

בס"ז

THE RASHI OF THE WEEK

Week of

The Eighth Day of Pesach Shir Hashirim

22 Nissan, 5782 – April 23, 2022

Compiled from the works of
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The Lubavitcher Rebbe

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**An Outline of the Rebbe's Explanation of Rashi
Shir Hashirim**

Likkutei Sichos Volume 22, Page 77

Rashi in His Own Words

שיר השירים א', ב': יִשְׁקֵנִי מִנְּשִׁיקוֹת פִּיהוּ כִּי טוֹבִים דְּלִדָּה מִיַּיִן:

רש"י ד"ה כי טובים: ונאמר דוגמא שלו על שם שנתן להם תורתו ודבר עמהם פנים אל פנים ואותם דודים עודם ערבים עליהם מכל שעשוע ומובטחים מאתו להופיע עוד עליהם לבאר להם סוד טעמיה ומסתר צפונותיה ומחלים פניו לקיים דברו וזהו ישקני מנשיקות פיהו:

Shir Hashirim 1:2: Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth, for your love is better than wine.

Rashi Heading: for... is better: This figure of speech was used because He gave them His Torah and spoke to them face to face, and that love is still more pleasant to them than any pleasure. They are assured by Him that He will appear to them to explain to them the secret of the Torah's reasons and its hidden mysteries, and they entreat Him to fulfill His word, and this is the meaning of "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth."

Introduction

As was the case last week, this "Rashi of the Week" is being published on the holiday of Passover – Pesach. This festival marks our departure from the Egyptian exile. Once again, we defer the regular order of Torah readings until after the festival's conclusion. Hence, instead of explaining a comment of the Lubavitcher Rebbe on the weekly Torah portion, we will adapt and attempt to present one of his discussions of a statement made by Rashi on the book of Shir Hashirim – the Song of Songs.

As we explained in the previous issue, Rashi bases his commentary on the Chumash on the simple explanation of the Torah. Rashi himself says so quite a few times¹. This is one of the primary foundations of the Rebbe's explanations of Rashi's commentary. Not only is it Peshat, the simple explanation, but it is the simplest form of Peshat. This is because it is geared toward a total beginner.

However, his comments on the later books of the Bible are not on the same level of Peshat. Before learning the Prophets, the beginner studied the entire Chumash with all of Rashi's commentary. Before beginning the Writings, the student has already learned all of the books of the Prophets. Therefore, he is ready for an explanation written according to a broader level of Peshat. Shir Hashirim is a part of this section of the Tanach.

Additionally, we explained last week that in many fine Jewish communities, it is customary to read the book of Shir Hashirim on Pesach. Although this is not the custom in Chabad, it is a Jewish custom. The Sages of

1. For example, see Rashi's comments to Bereishis 3:8 and Bereishis 3:24.

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earlier generations taught us that² "a Jewish custom is Torah." In other words, it has the status of the Torah. This is a statement that the Rebbe has cited on numerous occasions.

What Rashi is Saying

The Rebbe explains³ that neither the Torah nor the Mitzvos will be complete until the arrival of Moshiach and the complete and final Redemption. The Sages teach us that Eliyahu the Prophet⁴ will answer all of the questions we have had in understanding the Torah throughout the generations⁵. Rashi clearly states here that Hashem will reveal all of the mysteries of the Torah in the future, and he does not specify that the "future" refers to the time of the Redemption. Nor does Rashi tell us through whom He will reveal these secrets. However, the Sages also teach us⁶ that "the Almighty will teach the righteous the reasons for the 'New⁷ Torah' which He will give us *through Moshiach*. Likewise, the Rambam writes⁸ that Moshiach will teach Torah to all of the Jews. Hence, we see that the Torah will not be complete until the arrival of Moshiach.

The same is true of the fulfillment of the Mitzvos. Until the Redemption, they will not be complete. The Rambam says clearly⁹ that "King Moshiach will arise and restore kingship to the House of King David as was originally the case. He will rebuild the Holy Temple and gather the dispersed of Israel. He will restore all of the Torah's laws to their original state. We will bring offerings in the Holy Temple; we will keep both the Sabbatical Years and the Jubilee Years *according to their commandments* stated in the Torah¹⁰." Thus, our fulfillment of the commandments will be complete.

