

Dvar Torah by **Rabbi Chanoch Yeres**

to his community at

Beit Knesset Beit Yisrael, Yemin Moshe

Graciously shared with PhiloTorah

Va'eira

As our redemption is described in this parsha, there is seemingly no active participation by the Israelites. The dialogue emphasized is between Moshe, Aharon and Moshe with the court of Par'o. There is no mention of any involvement of the Jewish people. Even when Moshe tries to explain to them the impending Exodus and the promises to receive the Land of Israel, the people are incapable of comprehending what he tells them.

One pasuk stands out that relates to some form of communications. VAYTZAVEM EL B'NEI YISRAEL (6:13) "And He gave them a charge unto the children of Israel." What were the people of Israel commanded to do? There seems to be no substance to this command.

Rabbi Yosef Blau, Maschiach of Yeshiva University, once pointed out that if we would analyze the role of the Jewish people during the climax of the redemption, we find a dramatic shift from passivity to active involvement. The people take an active role in slaughtering the paschal lamb,

placing the blood on the doorpost and asking the Egyptians to give over their gold and silver. This was an educational process not through words but rather through observations. When the Israelites saw the devastation caused by the plagues and how their cattle were spared over the Egyptian cattle, the Jews begin to understand the meaning of the original message to them.

Moshe and Aharon did in fact command the Jewish people and it was a necessary component of their redemption from Egypt. However, this commandment was different because it did not involve words. The Jews were educated indirectly through witnessing the interaction between Moshe, Aharon and Par'o. Through seeing the miraculous actions of G-d, they understood on their own. They were transformed from passive participants to very active ones.

The process of education in our days is also not limited to lecturing a person. Far greater impact can be made by our actions and through example. People may avoid listening to others telling them lessons directly for various of reasons, yet it doesn't mean that they cannot be reached and affected.