



Parashat Re'eh

25 Av 5783 – August 12, 2023

There is a term “hashgacha pratit.” What does this mean? The general meaning is “Divine Providence.” It is one of the most important concepts in Jewish teaching. It means that basically, everything happens according to G-d’s will and supervision for each and every individual.

The concept that G-d pays attention to each and every one of us is challenging. With all the turmoil in the world today, and looking through history, we find a general society that is not automatically accepting of Divine intervention. However, in the essence of our being, without certitude of Divine Presence, we would lack a spiritual goal and true security.

Parashat Re'eh begins with: “‘See!’ I place before ‘you’ this day a blessing and curse.” The word Re'eh (See) is written in the singular and the word ‘you’ is written in the plural (as in ‘youse’ for us in NY and NJ). Why?

Unlike an emperor who has a large army at his command, and who is not too concerned if an individual soldier is doing the job or not, as long as the army as a whole succeeds in its objective, the emperor is satisfied. G-d is concerned with the individual input by each soldier in His army. Therefore, Moses addresses each individual as part of a whole.

Team building starts with hashgacha pratit because a team is a single entity with many individual parts and each part needs Divine Providence to recognize G-d’s Will as opposed to one’s own will. We must do more to keep our opinions in the form of “agreeing to disagree,” and recognize that the team moves forward with G-d’s traditional direction.

Good Shabbos!

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