֹת" הוּא בָּשָׁתַּיָם: (א) אַרְאַנוּ", The precision of "I will show him wonders" is twofold: (a) "I will דְּקָאֵי עַל הַקַּדוֹשׁ־בַּרוּדְ־הוּא, הַיִנוּ, שֶׁהַקַּדוֹשׁ־בַּרוּדְ־הוּא show him" refers to the Holy One, blessed be He — meaning, G-d מַרְאָה בָּעַצְמוֹ, וְלֹא עַלֹּ־ יְדֵי נָבִיא וְכַיּוֹצֵא־בָּזֵה, (ב) Himself shows them, not via a prophet or intermediary; (b) The הַהַתְחָלָה הִיא בְּאֹפֶן דְאַרְאָנּוּ", הַיְנוּ, שֶׁהִתְרַחֲשׁוּת beginning is in the form of "I will show him," meaning the הַנָּפָלָאוֹת" הִיא בָּאֹפֶן שֶׁמְּלְכַתְּחָלָה מַרְאֶה אוֹתָם wonders occur in such a way that G-d shows them from the outset הַקּקדוֹשׁ־בַּרוּךָ־ הוּא (וְלֹא (וְלֹא בָּאֹפֵן שֶׁתְּחַלָּה (not that wonders occur and are later interpreted). (מָתַרַחַשִּׁים נָפָלַאוֹת", וְאַחַר־כַּךְ מַרְאִי אָם אוֹתַם. מַה־שָׁאֵין־כֵּן כִּשֶׁהַסָּדֵר הוּא בָּאֹפָן דְנִפְלַאוֹת אַרְאֵנוּ" This is not the case when the order is "wonders I will show him" (כְּסִימַנַה שֶׁל הַשַּׁנַה, תשנ"א, תָּהֶא שָׁנַת נָפְלַאוֹת (as in the acronym of the year 5751 — "It will be a year of אַראַנוּ), שֶׁמְתַרַחֲשִׁים מָאֹרַעוֹת שֶׁהֶם בְּגֶדֵר שֶׁל wonders I will show him"): where wondrous events occur, and נָפָלָאוֹת", וְאַחַר־כָּךְ צָרִיכִים לְהַתְחִיל לְהַסְבִּיר וּלְבָאֵר only afterward is there a need to explain, interpret, and awaken ילעוֹרֶר עַל־דָּבַר רָאָיַת הַנָּפִלָאוֹת, לְהָתְבּוֹנֵן וְלְרְאוֹת awareness to recognize the wonders as signs of the Redemption. בָּהֶם סִימְנֵי הַגְּאָלָה, Most importantly, the "I will show him" has not yet occurred -ועוֹד וִעְקָר, שֵׁעֲדַיִן לֹא הַיָה הַאַרְאַנּוּ" עַל־יִדֵי meaning, G-d Himself has not shown each and every Jew the הַקַדוֹשׁ־בַּרוּךְ־הוּא בִּעַצִמוֹ (שֶׁהַקַדוֹשׁ־ בַּרוּךְ הוּא wonders of the Redemption, at which point no explanations would בַּעַצָמוֹ מַרָאָה לְכָל־אֶחָד וְאֶחָד מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל הַנְּפָלַאוֹת be needed to awaken the recognition and feeling that "behold, he is דְהַגָּאַלָה, שַׁאַז אֵין צֹרֶךְ בְּהֶסְבַּרִים וּבָאוּרִים לְהַחִדִּיר coming." Hence, it remains difficult to penetrate the human הַהַכָּרָה וְהַרְגַּשָׁה שֶׁהָנֵה זֶה בָּא") – קַשָּׁה לְפְעַל שֵׁיַחְדָּר consciousness and emotion. בַּהַכָּרָה וְהָרֶגֶשׁ דְּהָאָדָם

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מִשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבָּת־בָּרָשַׁת בָּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַּמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

