



בית כנסת בית ישראל
Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael

**Dvar torah on
Parshat HaShavua by
Rabbi Chanoch Yeres
to his community**

Graciously shared with Philo-Torah

This week's Parsha addresses the fulfillment of the commandments in our journey of adherence to G-d's covenant. There are those who explain the word EIKEV in these terms, meaning, as a result of or on the "heels" of our adherence of the Mitzvot, reward will transpire.

Similarly, in the middle of the Parsha, it says V'HAYA IM SHAMO'A TISHM'U, "If you listen to my commandments there will follow a reward". Why is there a repetition of the word to listen - IM SHAMO'A TISHM'U"? Is it just to emphasis that you shall surely listen?

Rashi, quoting a Midrash, points out that if you listen to the old, you will hear it in the new. What is this unusual message of Rashi that is associated with this famous passage of Sh'ma?

Perhaps, one would think that old is out of style, no longer in use while young is vibrant, the new future and relevant to us. However, the Midrash is teaching us that in the aspect of Mitzvot and commandments, any new learning must be based on old. We strive to understand the Torah in

every generation based upon what was "once" given to us. Old is the foundation and basis. Values and morality don't change, only the situations we are in, do.

The Parsha may be putting such emphasis on not only how we adhere to the commandments but also how these specific original "old" Mitzvot will be the foundation for all future explanations and questions that might arise in the future. Perhaps as Rav Kook z"l once said, "the old will be made new."

V'HAYA IM SHAMO'A TISHM'U, means more than just "you shall surely listen to the commandments". Rather it may mean, "If you listen to the old, you will hear the new."

This is where Moshe Rabbeinu was determined to give over to us G-d's commandments, not only to be adhered in the desert but to be used as a guidepost and basis for all years of future adherence. Using this model, based on the old, the new interpretations in our time are given legitimacy, validation and sanctification.