

# ACQUIRING OLAM HABBAH THE EASY WAY

## Background

After Avrohom Avinu fought a major battle against the five kings, he was afraid that since he was saved miraculously, he had used up all of his merit and nothing would be left for him in the World to Come.

## Questions

It is difficult for us to imagine how great a person Avrohom Avinu was. He spent his entire life in almost perfect service to HASHEM. How is it possible for him to have thought that he used up all of his reward in the World to Come because he was saved in battle? He didn't go to battle for his own interest. His nephew Lot was captured, and Avrohom set out on the *mitzvah* of *pidyon shvuyim* (freeing a captive).

Even more, here is a man who for decades and decades was a complete *tzaddik*. How is it possible for him to think that for one miracle that HASHEM did for him, he used up all of his merits?

### ספר בראשית פרק טו

א אחר הדברים האלה  
היה דבר ידוד אל אברם  
במחזה לאמר אל תירא  
אברם אנכי מגן לך שכרך  
הרבה מאד:

*After these matters, HASHEM appeared to Avrohom in a dream saying, "Don't worry, Avrohom. I will protect you; your reward is very great."*

### רש"י על בראשית פרק טו פסוק א

ב"ר אחר הדברים האלה אחר שנעשה לו נס זה שהרג את המלכים והי' דואג ואומר שמא קבלתי שכר על כל צדקותי לכך אמר לו המקום אל תירא אברם אנכי מגן לך מן העונש שלא תענש על כל אותן נפשות שהרגת ומה שאתה דואג על קבול שכרך שכרך הרבה מאד

**Rashi** – *After the miracle was done for Avrohom and he was able to kill the kings, he was afraid and said, "Perhaps I received the reward for all of my righteousness?" Therefore, HASHEM said to him, "I will protect you... and as to your fear that perhaps you received all of your reward, do not worry; your reward is very great."*