The solution for this is — through studying Torah on the topics of Moshiach and Geulah. For through the power of Torah (the wisdom of the Holy One, blessed be He, which transcends the world), the nature of man can be transformed.	ְהָעֵצָה לָזָה – עַל־יִדֵי לִמּוּד הַתּוֹרָה בְּעִנְיָנֵי מְשִׁיחַ וּגְאָלָה, כִּי, בְּכֹחַ הַתּוֹרָה (חָכָמָתוֹ שָׁל הַקָּדוֹשׁ־בָּרוּדְ־הוּא שָׁלְמַעְלָה מֵהָעוֹלָם) לְשַׁנּוֹת טָבַע הָאָדָם,	
So that even when, emotionally, one is still — Heaven forbid — distant from the idea of Redemption (because he has not yet left the inner exile), nevertheless, through studying Torah in matters of Redemption, he elevates himself to a redeemed state.	שֶׁגַּם כַּאֲשֶׁר מִצַד הָרֶגָשׁ שֶׁלּוֹ נִמְצָא עֲדַיִן חַס וְשָׁלוֹם מִחוּץ לְעִנְיֵן הַגְּאָלָה (כֵּיוָן שֶׁלֹא יָצָא עֲדַיִן מֵהַגָּלוּת הַפְּנִימִי,	
And he begins to live with the topic of the Redemption, with knowledge, recognition, and feeling that "behold, it is coming."	הַרֵי עַל־יָדֵי לִמּוּד הַתּוֹרָה בְּעִנְיָנֵי הַגְּאָלָה מִתְעַלֶּה לְמַעֲמָד וּמַצָּב שֶׁל גָּאָלָה, וּמַתְחִיל לְחִיוֹת בְּעַנְיָנֵי הַגָּאָלָה, מִתּוֹךְ יְדִיעָה וְהַכָּרָה וְהַרְגָּשָׁה שֶׁהִנֵּה זֶה בָּא".	
(יא)		
And this can be connected with the study of Pirkei Avos learned on this Shabbos — Chapter Six: "The Sages taught in the language of the Mishnah, 'Blessed is He who chose them and their Mishnah.' Rabbi Meir says: Whoever engages in Torah study for its own sake merits many things" — which at first glance requires explanation:	וְיֵשׁ רְקַשֶּׁר זָה עִם הַּלְמוּד דְּפִּרְקֵי אָבוּת שֶּבְּשַבָּת זָה, . פָּרָק שִׁשִׁי – שָׁנוּ חֲכָמִים בִּלְשׁוֹן הַמִּשְׁנָה, בָּרוּךְ שֶׁבָּחַר בּבִּח וּרִמִשׁוִתִּם רִבִּי מִאִיר אוֹמִר כִּל בִּעִיֹחָם בְּּחִוֹרָה	
(a) The phrase "The Sages taught in the language of the Mishnah" is, simply, an introduction to the entire chapter — meaning, it is a <i>Baraisa</i> stated in the style of the Mishnah, but it is not a Mishnah. What follows — "The Sages taught Rabbi Meir says" — is to inform us that from this point forward, we are quoting a <i>Baraisa</i> .	א) הַפִּיסְקָא שָׁנוּ חֲכָמִים בִּלְשׁוֹן הַמִּשְׁנָה" הִיא (בְּפַשְׁטוּת) הַקְדָּמָה לְכָל הַפֶּרֶק – כְּלוֹמֵר, בָּרַיְתָא הִיא וּבְלְשׁוֹן הַמִּשְׁנָה הִיא שְׁנוּיָה אֲבָל אֵינָה מִשְׁנָה, וּמַה שָׁנוּ חֲכָמִים, רַבִּי־מֵאִיר אוֹמֵר וְכוּ', וּלְפִי שֶׁעַד עַכְשָׁו כָּל הַפְּרָקִים מִשְׁנָה הַצְרַךְּ לְהוֹדִיעַ שֶׁמִּכָּאוֹ וְאֵילָךְ בָּרַיְתָא הִיּא	
But since this statement doesn't appear independently, but rather together (in a single Mishnah) with the words of Rabbi Meir about the virtue of studying Torah lishmah (for its own sake), it seems reasonable to say that there is a thematic connection between them.	אֲבָל, כִּיוָן שָׁפִיסְקָא זוֹ לֹא בָּאָה בִּפְנֵי־עַצְמָהּ, אֶלֶּא בְּיַחַד (בְּמִשְׁנָה אַחַת) עִם דִּבְרֵי רַבִּי־מֵאִיר בְּמַעֲלַת הָעוֹסֵק בַּתוֹרָה לִשְׁמָה, מִסְתַּבֵּר לוֹמֵר שֶׁיֵשׁ קְשֶׁר וְשַׁיָּכוּת בֵּינֵיהֶם	

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מְשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבַּת־בַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

Also, each of the two sections needs to be understood individually: (b) Regarding the phrase "The Sages taught in the language of the Mishnah": after Rabbeinu HaKadosh arranged the Mishnayos — the Six Orders of the Mishnah — with a fixed number of tractates, chapters, and mishnayos, whereas the *Baraisos* are a separate category — what is the meaning and rationale for including a *Baraisa* in *Maseches Avos*, such that the *Baraisa* (which is not a Mishnah) is repeated in the language of the Mishnah?

