THE POWER OF A TZIBBUR

Background

In the beginning of the *Tochacha* (warning), the Torah describes that if we follow the ways of HASHEM, we will find astounding success in all of our endeavours. One of the rewards listed is that when we go to war, five will chase one hundred, and one hundred will chase ten thousand.

Rashi is bothered by the inequality in the calculation. The ratio of 5:100 should translate to 100:2000. If five of you will chase a hundred of them, then one hundred of you should chase two thousand of them. Yet the Torah says that one hundred will chase ten thousand, which is five times the ratio of 5:100. The equation is clearly off.

Rashi answers that this shows us the power of a large group keeping the Torah. When the group increases to one hundred, its success will be far greater, and so the multiple increases.

Questions

What is the logic explaining this phenomena? After all, we are the Chosen People doing the will of HASHEM. What difference should it make whether in this particular skirmish there is a large number or a smaller number? Shouldn't the sole criteria be the worthiness of the people involved and the righteousness of their cause?

ספר ויקרא פרק כו

ח) וְרָדְפוּ מִכֶּם חֲמִשָּׁה מֵאָה וּמֵאָה מִכֶּם רְבָבָה יִרְדֹּפוּ וְנָפְלוּ אִיְבֵיכֶם לִפְנֵיכֶם לֶחָרֶב

And five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand.

רש"י על ויקרא פרק כו פסוק ח

חמשה מאה ומאה רבבה - (ת"כ) וכי כך הוא החשבון והלא לא היה צריך לומר אלא מאה מכם שני אלפים ירדופו אלא אינו דומה מועטין העושין את התורה למרובים העושין את התורה

Five will chase a hundred - *Is this the [correct] ratio? Shouldn't it then say that a hundred will chase two thousand? Rather, this teaches that there is no comparison between a small group keeping the Torah and a large group keeping the Torah.*