

# CHIZUK IDUD

*Divrei Torah from the weekly sedra*

*with a focus on living in Eretz Yisrael*

*Chizuk for Olim & Idud for not-yet-Olim*

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*Ramat Shiloh, Beit Shemesh*

## **No'ach - The Dove and the Jew**

The Torah relates (B'reishit 8:8), "and he (No'ach) sent forth the dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from the face of the ground; but the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned to him into the ark."

The Midrash says (B'reishit Rabba 33:8), "Had she found rest she would not have returned." The Midrash then applies a verse from Eicha (1:3), "She dwells among the nations, she finds no rest." Says the Midrash: "Had she found rest she would not have returned (to Israel)." The Rabbis likened the dove to the Jewish people and the ark to Eretz Yisrael. The Midrash teaches us that like the dove, the Jew will come home to Eretz Yisrael only when he can find no rest elsewhere. When self-satisfied abroad; when one feels he has "made it" elsewhere, and in his mind "Berlin is Jerusalem", or New York seems to really be the 'New Israel' (or Boro Park is B'nei Braq) - he will not return. Indeed Aliya often picks up in periods

of social or economic turmoil, and I have heard Olim recount how upon losing their job they decided to give Aliya a try.

Yet there is a contradictory characteristic of the dove which Rav Kook was wont to refer to, and that is its wondrous homing instinct.

Yishayahu 60:8 poetically refers to the future Olim returning home as part of the ingathering of the exiles saying: "who are these who fly like a cloud, like doves to their nest." Rav Kook explained that amongst those returning, some are likened to the wind driven clouds, as they too allow themselves to be swept along in any direction the wind may take them; others, however, are likened to the dove who will prevail against the elements returning home even in the face of a stormy wind.

Israel today welcomes and embraces all: those fleeing from their Diaspora trials and tribulations, as well as those within whom the primal instinct has awakened again - propelling them to return home.

**V'SHAVU VANIM LIGVULAM**  