גַּם צָרִידְ לְהָבִין בְּכָל אַחַת מִב׳ הַפְּסְקָאוֹת בִּפְנֵי־עַצְמָה: ב) בַּפִּיסְקָא שָׁנוּ חֲכָמִים בִּלְשׁוֹן הַמִּשְׁנָה": לְאַחֲרֵי שֶׁרַבֵּנוּ הַקָּדוֹשׁ סְדַּר הַמִּשְׁנָיוֹת, שִׁשֶׁה סְדְרֵי מִשְׁנָה, הַכּוֹלְלִים מִסְפֶּר קָבוּעַ שֶׁל מַסְּכְתּוֹת, פְּרָקִים וּמִשְׁנָיוֹת, וְאָלוּ הַבָּרַיְתוֹת הֵם חֲלָקָה בִּפְנֵי־עַצְאָמָה - מַהוּ הַתּּכָן וְהָעִנְיָן דְצַרוּף הַבָּרִיְתָא לַמִּשְׁנָה בְּמַסָּכֶת אָבוֹת, עַד יִשֶׁהַבְּרַיְתָא (שָׁאֵינָה מִשְׁנָה) נִשְׁנֵית בִּלְשׁוֹן הַמִּשְׁנָה

(c) Regarding Rabbi Meir's statement: since his teaching goes on to list many things that one merits through learning Torah for its own sake — what is the meaning of the introduction "merits many things"? On the contrary, this opening phrase seems unnecessarily lengthy and uncharacteristic of the concise language typically used in Mishnah (as in "The Sages taught in the language of the Mishnah") — which normally uses specifically concise expressions.

ג) וּבְמַאֲמָרוֹ שֶׁל רַבִּי מֵאִיר: כִּיוָן שֶׁבְּהֶמְשַׁךְ הַמַּאֲמָר מוֹנָה רְבּוּי דְּבָרִים שֶׁהָעוֹסֵק בַּתּוֹרָה לִשְׁמָה זוֹכֶה לָהֶם, מַהוּ פָּרוּשׁ הַהַקְדָּמָה שֶׁדּוֹכָה לִדְבָרִים הַרְבֵּה", וְאַדְרַבָּה, הַקְדָּמָה זוֹ הִיא (לִכְאוֹרָה) אֲרִיכוּת הַלָּשׁוֹן שֶׁאֵינוֹ מַתְאִים לִלְשׁוֹן הַמִּשְׁנָה (שָׁנוּ חֲכָמִים בִּלְשׁוֹן הַמִּשְׁנָה"), ?לַשׁוֹן קַצֵּר דַּוִקָא

(יב)

One can explain the central point of clarification as follows: The *Baraisos* — which were taught outside the study hall of Rabbeinu HaKadosh (and hence called *Baraisa*, from the root meaning "outside" — as in the Targum of "outside" being *mibāra*) — despite their level being lower than the Mishnayos, to the extent that they are termed "outside," nonetheless, they are part of Torah. And they contain all the elevation and power of Torah, since everything (even what a seasoned student is destined to innovate) was given to Moshe at Sinai.

וְגֵשׁ לוֹמֵר נְקֻדַּת הַבֵּאוּר בָּזָה: "בָּרַיְתוֹת", שֶׁבִּשְׁנוּ חוּץ לְבֵית מִדְרָשׁוֹ (שֶׁל רַבֵּנוּ הַקָּדוֹשׁ) וְעַל כֵּן נִקְרְאוּ בָּרַיְתוֹת, לְשׁוֹן חוּץ, כִּי תַּרְגוּם מְחוּץ מִבָּרָא – עִם הֱיוֹת שֶׁדַּרְגָּתָם לְמַטָּה מִמִּשְׁנָיוֹת, עַד שֶׁנַקְרָאִים בְּשֵׁם חוּץ – הֲרֵי-הֵם חֵלֶק מֵהַתּוֹרָה, וְיֵשׁ בָּהֶם כָּל הָעִלוּי וְהַתֹּקֶף בְּתוֹרָה, שֶׁכֵּלָם (אֲפִלוּ מַה שֶׁתַּלְמִיד וְתִיק עָתִיד לְחַדֵּשׁ) נָתִנוּ לִמֹשֵׁה מַסִינֵי

