

# CHIZKUNI

## - Jacob Solomon

In his final address, Moshe guarantees the Israelites that they will not go hungry in the Promised Land:

*You will eat and you will be satisfied. You will bless G-d for the good land that He gave you (8:10).*

Yet immediately he adds a warning:

*Be careful not to forget G-d... lest you eat and become satisfied, you build nice homes and settle... and everything you have will prosper... and you say to yourself "I produced this wealth all by myself..." (8:11-17).*

The Land, Moshe tells them, will support all their needs. V'ACHALTA V'SAVATA - You will eat and you will be satisfied". Yet almost in the same breath, He warns the Israelites to be careful not to forget G-d as a result of PEN TOCHAL V'SAVATA, "lest you eat and be satisfied". On one hand, Eretz Yisrael and its yields of good produce are gifts. On the other hand, the Israelites are told to be careful when enjoying those gifts, not to forget HA-M'FARNEIS - He who sustains.

Chizkuni suggest that is for the following reason. The relationship between B'nei Yisrael and the

Almighty is about to change radically on entry to the Promised Land.

In the wilderness, they were holding on tight to His apron strings. "He made you hungry, and He fed you on the manna" day in, day out (8:3). Each day brought its daily ration. And, as the Ramban explains, the people were anxious. They did not know whether they could live for so long on that food, day in and day out. And they had no idea whether their clothes would keep intact for the long journey. Therefore their attention focused on G-d, day in, day out. They sensed that their lives depended on Him. Like small children, wholly dependent on their parents or guardians.

And Moshe told them that things would continue in the same way in the Promised Land. It is a "land in which you will lack nothing". It is land that is designed to accommodate all your needs; as Chizkuni explains, whatever grows will grow in abundance. It will be the land of plenty. You had what you needed in the wilderness. You will have what you need, and more, when you settle in the Land.

But G-d changes the terms in His Own Country. No longer do His People have to check in every day, by gathering the manna, with the hope

that there will be more tomorrow as soon as today's supplies had finished. There, He allows them to make the land prosper and store food.

The test though, as Moshe reminds the people, occurs when people feel that their needs are secure not just for today, but for tomorrow, next month, and years ahead. Will they see their continued prosperity as G-d's continued looking after them as they did in the desert, or will they turn their back on Him and attribute everything to their efforts and their genius?

That, explains Chizkuni, is the reason that Moshe emphasizes the words: "You shall remember the journey that G-d took you for 40 years." All your success in the Land is just as much due to His largesse as when you were hanging on for your daily rations in the wilderness. 