



Consider, if you will, that if there were a prophet today, would the people take heed? Or would they ignore dire warnings, as did the populace of Yehuda in Yirmiyahu's time? For in our times, do not his words from this week's haftara yet conjure fear in our hearts? - "O worshipers on mountains, in the field: Your wealth, all your treasures, I shall make into booty... Accursed is the man who trusts in people... and turns his heart away from Hashem" (Yirmiyahu 16:1-6).

Oh, how tragic the circumstances, the expressions of evil that overcame our people! The Ramchal (Daat Tevunot) explains that evil was created by Hashem, such that man is an imperfect being in an imperfect world given the attribute of Free Will to perfect and to bring the world closer to its ultimate redemption. Evil exists when there is an imbalance of the emanations that control existence, brought about by man making the wrong choices, actions that gradually cause G-d's Presence to "disappear" until pure evil takes reign.

On the metaphysical level, during S'firat HaOmer, we embark on a 7-week journey to fix combinations of these emanations (S'firot) until perfect harmony is

achieved and "evil" is wiped out. Clearly, on the level of action, we could strive towards that goal. How poignant, however, that Yirmiyahu reminds us, in tandem with other Nevi'im, that Hashem will never totally abandon us, whatever our misdeeds. So let each of us be his or her personal prophet and do our little bit to fix the world and thus to repair the broken pieces. **MP**