And this idea is emphasized specifically in *Maseches Avos*, which begins with the orderly transmission of Torah: "Moshe received the Torah from Sinai and transmitted it..." until the conclusion, "Raise up many students" — culminating in the inclusion of *Baraisos* alongside the Mishnayos, even though the *Baraisos* were taught outside the study hall of Rabbeinu HaKadosh (and they include all elements of Torah innovated by seasoned students over the generations).

ְעִנְיֶן זֶה מֻדְגָּשׁ בְּמַסֶּכֶת אָבוֹת, שֶׁהַתְחָלָתָהּ בְּסֵדֶר הִשְׁתַּלְשְׁלוּת קַבָּלַת הַתּוֹרָה – "מֹשֶׁה קִבֵּל תוֹרָה מִסִּינֵי וּמְסָרָהּ כוּ" עַד "לְהַעֲמִיד תַּלְמִידִים הַרְבֵּה", שֶׁבְּסִיּוּמָה מְצְרְפִים לַמִּשְׁנָיוֹת גַּם אֶת הַבָּרַיְתוֹת שֶׁנִשְׁנוּ חוּץ לְבֵית מִדְרָשׁוֹ שֶׁל רַבֵּנוּ הַקָּדוֹשׁ (הַכּוֹלְלִים כָּל עִנְינֵי הַתּוֹרָה (שָׁנְתִחַדְּשׁוּ עַל־יְדֵי תַּלְמִיד וְתִיק בְּמֶשֶׁךְ כָּל הַדּוֹרוֹת.

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מִשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבָּת־בָּרָשַׁת בָּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַּמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

