

פרשת נצבים - וילך

ומצאוהו רעות רבות וצרות ואמר ביום ההוא על כי אין אלוקי בקרבי מצאוני הרעות האלה

The פסוק says that when a person comes to the realization that all his suffering comes from Hashem, it will bring him to תשובה. However there seems to be an inconsistency in the פסוק. At the beginning the פסוק says רעות רבות וצרות, but at the end it only mentions הרעות. Why does the פסוק leave out צרות?

Rav Shach זצ"ל (ס' אבי עזרי הקדמה לס' נשים) offers a beautiful explanation. The difference between רעות and צרות is that רעות refers to the actual suffering and punishment. צרות, however, comes from the word צר, confined and oppressed. When a person is beset with suffering he might despair and feel as if the world around him has gone dark. This could only come out of lack of אמונה and בטחון in Hashem. Someone who believes and understands that everything is from Hashem and that He is guiding us, won't despair and feel broken. He won't feel that there is any צרה at all. On the contrary, his faith and אמונה that everything that Hashem does is for the good, will strengthen him to get him through the צרה. This is why צרות is omitted from the end of the פסוק. When he will say על כי אין אלוקי בקרבי, that his distress is because Hashem is not in his midst, he has come to the realization that all his suffering is from Hashem. Once he has created a connection with Hashem, he won't view it as a צרה anymore.

Since the beginning of אלול we have been saying אורי וישעי twice a day. The מדרש says אורי, my light, refers to ראש השנה. What is this light? On ראש השנה we are מקבל עול, we re-accept Hashem upon ourselves as our King. When we return to Hashem and bring Hashem into our lives, then He is our אורי, a light in the darkness of our world. May we merit through introspection and תפילה to see things with through the perspective of בטחון, אמונה and פרטית.

Have a good Shabbos.

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