



Can Man Bless G-d?

Lech L'cha 2018

“And Malkitzedek blessed Avram, and said, ‘Blessed be Avram to the Most High G-d... and blessed be the Most High G-d’” (B'reishit 14:19,20). Malki-tzedek first blesses Avram, and then blesses G-d. Shouldn't the order have been reversed? First he should have blessed G-d and then he should have blessed Avram.

To answer this question, Rav Soloveitchik asks another question. “How can a human being who is made of flesh and blood dare approach the Master and Creator of the Universe and bless Him?” Rav Soloveitchik in D'rashot HaRav answers that man must provide help and assistance, as it were, to the Master of the Universe.

The Rav continues that man must “help” G-d to reveal His Presence in the world. G-d told Avram that his assignment is to make G-d's presence known to the world. Avraham and his children must remove the clouds that obscure G-d from human perception.

Thus, before Malki-tzedek blessed G-d, he first wanted to bless Avraham and his descendants to be successful in spiritually conquering the world. Therefore, through Avraham's own success, G-d Himself would also be blessed.

Perhaps this is what Rashi means in his translation of D'varim 32:18 which says “You, Israel, have weakened the Rock that gave birth to you!” Rashi elaborates by making the following, incredible statement. “When G-d comes to bestow goodness on us, and we anger Him through our sins, then we ‘weaken’ G-d's power to do good to us.”

Rashi makes another amazing comment, this time on D'varim 33:5 - “G-d is King in Yeshurun (Israel), when all the tribes of Israel are united”. Rashi comments “When is G-d King over Israel? When the Jewish People are gathered together and united, but G-d is NOT King when the Jewish People are divisive and there is MACHLOKET between us.”

Thus, the way we can bless G-d is by doing His will through Torah and Mitzvot and by being united and loving one another.