

Dvar Torah by **Rabbi Chanoch Yeres**

to his community at

Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

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B'chukotai

Ramban emphasizes the centrality of the Land of Israel in the blessings in this week's Parsha. Every promise relates another factor advantageous to establishing a nation in its own land. The Pasuk continues.

"And all people of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of G-d; and they shall be afraid of you." (28:10)

Rabbi Shmuel Maybruch pointed out that coincidence cannot explain the success of a country and its citizens. Rather, G-d has intervened. The nations of the world will recognize G-d's unmistakable hand in producing such an agricultural utopia and thereby be wary of the Israelites. When the Israelites are collectively functioning optimally, G-d will bless both their land and them to the extent that one will not even require the assistance of doctors with the natural guidelines of this world. Ramban explains that removing illness or malady, will find the remedy by restoring the afflicted person to a level at which he will merit G-d's blessing.

However, even when the Israelites were settled in the Land of Israel, sovereign over the land, agriculturally stable and benefiting from the blessings of G-d, it becomes necessary to resort to the

more conventional, material method of recovery from our problems and challenges. When the Israelites established the habit of resorting to such methods, G-d left them at the mercy of natural biological and physiological constraints.

Today, unfortunately, we do not merit this form of G-d's benevolence and we must work within the boundaries of real-world challenges. Since we are not yet in the Land of Israel which is completely exposed to G-d's bountiful blessings and special level of His direct protection, relying on our physical capabilities is encouraged and required.

Just as G-d blessed our people to return to a united Jerusalem, so too we pray that G-d will help our nation accomplish all the tasks at hand and bring everlasting peace to us and the world. 🙏