

Haazinu 2014

1.

Why do we first praise and then ask for our needs?

Nachlas Tzvi page 525

“When I call out the name of Hashem, ascribe greatness to our God.” (32, 3)

"כי שם יקוק אקרא הבו גדל לאלהינו."

Why did Anshei Kenesas Hagedolah (men of the great assembly) establish that the first three brachos in Shemonah Esrei which praise Hashem (שבח) are followed by brachos to satisfy our requests (בקשה)? We first need to order and organize our praises for Hashem and then ask for our needs. An allusion to this can be derived from our pasuk. Meaning, “When I call out the name of Hashem” is referring to asking for requests. This can only be accomplished when “ascribe greatness to our God” meaning when preceded with praises towards God.

2.

Hashem runs the show

The Illustrated Mashal part 1 pages 82-84

“When the supreme One gave the nations their inheritance, when He separated the children of man, He set the borders of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel.” (32, 8)

"בהנחל עליון גוים בהפרידו בני אדם יצב גבלת עמים למספר בני ישראל."

Formerly, when a train departed from a station one of the workers would blow a whistle. This whistle blow would remind latecomers that they should hurry up and board the train before it pulled out. One time, someone passed the train station and noticed that someone was blowing a whistle. He realized that people responded to the whistle. He assumed that the one blowing the whistle owned the train since everyone followed his orders. When he shared this observation with others, they explained that he was mistaken. They explained that he was a worker who was fulfilling his job. They're officers, administrators and many others above him. People didn't listen to the whistle blower because he owned the train, rather because the managers of the company decided that this was the way the train system would work best. The Chafetz Chaim explains that the same applies regarding believing in Hashem. Many times we see nations that have large armies and rule over many countries. Sometimes, we mistakenly think that the leaders of these countries have power and control. These rulers are just like the whistle blower in the aforementioned story. They are mere puppets. Only Hashem rules the world and decides what will happen. Hashem appoints these leaders to do their jobs. This is all part of Hashem's plan. Hashem decides which nation will prevail and which will fail in war. Hashem created the world in a way that appears as if humans are running it. The reality is that Hashem is running the world.