



Parashat Sh'lach

23 Sivan 5784 – June 29, 2024

Rabbeinu Yonah (1200-1263) says: The reward for trusting in Hashem for success in any activity is far greater than the benefits of the activity itself. Meaning, not only will you succeed in the activity in which you remembered Hashem, but you will be rewarded for trusting Hashem.

The generation that came out of Mitzrayim (Egypt) did not go into the Land of Israel with the exception of Yehoshua ben Nun (Joshua) and Kalev ben Yephuneh (Kaleb). The reason given for their not entering the Land of Israel was not all of their sins and rebelliousness while in the Wilderness of Sinai. The reason was their lack of trust in Hashem.

Their lack of trust in Hashem was the reason they had pressured Moshe (Moses) into sending spies. All of the miracles that Hashem performed for them did not inspire them with absolute faith and trust in the Almighty. Their sin was putting their trust in a reconnaissance done by men. They rejected the land of Divine promise. It is that rejection by those spies and the test of the people that time has led to our exile today, and the scorn of our neighbors.

That generation of the Exodus was afraid of the responsibilities of freedom and the challenges in securing it in the Land of Israel. No longer is that the case. The opportunity to lead lives of freedom, purpose and service of Hashem and humanity is now. The Jew will not return to the slave mentality of Egypt. Why? Because we trust in Hashem and that trust requires faith.

Good Shabbos!

Rabbi Nathan W. Langer