And the beginning of that addition states that all of them were taught by the Sages ("All your children are students of Hashem") in the language of the Mishnah — indicating that their level is equivalent to that of the Mishnayos.	וּמַקְדִּימִים שֶׁכֵּלֶם נִשְׁנוּ עַל־יְדֵי הַחֲּכָמִים ("כָּל בָּנַיִךְ לִמוּדֵי ה'") בִּלְשׁוֹן הַמִּשְׁנָה, לְהוֹרוֹת שֶׁמַעֲלָתָם שָׁוָה לְמַצְלַת הַמִּשְׁנָיוֹת.
More broadly — included in the category of "Baraisa" are all aspects of Torah revealed in our time, which are considered "outside" in relation to the "new Torah" ("Torah chadasha mei'iti teitzei") — namely, the inner dimension of Torah, the secrets of its reasons and concealed mysteries, which will be revealed in the days of Moshiach. And even our Sages said: "The Torah one learns in this world is as nothing compared to the Torah of Moshiach."	וּבִכְלָלוּת יוֹתֵר – נִכְלָלִים בַּ"בָּרַיְתָא" כָּל עִנְינֵי הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁנְתְגַּלוּ בִּזְמִן הַזֶּה, שֶׁהֵם בִּבְחִינַת "חוּץ" (בַּרִיְתָא) לְגַבֵּי "תּוֹרָה חֲדָשָׁה מֵאִתִּי תֵצֵא" – פְּנִימִיוּת הַתּוֹרָה, סוֹד טַצְמֶיהָ וּמִסְתַּר צְפוּנוֹתֶיהָ, שֶׁתְּתְגַּלֶּה בִּימִי הַמָּשִׁיחַ, וְעַד שֶׁאָמָרוּ חֲכָמִינוּ זַ"ל "הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁאָדָם לוֹמֵד בָּעוֹלָם הַזֶּה ""– הָבֶל הִיא לִפְנֵי תּוֹרָתוֹ שֶׁל מָשִׁיחַ.
Nevertheless, even the Torah that one learns in this world — though it is "outside" (external, Baraisa) — is taught in the language of the Mishnah, just like the inner Torah that will be revealed in the days of Moshiach. For the entire Torah is one Torah.	ְאַף־עַל־פִּי־כֵן, גַּם הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁאָדָם לוֹמֵד בָּעוֹלָם הַנָּה – שֶׁהִיא בִּבְחִינַת "חוּץ" (חִיצוֹנִיּוּת), בָּרַיְתָא – נִשְׁנֵית בִּלְשוֹן הַמִּשְׁנָה, כְּמוֹ פְּנִימִיוּת הַתּוֹרָה שֶׁתִּתְגַּלֶּה בִּימֵי הַמָּשִׁיחַ, כִּי הַתּוֹרָה כֵּלָּה הִיא תּוֹרָה אַחַת.
And this idea is also underscored in the content of Rabbi Meir's statement: "Whoever studies Torah for its own sake merits many things" — meaning, the phrase "many things" is not merely a preface to the list that follows, but rather an independent concept: it refers to the infinite aspect of Torah — the true "many" that is without limit — that will be revealed in the "Torah chadasha mei'iti teitzei" — from Me, precisely — from Hashem's very Essence, which is truly without limit.	ְוְעַנְיֶן זֶה מֻדְגָּשׁ גַּם בְּתוֹכֶן מַאֲמֶרוֹ שֶׁל רַבִּי מֵאִיר "כָּל הָעוֹסֵק בַּתוֹרָה לִשְׁמָה זוֹכָה לִדְּבָרִים הַרְבֵּה": הַפֵּרוּשׁ דִּ"דְבָרִים הַרְבֵּה" (גַּם בְּפַשְׁטוּת – אֵינוֹ הָרְבּוּי דְּבָרִים שֶׁמוֹנֶה לְאַחֲרֵי־זָה, אֶלָּא עִנְיָן בִּפְנֵי־עַצְמוֹ) – הַבְּלִי גְּבוּל שֶׁבַּתוֹרָה ("הַרְבֵּה" לַאֲמָתָּתוֹ – שֶׁאֵין רְבּוּי גָּדוֹל יוֹתֵר מָמֶנוּ), שֶׁיִתְגַּלֶּה בַּ"תּוֹרָה חֲדָשָׁה מֵאִתִּי תַצֵא" – "מֵאִתִּי" דַּיְקָא – מַהוּתוֹ וְעַצְמוּתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵהְ, בְּלִי גְּבוּל הָאֲמִתִּי
And this is the meaning of "Whoever studies Torah lishmah merits many things" — that through engaging in Torah lishmah in this world, one merits the infinite in Torah chadasha mei'iti teitzei.	ְוָזָהוּ "כָּל הָעוֹסֵק בַּתוֹרָה לִשְׁמָה זוֹכֶה לִדְבָרִים הַרְבֵּה" – שֶׁעַל־יְדֵי עֵסֶק הַתּוֹרָה לִשְׁמָה בָּעוֹלָם הַנָּה זוֹכִים לַבְּלִי "גְבוּל שָׁבַּ"תוֹרָה חְדָשָׁה מֵאִתִּי תַצֵא.
And from this we can understand also in regard to a person's avodah: Even one who feels himself to be in the state of "Baraisa," outside — that he is still distant and outside the condition of the days of Moshiach, when the inner Torah will be fully revealed — nevertheless, through Torah study, he merits "many things," meaning that he is elevated from the outside and brought inward — that he becomes permeated with Torah (including the matters of	וּמָזֶּה מוּבָן גַּם בְּנוֹגֵעַ לַעֲבוֹדַת הָאָדָם – שָׁגַּם מִי שֶׁמַּרְגִּישׁ אֶת עַצְמוֹ בִּבְחִינַת "בָּרִיְתָא", "חוּץ", שֶׁהוּא בִּרְחוּק עֲדַיִן וּמְחוּץ לַמַּעֲמָד וּמַצָּב דִּימוֹת הַמָּשִׁיחַ – שֶׁאָז יִהְיֶה עָקֶר וּשְׁלֵמוּת הַגִּילוּי דְּפְנִימִיוּת הַתּוֹרָה – הָרֵי, עַל־יְדֵי לִמוּד הַתּוֹרָה זוֹכֶה לִדְבָרִים הַרְבֵּה, שֶׁמִּתְעַלֶּה מֵהַחוּץ וְנְכְנָס לִפְנִים, הַיְנוּ, שֶׁנַּעֲשֶׂה חָדוּר בַּתוֹרָה (כּוֹלֵל בְּעִנִינִי הַגְּאֻלָּה), וּמוּכָן לַהִתְגַּלוּת דִּ"תוֹרָה חֲדְשָׁה מֵאִתִּי "תַצֵּא

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מִשִּׁיחוֹת שַׁבָּת־פָּרָשֵׁת בָּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַּמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

Geulah) and is prepared for the revelation of Torah chadasha mei'iti teitzei.

