

The Daily Portion

- Sivan Rahav Meir

Standing Tall

Translation by Yehoshua Siskin

During a most challenging week, we approach the final Shabbat of the year. And what is the message of the double Torah portion of this week? **STAND TALL.**

The Torah reading opens with “You are standing today, all of you...” Despite all your trials and hardships, you are unwavering and never weaken, forcefully standing tall with confidence.

Midrash Tanchuma comments as follows: “Even though these curses come upon you, they stand you up. Even though these afflictions come upon you, you are still standing. It is therefore stated: ‘You are standing today, all of you.’”

In other words, all hardships are temporary and you have succeeded – and will continue to succeed – in standing up to every trial. And there is more. The expression CHAZAK VE’EMATZ (be strong and courageous) appears three times in the parasha. We are given a blessing for strength and courage when facing our enemies. Upon entering the Land of Israel, Moshe declares that we are not alone in our fight against these

enemies since God is on our side: “Be strong and courageous! Neither fear, nor be dismayed of them, for the Lord, your God He is the One Who goes with you. He will neither fail you, nor forsake you.”

The parasha reminds us that these days are an opportunity to return to ourselves, individually and as a nation. This is the time to recognize our potential for greater wisdom, faith, deterrence, initiative, and unity.

On a national level - to take care of the north and south so that it will be quiet, and on a personal level - to make sure each of us knows our purpose.

May we merit to stand tall with confidence and joyfulness, and may we merit all the blessings in this week’s parasha.

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