

# Pulse OF Emunah

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Foundation

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life

LESSONS

## LOVE FOR ALL

Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach's ahavas Yisrael was legendary. Rabbi Yerachmiel Fried, who used to drive him home from *yeshiva* once a week, was witness to many such incidents. Once, they passed Shaarei Tzedek Hospital on the way home. Rav Shlomo Zalman asked if they could stop so he could be *mevaker choleh* a *rav* who was a patient there. Of course Rabbi Fried agreed.

Rav Shlomo Zalman then asked to go to the back entrance to avoid being recognized, so it wouldn't take long. Rabbi Fried didn't know the area and they ended up at the front. By the time they reached the elevator, many people had gathered to ask *shailos* and request *brachos*. Eventually they reached the *rav*, who was delighted to see Rav Shlomo Zalman.

On their way out, Rabbi Fried offered to find the back exit. Rav Shlomo Zalman declined, saying it didn't matter at this point. Rabbi Fried apologized for taking so much time by going in the wrong entrance. "For me it is a pleasure to see people I know," Rav Shlomo Zalman said. "It is you I was upset for. Why should you waste so much time waiting for me?"

Another time, they passed a *bachur* looking to hitchhike. With a *gadol b'Yisrael* in the car, Rabb Fried had no intention of stopping the car to chauffeur anyone else. As they passed the *bachur*, the boy saw who was in the car and took a step back. Rav Shlomo Zalman asked, "Why didn't you stop for him?" For the rest of the ride, he stared straight ahead, saying over and over, "*Eich lo ozrim l'Yehudi shetzarich ezra?* How can you not help a Jew who needs help?"

Courtesy of Agudas Yisroel of America



gem

OF THE WEEK

## THE LAST WORDS

By Rabbi Moshe Pogrow

It was with deep intention and thought that our Sages designated the last words of the *neviim* as the *haftarah* that is to be read on the "great" Shabbos, Shabbos Hagadol, the Shabbos that precedes the Yom Tov of our national birthday.

This *haftarah*, the final words of Malachi, concludes with a reminder of, and reference to, the same mission that Hashem first announced to Moshe and declared to be the purpose of the redemption. This mission is to be *li'l'am*, "to be My people, a people for Me."

The revelation of the Torah is simply the will of G-d put into words. Through its fulfillment, our individual and national lives become elevated, equipped to be the people of Hashem. The annual anniversary of our rise from spiritual death should imbue us with these eternal truths, and inspire us to make them reality in our lives.

For what is the final admonition, the last words of Malachi before *nevuah* falls silent for centuries?

*continued on reverse side*

powerful  
PRAYER

HARACHAMAN:  
SOURCE OF BLESSING



The Harachamans were added to Birkas Hamazon during the time of the Geonim. These special personal requests are a direct logical continuation of the idea expressed in the previous *bracha*—that Hashem is the ultimate source of all that we receive. The text of the Harachamans, however, vary widely between different siddurim. All of them contain a blessing for the *baal habayis*, as mentioned in the Gemara.

Prior to the concluding sentences, special prayers are inserted on Shabbos, Yom Tov, and Rosh Chodesh.

*Adapted from World of Prayer by Rabbi Elie Munk*

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## MIRACLES UPON MIRACLES

*By Rabbi Dovid Sapirman, Dean, Ani Maamin Foundation*

Shabbos Hagadol commemorates a great miracle, sometimes overlooked in the greater upheaval of Yetzias Mitzrayim. It happened a few days earlier. On the tenth day of Nissan, Bnei Yisrael were commanded to take a lamb for the *korban Pesach* and tie it to their bedposts, checking it for blemishes every day.

“Why are you doing this?” the Egyptians asked.

“We are preparing to sacrifice them to Hashem,” the Jews replied.

The lamb was considered a god to the Egyptians. When they heard this, they wanted to harm the Jews for this offense. Hashem intervened, and they were unable to cause any damage.

In a few days, we will sing Vehi She’amda at the Seder: “Not just one rose up against us to destroy us, rather, in every generation they rise against us to destroy us, but Hakadosh Baruch Hu saves us from their hand.”

These words are thousands of years old. They are just as true today. The Gemara compares us to “one lamb among seventy wolves,” a lone nation surrounded by hungry predators who want nothing more than to devour us all. Yet somehow, we continue to survive. As Rav Yaakov Emden wrote, this is the greatest miracle of all.

Just a few days ago, Iran launched hundreds of missiles against our brothers and sisters in Eretz Yisrael. The results could have been catastrophic—but there was almost no harm whatsoever. Truthfully, this is an ongoing *nes*. Our enemies shoot thousands of rockets at us all the time, and *b’chasdei Hashem* almost no harm is done. Klal Yisrael continues to survive on miracles, sometimes hidden and sometimes open. We must not let our gratitude dissipate.

It is true that we are Hashem’s chosen nation. He loves us. But are we worthy of miracles? Perhaps Hashem weighed all of our *chesed*, Torah, and *tefillos* on His heavenly scale and found us deserving. Or perhaps, as the Navi says, He has taken pity on us and not let us perish. We have no way of knowing His *cheshbonos*.

Either way, we must not let the memory of this miracle fade. Pesach has always been a time of *geulah*, and it will be the time of the future *geulah* as well. May it come soon, in our days! 🕊

“Remember the Torah of My servant Moshe that I commanded him at Chorev for all Yisrael, as *chukim* and *mishpatim*!”

*Zichru*, remember! These parting words of Malachi remind us that surprisingly, it is not the Aseres Hadibros that we are cautioned to take to heart, not the Ten Commandments which we heard directly from Hashem at Har Sinai.

Rather, it is the *chukim* and *mishpatim* that we must keep in mind, the laws and social regulations for all Yisrael. The Torah, with all of its contents, is the fountain of our lives, and its fulfillment is how we will be preserved for eternity.

Here we see the perfect unity of the words of G-d, from the first letter to the last, and the perfect uniformity of our history, directed by Hashem from its earliest beginnings to a final goal in the distant future. 🕊

*Based on the commentary of Rav Shamshon Raphael Hirsch zt”l on Chumash, with permission from the publisher.*



## *wonder* WORLD

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE!



*How high can cranes fly?*

Cranes are found all over the world, except South America and Antarctica. There are 15 different species, each with its own unique characteristics. The smallest, the demoiselle crane, is only 35 inches long, while the tallest, the sarus crane, can grow up to 70 inches. Each species has unique vocalizations, from soft honks to flute-like calls. They can also use body language to communicate. Cranes adjust their diet to the season, eating small rodents, fish, insects, grains, berries, and plants. Some crane species, like the Eurasian crane, are known for their incredible high-altitude flights. They have been observed flying over the Himalayas at altitudes of up to 32,800 feet, which is comparable to the cruising height of commercial jet planes! 🕊

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