

DEVARIM**A VISION THAT TRANSCENDS HATE**

We human beings want nothing more than to love and be at peace with the people around us. Notwithstanding the value we attribute towards this ideal state of living, we sometimes find ourselves embroiled in disputes, involving on at times those that are close us. This might initially be triggered by a whole range of causes, however the end result is the same; a mutual feeling of animosity that becomes entrenched in our system, from which there seems to be no hope of escape.

As with most problems we encounter the solution lies in retracing our steps that led us into the problem in the first place.

For thousands of years the Jewish people have been commemorating a three week period that coincides with the most tragic events that our people have experienced throughout our history. This three week period is referred to by our sages as "*Between the Straits*" and the last Shabbat of this period is called "*Shabbat of the Vision*".

In identifying the root cause of all the calamities that we as a people have experienced, our sages point to the lack of cohesion amongst us which stems from not having a unified sense of purpose. This begins to occur when we as Jews start to see things from a limited perspective. It is not important how sacred or true that perspective might be. The result is all the same. We are isolating ourselves from a more global perspective which incorporates and is concerned with the wellbeing of all Jewish people in particular and all of mankind in general. This global view is indeed G-d's view. For G-d created all human being and cares for each and every person. And to the degree that we share G-d's perspective of his world and his people, do we attract G-d's blessing.

The reason why we end up having disputes with people is because we are looking at things from a very narrow perspective. We are too caught up in the way we personally see things, not allowing ourselves to take other people's perspectives into consideration.

We are too engrossed in the here and now. We therefore find it difficult to take a step back so that we can rise above the limitations of the moment and as a result appreciate the bigger picture by which transcends the present by merging it into past and the future.

On this "*Shabbat of the Vision*" each and every Jew is exposed to a truly global view of the Jewish people. A vision which transcends both the past and the present. A vision which sees all Jews as equally special in the eyes of G-d. A Vision in which each and every Jew has a vital contribution to make to bring peace and love to all mankind.

Let G-d's vision of his people be our very own vision.

By Yosef Vogel

Fri 12th July

Devarim

Shabbat Begins: 9:00 pm

Shabbat Ends: 10.16 pm