



Parashat Ekev

This week's Parasha is Parashat Ekev. The Parsha begins with the words "And it will be when you listen..." and immediately goes on to describe the wonderful blessings and goodness that Hashem promises the Jewish People when they will listen to Him and fulfill his Mitzvot.

The word "עֵקֶב", translated as "when" and sometimes as "since", can also be translated as "heel". Thus, commenting on the words, Rashi explains that Hashem is telling the Jewish People: "If you listen and do those Mitzvot that commonly are trampled on by one's heel...", then He will bless us with all of the blessings subsequently mentioned.

The word "עֵקֶב" - "heel", also immediately brings to mind the special and auspicious time right before the arrival of Moshiach called "Ikveta D'Mashicha" - the time when we can already hear the footsteps of Mashiach. The word also reminds us of our generation and its collective and unique mission and merit.

All of the souls of all of the Jewish People from all of the generations collectively make up one single unit and body, with earlier generations being more related to higher parts of the body such as the head and lower generations being more related to lower parts of the body such as the feet. Our generation, being the lowest, represents the lowest part of the body, the heel. The heel is the lowest part of the body, but yet, paradoxically, is the part of the body necessary to bring the rest of the body - including the head - to its desired destination.

In the same way, by our generation proudly marching forth, faithfully fulfilling Hashem's Mitzvot, we will be the ones to finally bring about the long awaited Geulah - redemption - for ourselves and for all previous generations!

May it happen now!

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi David

Av 21, 5779
August 22, 2019