



לקוטי שיחות
PROJECT
LIKKUTEI
SICHOS

Likkutei Sichos

Volume 11 | Yisro | Sicha 1 | Kitzur

Praise or Blessed?

Pasuk: “Yisro said, ‘Blessed is Hashem who rescued you’”.

Question on Medrash

The Midrash explains that it was shameful that Moshe and the Jewish people did not proclaim Baruch Hashem (Blessed is Hashem) until Yisro came and said Baruch Hashem. This Midrash is difficult to understand, because, while the Jewish people did not bless Hashem, they did in fact sing to Hashem at the crossing of the sea?

To understand this we must first preface the Zohar:

The Zohar explains that the Torah could only be given once Yisro, the priest of Midian, came to the Jewish people. Because Yisro’s arrival represents the refinement of the unholy wisdom. The explanation of the Zohar is as follows: the giving of the Torah represents the connection between the higher domain and the lower domain. Thus the refinement of the unholy wisdom, the lower domain, is necessary in order for the Torah to be given. [The splitting of the sea, by contrast, represents the connection between

the hidden worlds and revealed worlds of holiness, yet the unholiness was not refined, as evident from the fact that Egyptian's were drowned and not refined].

This explains Rashi's interpretation on the verse "and Yisro heard". Rashi explains: "What news did he hear that he came? The splitting of the Red Sea and the war with Amalek". Rashi mentions that Yisro heard about the splitting of the sea and about the war with Amalek, but does not mention that Yisro heard about the Exodus. The reason is because Yisro's motivation to come was 1): hearing that there is a possibility to unite the higher domain and the lower domain, which is reflected in the splitting of the sea. And 2): hearing about the battle with Amalek, meaning that Amalek, the lowest domain, has not yet been refined. This motivated Yisro came to the Jewish people in order to refine the lowest level.

Explanation of the Medrash:

This is the reason why Yisro was the one who said "Blessed"; the 'Baruch' means drawing down, and Yisro represents the drawing G-dliness to the lowest domain. The Jewish people, by contrast, sang to Hashem, but were unable to draw G-dliness down to the lowest domain.

Lesson:

The lesson from the above: the purpose of the Giving of the Torah is that we draw G-dliness not only when we are engaged in holy matters but rather in all aspects of our life.