(۲۲)

And may it be [Hashem's] will — and this is the main thing — that there will be no need to speak and awaken others about the topic of contemplating and meditating on matters of Moshiach and Geulah, and the learning of Torah concerning Moshiach and Geulah and the building of the Third Beis HaMikdash, since immediately and at once, with physical eyes of flesh, it will be seen: "Behold, *this* [King Moshiach] is coming," "Behold, the true and complete redemption," and "Behold, the Third Beis HaMikdash."

וִיהִי רְצוֹן וְהוּא הָעִקֶּר – שָׁלֹא יִצְטָרְכוּ לְדַבֵּר וּלְעוֹרֵר עַל־דְּבַר הַמַּחֲשָׁבָה וְהַהִּתְּבּוֹנְנוּת בְּעִנְיָנֵי מָשִׁיחַ וּגְאָלָה, וְהַלְמוּד בַּתּוֹרָה בְּעִנְיָנֵי מָשִׁיחַ וּגְאָלָה וּבִנְיַן בֵּית־הַמִּקְדָּשׁ הַשְׁלִישִׁי, כִּיוָן שֶׁתַּכָף וּמִיָּד מַמָּשׁ רוֹאִים בְּעֵינֵי בָּשֶׂר שֶׁהִנֵּה זֶה (הַמֶּלֶךְ הַמָּשִׁיחַ) בָּא", הִנֵּה הַגְּאָלָה הָאֲמִתִּית וְהַשְׁלֵמָה, וְהִנֵּה בֵּית־הַמִּקְדֵּשׁ הַשְּׁלִישִׁי.

In plain terms: that on this Shabbos Kodesh, the 15th of Tammuz, Parshas Balak (before the reading begins for Parshas Pinchas, during Mincha time), in the year "Ar'enu Nifla'os" ("I will show you wonders") — will be fulfilled the prophecy in this week's Parsha that we have already read: "And his kingdom will be exalted," the perfection of the kingship of the House of David through "a star will step forth from Yaakov and a scepter will rise from Yisrael" — the final Moshiach who will redeem Yisrael [at the end], an eternal redemption with no exile to follow.

וּבְפַשְׁטוּת – שֶׁבְּיוֹם הַשַּׁבַּת־קֹדֶשׁ טוֹ"ב תַּמוּז פֶּרְשַׁת בָּלֶק (לִפְנֵי הַתְּחָלַת הַקְרִיאָה בְּפָרָשֶׁת פִּינְחָס בִּזְמַן הַמִּנְחָה) שְׁנַת אַרְאָנוּ נִפְלָאוֹת מִתְקַיֶּמֶת הַנְּבוּאָה שֶׁבְּפָרְשַׁת הַשָּׁבוּעַ שֶׁבְּבָר קָרָאנוּ: וְתְנַשֵׂא מַלְכָתוֹ", שְׁלֵמוּת מַלְכוּת בֵּית דָּוִד עַל־יְדֵי זֶה דְדָרַךְ כּוֹכָב מִיַּעְקֹב וְקָם שֵׁבֶט מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל", מָשִׁיחַ הָאַחֲרוֹן שֶׁגוֹאֵל אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל בּבָּאַחַרוֹנָה]", גְּאָלָה נִצְחִית שָׁאֵין אַחַרֶיהָ גָּלוּת.

And following this come all the details of the matters in Parshas Pinchas: "Pinchas — this is Eliyahu," who has already come "yesterday ... to the Great Sanhedrin"; the tenth census of all Bnei Yisrael; the division of the land, for since all 42 journeys in the desert of the nations during the time of exile have already concluded, until the area of Yardein Yericho — we enter into Eretz Yisrael, across from Yardein Yericho, eastward and westward of the Jordan, and divide the land by lottery to all the Bnei Yisrael, as detailed in the following Parshiyos, Matos and Masei.

