

המוסד למען קדושת חיי אדם



TORAH READING:

Shelach: Numbers 13:1 - 15:41

Sivan 26, 5776
July 2, 2016

This week's Torah portion, Shelach: Numbers 13:1 - 15:41, is all about not trusting in the L-rd's promises of abundance and fulfillment. G-d promises the Jews a bountiful, safe homestead in Israel, but they distrust Him. So, Moses sends out the cream of the crop - a prince from each of the 12 tribes of Israel - to scout out the land. 10 of these highly respected and trusted men lie outright upon their return. Their report is full of exaggerations of the problems inherent in the promised land - even inferences to G-d's inability to vanquish local enemies and provide safe harbor for the Jews.

A fearful population believes these spies. This misplaced trust in man motivated by self centered concerns has a dire consequence: The whole of them were denied entrance into the Promised Land! 40 years they would wander, until the next generation was of adult age and could enter. This day of reckoning, the 9th of Av, is a day of weeping for Jews, a day to commemorate the spiritual darkness that shrouds the skeptical Jewish soul. This day would mark other solemn days of mourning, including the day when the first and second Temples were destroyed.

This theme of distrusting G-d's goodness, care and protection repeats itself many times throughout the ages, most recently in modern Jewish social, political, and religious life. A Jew with some standing, authority and respect guilelessly denies a truth, exaggerating problems associated with a certain issue, completely leaves G-d out of the equation, and convinces whole swathes of the Jewish community of the perils that lie ahead. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the voice of pro-abortion Jews. Scaremongering about women's mental, emotional, and financial problems due to unplanned pregnancy fills the air waves and political and social alliances. These trusted members of our community emphasize women's rights rather than the Jewish responsibility to protect and defend innocent life. Willing to accept loss of Jewish life, as well as the post abortion problems of emotional and mental breakdowns, infertility, and demographic suicide, they refuse to promote reliable pregnancy care services that include moral and practical support in the Jewish community. Our wandering continues....