Elsewhere¹¹, the Rebbe writes regarding the coming of Moshiach, that the prophet says,¹² "a great company will return there (meaning to Israel)." Moshiach will undoubtedly make a "Farbrengen," a gathering

2. The Ramban in his comments to the Talmud Tractate Pesachim 7, b cites this expression. The commentary of Tosfos to Tractate Menochos 20, b uses the same expression. Additionally, Avos D'Rabbi Nosson 45, which was written in the era of the Mishnah, cites the same concept (in different words) regarding a custom which was only practiced by women.

3. Likkutei Sichos Volume 22, Page 77.

4. Eliyahu is the one who will announce the arrival of Moshiach.

5. This is written in the Tosfos Yom Tov's commentary to the Mishnah, at the end of Tractate Ediyus. See also the Sheloh, 409, a. This is based on what is written in the Zohar, Section 3, 28, a.

6. See the Midrash Osiyos (Letters) of Rabbi Akiva, in the section explaining the Hebrew letter "zayin - ז" See also Yalkut Shimoni on the Book of Yeshayahu, at the beginning of Section 429).

7. Although it says that Hashem will give us a "New Torah" with the coming of Moshiach, it is not meant to be taken literally. The Torah was only given to us once, at Mount Sinai. This was for all generations. Rather we will attain totally new insights into the Torah, including the "secrets of the reasons" of which Rashi speaks.

8. Mishnah Torah, Laws of Teshuvah Chapter 9, Paragraph 2.

9. Mishnah Torah, Laws of Kings, at the beginning of Chapter 11.

10. Until the majority of Jews live in Israel and the Temple is rebuilt, all of these laws have rabbinic status. None of them have the status of being Torah commandments. Hence, until the coming of Moshiach, our fulfillment of the Torah's commandments is not complete.

11. Likkutei Sichos, Volume 23, Page 241.

12. Yirmiyahu 31:9.

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with this great group of people. At that point, spreading forth the teachings of the Baal Shem Tov¹³ will undoubtedly be done with great excitement, for Moshiach himself will be the one to teach us "the secret of the Torah's reasons and its hidden mysteries," as explained above.

The Rebbe concludes that then we will have joy beyond all measure, for joy has the power to break through all boundaries. How much more so is this true regarding the joy of the Redemption!

(Adapted from a talk given on Shabbos Parshas Tazria, 5741 and Shabbos Parshas Tazria-Metzora, 5742)

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

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

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

13. See the letter printed in the beginning of the Baal Shem Tov's work Kesser Shem Tov.

**DEDICATED IN HONOR OF
THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE**

* * *

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**Dr. Mindel Rivka (Muriel) bas Reb Menachem Mendel Shlomo ע"ה
Stitt**

Passed away on Shabbat Parshat Lech Lecha, 10 Mar-Cheshvan, 5782
May Her Soul be bound in the Eternal Bond of Life

*

DEDICATED BY HER FAMILY שיחיו

* * *

IN HONOR OF

The Soldiers of "Tzivos Hashem"

Chaim and Aiden Oded שיחיו

Morris

May they merit to be a source of Chassidic pride
to their family and a Torah light to their community

*

DEDICATED BY THEIR PARENTS

Rabbi & Mrs. Menachem M. and Chaya Mushka שיחיו

Morris

* * *

IN HONOR OF

Mrs. Esther שתחי Sharabani

May she go from strength to strength in
health, happiness, Torah, and mitzvot

*

DEDICATED BY HER SON

Mr. Gershon (Geri) שי' Bentov

מוקדש לזכות

כ"ק אדמו"ר נשיא דורנו מליובאוויטש

* * *

לעילוי נשמת

מרת מינדל רבקה בת ר' מנחם מענדל שלמה ע"ה

סתית

נפטרה ש"ק פרשת לך לך, יו"ד מר-חשון תשפ"ב

ת. נ. צ. ב. ה.

*

נדבת בני משפחתה שיחיו

* * *

לזכות

חיילי "צבאות השם"

חיים ועדן עודד שיחיו

מאריס

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נדפס ע"י הוריהם

הרה"ת ר' מנחם מענדל וחי' מושקא שיחיו

מאריס

* * *

לזכות

מרת אסתר שתחי' שרבני

לאריכות ימים ושנים טובות עד ביאת גואל צדק
ומתוך בריאות הנכונה ולשנת ברכה והצלחה בגו"ר

*

נדפס ע"י בנה

ר' גרשון שי' בן טוב