

STOP PLAYING G-D

Background

One of the greatest kings to rule over Israel was Chizkiyahu. A *tzaddik* and great leader, he brought the people to a high level. Yet at age 39 he remained single, not because there weren't appropriate women for him to marry, but because he decided not to have children. He saw prophetically that his children would be wicked.

HASHEM sent Yeshaya *Ha'Navi* to tell Chizkiyahu that his ways were wrong and that if he didn't do *teshuvah*, he would die.

Questions

It would seem clear that Chizkiyahu was correct in what he did. The *mitzvah* of having children is to bring people into the world so that they themselves benefit and the generation benefits. Chizkiyahu's son was Menashe, one of the most wicked individuals who ever lived. It would have been far better for Menashe, as well as for his generation, never to have been born. So what was Chizkiyahu doing wrong in not wanting to populate the world with wicked people?

תלמוד בבלי מסכת ברכות דף י/א

מה עשה הקדוש ברוך הוא הביא יסורים על חזקיהו ואמר לו לישעיהו לך ובקר את החולה שנאמר

בימים ההם חלה חזקיהו למות ויבא אליו ישעיהו בן אמוץ הנביא ויאמר אליו כה אמר ה' (צבאות) צו לביתך כי מת אתה ולא תחיה וגו' מאי כי מת אתה ולא תחיה מת אתה בעולם הזה ולא תחיה לעולם הבא

אמר ליה מאי כולי האי

אמר ליה משום דלא עסקת בפריה ורביה

אמר ליה משום דחזאי לי ברוח הקדש דנפקי מינאי בנין דלא מעלו אמר ליה בהדי כבשי דרחמנא למה לך מאי דמפקדת איבעי לך למעבד ומה דניחא קמיה קודשא בריך הוא לעביד

King Chizkiyahu fell to his death-bed. HASHEM sent Yeshaya the Navi to visit him. Yeshaya said to him, "Prepare your household for you shall die in this world and in the World to Come." Chizkiyahu asked, "Why?" Yeshaya answered, "Because you weren't involved in the mitzvah of having children." Chizkiyahu answered, "That was because I saw through ruach ha'kodesh that my children were to be wicked." Yeshaya answered, "These secret matters of HASHEM are none of your concern. You must do what you are commanded to do, and HASHEM will do as He sees fit."