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מִשִּׁיחוֹת שַׁבָּת־פָּרָשֵׁת בָּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַּמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

And the offering of sacrifices — the daily offerings, the Shabbos offerings, and the festival offerings (including the days that will be transformed into joy and gladness and good festivals) — in the Third Beis HaMikdash, the "Sanctuary, O L-rd, which Your hands established." And we will learn the "New Torah that will come forth from Me," in the manner of "these words," pointing with one's finger and saying *this* — learning in a way of seeing: "And your eyes shall see your teacher," "He will be seen by G-d in Tziyon," "May our eyes behold Your return to Tziyon," "For G-d will save Tziyon... and they will dwell there — the upright will dwell in Your presence" — immediately and at once, mamash.

ְהַקּרֶבַת הַקּרְבָּנוֹת, הֵן הַקּרְבָּנוֹת דְּכָל יוֹם, הֵן הַקּרְבָּנוֹת דְּטָל יוֹם, הֵן הַקּרְבָּנוֹת דְּטַבְּת הַקּרְבָּנוֹת דְימֵי הַמּוֹעֲדִים (כּוֹלֵל גַּם יָמִים אֵלוּ שֻׁבָּרְ, וְהֵן הַקּרְבָּנוֹת דִימֵי הַמּוֹעֲדִים טוֹבִים)
בְּבֵית־הַמִּקְדָּשׁ הַשְׁלִישִׁי, מִקְדָשׁ אֲדֹנָ־י כּוֹנְנוּ יָדֶיךְ
וְלוֹמְדִים הַתּוֹרָה חַדָּשָׁה מֵאִתִּי תֵצֵא" בְּאֹפֶן דְאֵלֶּה הַדְּעָה בְּאָצְבָּעוֹ וְאוֹמֵר זֶה, לְמוּד בָּאֹפֶן שֶׁל הַדְּבָרִים", מַרְאָה בְּאָצְבָּעוֹ וְאוֹמֵר זֶה, לְמוּד בָּאֹפֶן שֶׁל רְאִיָּה: וְהָיוּ עֵינֶיךְ רֹאוֹת אֶת מוֹרִיךְ", יֵרְאָה אֶל אֱלֹקִים בְּצִיּוֹן", כִּי יִי אֱלֹקִים יְוֹשִׁרִּ צִיִּוֹן גִּוֹ וְיָשְׁבוּ שָׁם גוֹיִם, יֵשְׁבוּ יְשָׁרִים אֶת פָּנֶיךְ", מַּכָּף וֹמָיִרִם אֶת פָּנֶיךְ", מַכָּף וֹמִיָּד מַמְּשׁׁ

NOTE

Summary (Fully Encompassing the Entire Discourse):

This discourse by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, delivered on Shabbat Parshat Balak, 17 Tammuz 5751, explores the rare convergence of Shabbat with the Fast of 17 Tammuz (nidcheh) and connects this with the imminent coming of Moshiach. The Rebbe begins by explaining the unique sanctity of Shabbat when it overrides a communal fast day—particularly one associated with destruction—emphasizing Shabbat's nature as a time of joy, delight, and spiritual elevation. This isn't merely a technical delay of mourning, but a transformation: Shabbat infuses the fast day with positivity and future redemption.

The Rebbe then delves into how this idea finds profound expression in the custom to study Pirkei Avos during the summer. On this particular Shabbat, the sixth chapter is studied, which includes the teaching of Rabbi Meir about one who learns Torah lishmah ("for its own sake"). The Rebbe examines the unusual phrasing introducing that teaching—"Shanu chachamim bilshon haMishnah"—and highlights its link to the theme of choosing not only the sages but their teachings and style of expression. This phrasing signals a unique shift from standard Mishnah to Beraisa and suggests a deeper level of Divine favor in the Oral Torah's transmission.

Flowing from that, the Rebbe calls attention to how the very structure of Torah learning, especially when done lishmah, reveals and draws down essential Divine light. That aligns with the general theme of Shabbos Balak—a portion which contains the prophecy of the future redemption: "A star shall shoot forth from Jacob..." This passage directly references Moshiach, and the Rebbe underscores that these words are read on a Shabbat that is itself saturated with the redemptive energy of Shabbos, of Geulah.

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

משיחות שַבַּת־פַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991

Finally, the Rebbe concludes with an explicit prayer and hope: that we no longer need to speak or even meditate about the redemption, because it should already be manifest in visible reality—"hinei zeh ba." He links the verses of Balak with the prophecy of Eliyahu, the arrival of Moshiach, the division of the land among the tribes, the offering of korbanos, and the building of the Third Temple. The entire structure of Parshiyos following Balak—Pinchas, Matos, Massei—then becomes a roadmap of revealed redemption, culminating in the ability to point and say "this is it," learning Torah in a way of absolute seeing: "And your eyes shall behold your teacher."

