

STAGES OF CHANGE – PART 2: SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Background

After leaving Mitzrayim, seeing the great miracles there and later those on the sea, the Jewish Nation stood on Har Sinai and saw HASHEM as clearly as humans are able. The next step in the destiny of our people was to enter our land and permanently settle there.

HASHEM told Moshe, “Choose twelve leaders of the Jewish Nation to spy out the land.” Ten of those twelve lacked *bitachon* in HASHEM and planned to turn the people against Moshe and HASHEM. Kaleb and Yehoshua alone recognized the evil plan of the others. Here we are told that after recognizing the evil of their plan, Kaleb davened that he shouldn't be tempted to join his friends.

ספר במדבר פרק יג

כב) וַיַּעֲלוּ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת-חִבְרוֹן וְשָׁם אַחִימֶן שֹׁשֵׁי וְתַלְמִי יְלִידֵי הָעֵינֶק וְחִבְרוֹן שִׁבְעַת שָׁנִים נִבְנְתָה לִפְנֵי צֶעַן מִצְרַיִם

And they came up in the south and they came till Chevron...

רש"י על במדבר פרק יג פסוק כב

כב) ויבא עד חברון - (סוטה לד) כלב לבדו הלך שם ונשתטח על קברי אבות שלא יהא ניסת לחבריו להיות בעצתם

Rashi- They came till Chevron- (Sotah 34) Kaleb alone went there and lay down on the graves of Avos, asking that he not be tempted to join his friends in their plot.

Questions

If Kaleb understood that the *miraglim* were incorrect in what they were doing, then he also understood the gravity of the situation: outright rebellion against HASHEM was likely to lead to the death of an entire generation of people. If so, why did he need a special *tefillah* on the grave of the Avos asking for help that the *miraglim* not influence him? He knew they were wrong and what they were doing was tantamount to a revolt against HASHEM. In fact, the only way he would ask for protection and help is if he recognized that the group was wrong. Since he recognized that they were wicked and he knew the gravity of what they were attempting to do, why did he need to pray not to be influenced?