

בס"ד

PIRKEI AVOS OF THE WEEK

Perek V

9 Tammuz, 5781 – June 19, 2021

Compiled from the works of
Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson
The Lubavitcher Rebbe

by
Rabbi Shmuel Mendelsohn

A Project of
Vaad L'Hafotzas Sichos
Copyright 2021©

An Outline of the Rebbe's Explanation of Pirkei Avos

Chapter V

Likkutei Sichos Volume 22, Pages 49 - 53

Chapter V

פרק ה', משנה י"ט: ... תלמידיו של אברהם אבינו, אוכלין בעולם הזה ונוחלין בעולם הבא, שנאמר (משלי ח', כ"א), להנחיל אהבי יש, ואצרתיהם אמלא ...

Chapter 5, Mishnah 19: ...The disciples of our father Avrohom benefit in this world and inherit the World to Come, and as is stated¹, "There is substance to give as an inheritance to those who love Me, and I will fill their treasures ..."

The Simple Explanation

Our Mishnah contrasts the students of the righteous Avrohom with those of the wicked Bilaam. It first lists the attributes of each. Then the Mishnah goes on to tell us the consequences which arise as a result of these traits. Finally, the Mishnah tells us of the reward given to the disciples of Avrohom and the punishment Bilaam's students receive.

What reward do Avrohom's students receive? The Mishnah says that they "benefit in this world, and inherit the World to Come." It then cites a proof text², "There is substance to give as an inheritance to those who love Me, and I will fill their treasures." Avrohom is called one "who loves Me," as the prophet writes³, "Avrohom, who loves Me." "Substance" refers to this world; "I will fill their treasures" refers to the World to Come⁴.

Difficulties in Understanding the Mishnah

The Mishnah, as discussed above, is teaching us the reward which those who are "disciples of Avrohom" will receive. We need to understand why the Mishnah speaks of an inheritance when discussing the World to Come. The proof text which the Mishnah cites also uses the words "to give inheritance." An inheritance is not a reward for one's actions. Instead, an inheritance comes as a matter of course to the one who inherits. It is simply a matter of his relationship to the one from whom he

1. Mishlei 8:21.

2. *Ibid.*

3. Yeshayahu 41:8.

4. See the Bartenura's commentary to this Mishnah.

THE RASHI OF THE WEEK

inherits.

Furthermore, we find elsewhere that the Sages use the verb "give" rather than "inherit" regarding reward, precisely as we would expect. The Talmud says that⁵ "in the future, Hashem will give (rather than bequeath to) every Tzaddik 310 worlds." Thus, the use of the word "inheritance" in our Mishnah seems to require explanation.

The Explanation

This can be explained by understanding our Mishnah differently. The Mishnah is *not* teaching us the reward for performing Mitzvos. This is clear from the use of the verb "inherit," as explained above. Instead, it teaches us the perfection that one can achieve due to serving G-d out of love for Him ("to those who love Me").

The famous Rogotchover Gaon⁶ explained that inheritance is different from a sale or any other way of transferring property from one person to another⁷. For example, in the case of a sale, "A" owns the property, and he transfers its ownership to "B." Inheritance works differently. When "B" inherits property from "A," he is standing in "A's" place. "A" and "B" serve as one unit. Scripture expresses this in the verse⁸, "Your sons will be *in place of* your fathers." In this manner, inheritance is different than any other form of acquisition.

The same is true of spiritual inheritance. We can perfect ourselves by learning Torah and performing Mitzvos. The root of the word Mitzvah is the Hebrew word meaning commandment. However, it is also related to the Aramaic word meaning connection (צוותא). This is because each time we perform an act that the Almighty commanded us to do, we connect ourselves to Him⁹. This is the meaning of what the Zohar says¹⁰, that "the Holy One Blessed be He, the Jews and the Torah are all one."

5. Sanhedrin 100, a.

6. Rabbi Yosef Rosen, 1858 – 1936.

7. She'aylos U'teshuvos Tzafnas Pa'aneach (Dvinsk edition), Section 1, Chapter 118.

8. Tehillim 45:17.

9. The same is true in the English language. To "join" means to connect two things together. To "enjoin" means "to direct or impose by authoritative order or with urgent admonition." See www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary.

10. Zohar Section 3, Page 73, a.

THE RASHI OF THE WEEK

We can see this from the proof text which our Mishnah quotes¹¹. "There is substance to give as an inheritance ..." The Rambam explains the words "something of substance" (Yesh - *שׁוֹרֵר*) as¹² "an absolute, constant, unlimited existence." Based on this, the verse says that Hashem declares that He will bequeath to those who love Him absolute, unlimited existence. This is because the World to Come is a world of eternal life.

The question remains, how is it possible for a limited creation such as ourselves to merit an eternal existence? The explanation is that it is not something that Hashem gives us. Instead, we inherit it. We are Hashem's children¹³. As such, we inherit Him, as so to speak.

Adapted from the Sichah of 19 Kislev and Motzo'ai Shabbos Parshas Vayeishev and Mikeitz 5738)

I hope that you gained as much by reading this as I did by translating and adapting it.

To dedicate a week, a month, or a year of

For the Rashi of the Week, [click here](#).

You can find us on the web at www.RebbeTeachesRashi.org.

You can find our blog [here](#).

11. See footnote 1.

12. See his Commentary to the Mishnah, at the end of Tractate Uktzin.

13. See Tanya, the beginning of Chapter 2.

**DEDICATED IN HONOR OF
the Lubavitcher Rebbe**

* * *

IN HONOR OF

The Soldiers of Tzivos Hashem **Chaim** and **Aiden Oded** שׂיחור Morris

*

DEDICATED BY THEIR PARENTS

Rabbi & Mrs. **Menachem M.** and **Chaya Mushka** שׂיחור Morris

* * *

IN HONOR OF

Mrs. **Esther** שתחילי Sharabani

*

DEDICATED BY HER SON

Mr. **Geri** שׂי Bentov

מוקדש לזכות
כ"ק אדמו"ר נשיא דורנו מליובאוויטש

* * *

לזכות
חיילי "צבאות השם" חיים ועדן עודד שיחיו מאריס
*

נדפס ע"י הוריהם
הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל וחי' מושקא שיחיו מאריס

לזכות
מרת אסתר שתחי' שרבני
*

נדפס ע"י בנה
ר' גרשון שי' בן טוב