

In addition to reading *Parshat Metzora* from the Book of Leviticus, this Shabbat we also read a special Haftarah, which is taken from the Prophet Malachi – Malachi 3:4-24.

Towards the end of this Haftarah the text claims, on God's behalf, "I will send the prophet Elijah to you before the coming of the awesome, fearful day of Adonai (*Yom Adonai HaGadol veHaNora*). (Malachi 3:23)

According to many sources, this is the reason why this Shabbat is also referred to as '*Shabbat HaGadol*.'

For a full article on this topic, I will encourage you to read the Responsa from Professor Rabbi David Golinkin, which covers this topic with exquisite details. [Responsa in a Moment, vol. 16, No. 4, April 2022. Why is the Shabbat before *Pesah* called Shabbat Hagadol? (Orah Hayyim 430) by Rabbi David Golinkin].

One very interesting aspect of Malachi's teaching is in the verse that follows the proclamation of the prophet Elijah; '(H)e [Elijah] will restore the heart of the parents towards their children and the hearts of the children towards their parents.'

The way this act of reconciliation works, speaks volumes about a concept that is paramount to Jewish values: continuity.

We carry a powerful message that we offer to the entire world. Much of the distinctiveness of this message is that it is a multigenerational one. It goes 'from generation to generation.' It would not have worked for us if we could not count on the new generation following on the footsteps of their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

And this brings us back to what most of the Jews around the world will be doing just in one week, retelling the story.

The holiday of Passover centers, not only on the deep cleaning and getting rid of the *Hametz*, but mainly on the retelling of the story. This is where the guide that we use to follow the Passover service derives its name from, *Haggadah*. The word *Haggadah* has the same root as the verb 'to tell.'

In telling and retelling the story, we offer ourselves and our children (and grandchildren) an opportunity to embrace the same story over and over again, and, at the same time, reinterpreting it through the lens of each generation. We value and welcome what each generation has to add to this multigenerational commitment to retelling the story.

It is my hope and my prayer that in preparation for this coming Passover, we will use the words of the prophet Malachi as a source of inspiration. That we will all make an extra effort for us to make full use of this opportunity.

Let's hope that parents will turn to their children and that children will turn to their parents, to make this narrative relevant one more time.

Shabbat Shalom!

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