Practical Takeaway:

Treat every Shabbat—and especially one like this, which holds back a fast—as a vessel for the light of redemption. Elevate your Shabbos with Torah lishmah, focus on joyful service, and align your mindset with the reality that redemption is not only near, but already beginning to unfold. Let the words of Torah—and the learning of even "extra" Pirkei Avos chapters—be filled with intention, clarity, and messianic consciousness.

Chassidic Story (True and Sourced):

At the height of World War II, amidst the chaos and suffering, a chassid of the Rebbe Rayatz (the sixth Rebbe) arrived in war-torn Europe on a mission to save Jewish lives. In the midst of horror, he wrote a letter to the Rebbe Rayatz in New York: "How can I keep faith when everything seems to be falling apart?" The Rebbe replied: "Open a Gemara. Study Torah. That is where you will find Melech HaMoshiach."

Years later, the chassid recalled that moment as his turning point. "In that instant," he said, "I realized Moshiach wasn't a distant dream. He was already present—waiting in the Torah, waiting in us. We just needed to open our eyes."

(Source: *Toras Menachem Reshimos*, based on testimony of Rabbi Sholom Gordon, printed by Vaad L'Hafotzas Sichos)

TPX (Therapeutic-Psychological Integration)

This powerful discourse by the Lubavitcher Rebbe explores the psychological experience of spiritual distance and how Torah study—especially when done *lishmah* (for its own

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מְשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבַּת־בַּרַשַׁת בַּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) תַמוּז ה'תנש"א

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sake)—serves as a redemptive bridge between outer fragmentation and inner wholeness. The Rebbe's use of the concept "Baraisa" as an "external" Torah text becomes a metaphor for anyone who feels spiritually outside, disconnected, or unworthy. He reframes this externality not as a flaw, but as a holy place from which transformation begins.

Psychologically, many people carry an internal narrative that they are on the "outside" of religious passion, emotional depth, or spiritual clarity. They might see themselves as students of Torah, but only in the margins—"Baraisa" people, not "Mishnah" people. The Rebbe gently but firmly rejects this dichotomy. He teaches that every Jew's learning, even when it feels dry, intellectual, or disconnected from inner emotional experience, is still *Torah*—completely divine and indispensable. It is not a stepping stone to "real spirituality"; it *is* spirituality.

In therapeutic terms, this is an invitation to radical self-acceptance. The feelings of being "outside" are part of the process, not signs of failure. The Torah learned in that state carries immense power. When we engage Torah *lishmah*—not for ego, guilt, validation, or approval, but for the sake of connecting to truth—it reshapes our identity from within. The "outside" dissolves. This mirrors what happens in trauma healing: once someone feels truly seen and accepted in their fragmented state, integration begins to unfold naturally.

The Rebbe's closing call—"May we no longer need to speak about thinking and learning about Moshiach, because he is already here"—reflects the therapeutic goal of embodiment. At some point, the work of healing shifts from talking about wholeness to *being* whole. The Rebbe dreams of a world where the deepest truths no longer need explanation because they are lived realities. In therapy, that moment comes when the client no longer has to rehearse affirmations—they simply *are* the person they once only imagined.

Story

In the early 1990s, a young man who had recently become observant came to 770. He was passionate but insecure, overwhelmed by what he didn't know. One night, he stayed behind after a farbrengen, hiding in the shadows. He saw the Rebbe walking slowly, deep in thought. Suddenly, the Rebbe turned and looked directly at him. The young man froze. The Rebbe said only one word: "*Lishmah*."

That moment transformed him. He realized the Rebbe wasn't asking him to become perfect overnight. He was giving him permission to be present—heart open, ego aside—and learn. Just learn. That young man became a teacher to thousands. But more than anything, he learned to believe that even those on the outside are already inside. **END NOTE**

Sichas Nun Alef Parshas Balak

מְשִׂיחוֹת שַׁבָּת־פָּרְשַׁת בָּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) מִשִּׂיחוֹת שַׁבָּת־פָּרְשַׁת בָּלָק, י"ז (טוֹב) From the talks of Shabbos Parshas Balak, 17 (Tov) Tammuz 1991