THE HORSES OF EGYPT

By Rabbi Tuvia Vinitsky **Wednesday the 21st of Tammuz 5775 and July 8, 2015**

***A ROUND OF APPLAUSE***

**It is a year since we started reading the Tehillim over the phone twice a day, every day, including motzei Shabbos. Rabbi Vinitsky started off by telling us how wonderful it is and what a big zchus it is. Chazal tell us that in the word “adom” comprises the 3 people who could bring the Yidden closer to Hashem. They are Adom, Dovid and Moshiach. Which means that until Moshiach comes, it is only Dovid HaMelech who can bring us to the level of being worthy of Moshiach.**

**How did Dovid Hamelech do this? By writing Sefer Tehillim. What is Sefer Tehillim? It is 150 verses, a notebook of 150 life lesson on how to be a good Jew. Dovid HaMelech poured out his heart, his most personal experiences, feelings, disappointments, tragedies and had them written down and then they were sung by the Levim in front of thousands of Yidden on the steps of the Bais HaMikdtach.**

**These were Dovid Hamelech’s private thoughts about what it means to trust in Hashem, how he feels when Shaul is trying to kill him, about his relationships with his wife, his father, his siblings, his father-in-law the King-he wrote all this down in Sefer Tehillim so others could learn from him.**

**The word Tehillim comes from Sefer Iyav and it is from the root word-Tel Ohr-to flash forth a light. Tehillim is a great light. Rabbi Vinitsky explained that it is possible to work great wonders from Sefer Tehillim. Dovid Hamelech davened for everything we need till Moshiach comes. Once Moshiach comes, we won’t need Sefer Tehillim any more. Dovid Hamelech wrote down every possible thought and arranged it into 150 personal lessons. Someone who recites Sefer Tehillim on a regular basis, wonderful things happen to him. Someone who says Sefer Tehillim with a passion is davening from the depths of his soul just like Dovid HaMelech is.**

**After Nevuchadnezer destroyed the Bais HaMikdtach and exiled the Yidden. He forced them to walk from Eretz Yisroel to Bovel which is today Iraq. He gave instructions to his generals that any Jew that stops walking must be killed. The generals were surprised, why they asked? Because he answered, if a Jew stops walking he is liable to pray to his G-d and be saved.**

**Rabbi Vinitsky explained that when we say Tehillim for ourselves, for our families, that is great. But when we say Tehillim for other Yidden who we don’t know and we say it on a regular basis, that is exceptional. He said, these women who gather over the phone can be called ‘noshim tzidkanios’ they do a real chesed and in their merit, may we all be zocha for the Geula shelaima, amen.**

**The Horses of Egypt**

**During the 3 weeks, we are to ponder our deeds, reflect on our actions. What can we improve on so that next year we can bring Moshiach? Rabbi Vinitsky taught us from Sefer Melochim about Shlomo Hamelech. He built the Bais Hamikdtach on the Har Habyis which is the size of 29 American football fields. The Bais Hamikdtach rose 10 stories high. The stones were unusual and till today the archeologists haven’t figured out how they go those stones. The smallest stones in the Bais HaMikdtach were 2 to 5 tons. The largest stone weighed 570 tons. The Bais HaMikdtach was built by dry construction, no cement. They were held together by their own weight. We learn from chazal that on the sholosh regoloim 4 million people came to the Bais HaMikdtach.**

**All this and more was established by Shlomo HaMelech. It is called Bais Dovid, even though Dovid HaMelech didn’t build it. Shlomo established Eretz Yisroel as a dominant force in the region. He had a superb army that practiced every day, but never had to fight 1 battle. Why? Because the goyim we scared of Shlomo and would not start up. Shlomo was an excellent administrator. Eretz yisroel in his time went from Gaza to Egypt to what is today Syria. Damascus was a city in eretz yisroel. People brought Shlomo Hamelech presents every day just to hear him speak. He spoke all the languages of the world including the language of the animals.**

**He had a feast every day. The fine flour used each day for the important people was between 2800-3500 bushels. This was enough flour to feed 60,000 people a day. That did not include the army and the workers who were fed less fine flour. Shlomo HaMelech threw open the palace doors and welcomed everyone. He was invincible. He divided the country into 12 tax districts and somehow figured out how each district would give the same amount of taxes. He taxed heavily but the people worshipped him and were willing to give him the taxes.**

**(they were not willing to do the same for the following Kings)**

**Everyone prospered in the kingdom, even the soldiers because they never had to go to war. No nation would start a war with Shlomo HaMelech.**

**The description in Melochim continues, but in Posuk vov, it says that the King had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots and 12,000 for his horsemen. And the Novie is telling us, that the King had too many horses. And this is the question, why does the novie tell us that Shlomo had too many horses?**

**This was an unbelievable, unprecedented time in the life of Klal Yisroel. This was 400 years after Matan Torah and the world loved the Jews and loved their King. Why does the novie have to say, he had too many horses? Why is the Novie criticizing this King for his horses?**

**In Sefer Devorim, it is written that the King can not have too many horses, Shlomo knew that so why did he have too many horses?**

**This is the basis of the shiur. What did Shlomo haMelech do?-he rationalized. He figured out why this rule in the Torah does not apply to him. We also rationalize why we can or cannot do something. Why this shidduch is good for our child or why it is not-are our reasons correct in the eyes of the Torah or do we convince ourselves of what we want to hear, the same goes for our dressing, for the schools we choose for our children-how much is it the Torah’s way or how much is our reasoning, our human rationalization.**

**Yes it was an unbelievable time but the novie is teaching us, every action we do needs to be analyzed. Why are we doing it? Are we allowed to do it? The world works according to mida k’neged midah. Whatever we do to someone else is done back to us. If we do a chesed for someone, the chesed will be repaid to us when we need it. If we do something not nice, Hashem will make sure the action is repayed. Mida k’neged mida is not a punishment, it is one of the ways Hashem runs the world. Shlomo did not feel this rule of horses applied to him, after his death, the future Kings were not able to continue his ways. The people did not want to pay the taxes and other things as well.**

**And this says Rabbi Vinitsky is what we are to do now that the 3 weeks are upon us The lesson we are to learn, that we have to think about our actions, make sure they are what Hashem wants from us, not what we want from ourselves.**