

Parshas Bamidbar – Praying From the Wilderness:

1. **Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok of Lubavitch:** a metaphor to explain the difference between the Divine effluence which comes in response to one's Torah study and observance of Mitzvos and G-d's response to one's "service of the heart", one's prayer. The service of Torah and Mitzvos draws a Divine response comparable to a father's pleasure in a son who toils in his father's business to increase his father's wealth. But the response evoked by prayer is like a father's response to his small child who yearns for him and cries, "Father, father, answer me..."
2. **Psalms 109:4:** And I am a prayer.
3. **Psalms 27:** One thing I ask of Hashem, that shall I seek: That I dwell in the house of Hashem all the days of my life; to behold the sweetness of Hashem and to contemplate in His sanctuary.
4. **Bereishis 2:5:** Now all the trees of the field were not yet on the earth, and all the herb of the field had not yet sprouted, for God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to work the soil.
5. **Shmos 2:21-22:** And the children of Israel groaned because of the work and they cried out. Their outcry because of the work went up to G-d. G-d heard their moaning, and G-d remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.
6. **Ramban 2:25:** For even though the time of the decree had finished, they were not worthy for redemption....only because of their crying out did He accept their prayers with mercy.
7. **Sefer Lechem Abirim:** The mystery of the human being, which is free will, manifests itself with his desire. Man must, in general, have desires. He is free to choose what to desire, but he is not free from desiring. Against his will he must desire, just like he is created against his will.
8. **Psalms 102:1:** A prayer of the afflicted man when he swoons. And pours forth his supplication before Hashem.
9. **Zohar:** An afflicted man's prayer is accepted by Hashem before all other prayers in the world...Every person's prayer is a prayer, but the afflicted man's prayer is a prayer that stands before Hashem, and it breaks all gates and doors, and enters to be accepted before Him.
10. **Sfas Emes Parshas Bamidbar:** Only Torah can bring perfection to man. To the degree that a person understands how deficient he is and is longing for perfection, he will merit Torah. ***It is very difficult for a free-willed person to properly feel that he is deficient....***this was the preparation of the Jewish people before their receiving of the Torah, that they reached a level of a "desert" where it was clear to them, and they wanted to clarify to all mankind, that they are longing for perfection.
11. **Resisay Loyla 6b:** All suffering that Hashem sends to man in this world is for this purpose – to arouse him to prayer.

12. **Tzidkas Hatzaddik, 212:** Hashem also prays. Meaning, he yearns and wants what we want, but must hold it back from us, because He yearns for the prayers of the righteous. He is prepared to answer us, and yearns for us to pray and get answered. ***That yearning of Hashem is His prayer.***

13. **Maharal:** The person who is deficient is prepared to receive everything.