

Entitlement (2026)

(Lech Lecha)

From the very beginning of the story of Avraham, who was blessed, there's a counter story of others who are cursed. And although that curse is rectified in the end, when we analyze that curse, it comes from feelings of entitlement, whereas the one who's blessed, doesn't feel that such great reward is coming to him and this is the nature of blessing and the nature of curse.

Robbery

Canaan knew that Shem's land did not belong to him. In fact he knew of the decree that he was to be a servant to Shem, yet he felt entitled enough to come and take it from him. He disregards the blessing of Shem and renames the land Canaan. Hashem does not interfere. With lawlessness and depravity Canaan takes over, but the decree remains. The curse is actually a cure for his bad behavior and he himself causes the prophecy to be fulfilled. Though he thought he was usurping in the end he was preparing the grounds and infrastructure for Avraham and his God to be enthroned and to inherit.

Canaan means merchant and the land was purchased and raised up similar to the way Hevron was purchased and raised up to bury Sarah. He came as a servant to lay the groundwork for the master all the while considering himself the master. So in the end, he was the servant of servants, but he did it to himself.

Ruler to Ruler

And this essentially happens throughout history with entitlement and blessing. Later in the story we hear about Lot who also felt entitled, and there was a battle between Abraham and Lot. Lot believed that Avraham was not going to have children and so the land was destined to come to him. He felt entitled, so what did he gain from that feeling of entitlement? He lost his share in Israel completely. None of his descendants can marry into Israel.

However, there is one descendant of his who brings about the Moshiach, and her name is Ruth. And what quality does Ruth have that is such an important ingredient for the eternal Jewish king? Ruth felt completely unentitled. She came as a stranger with no claim. The perfect tikun of Lot. She had nothing and had to live off the kindness of strangers. She did not feel entitled whatsoever. And King David himself did not expect the entitlement that his older brothers expected. This is where blessing comes from and where the tikun (rectification) comes from with Canaan and with Lot.

Reward of the Unentitled

We see this also with Nadav and Avihu. They thought they were going to be the next leaders and took some liberties, and what happened? They were wrong. They died with that assumption. Their father Aharon felt bad that he was involved with the sin of the golden calf, and so not 'despite', but 'because' of that profound contrition, he was rewarded for that feeling of un-entitlement by being the Cohen Gadol. He becomes the perfect candidate. Because the Cohen Gadol must seek atonement on behalf of others who come with sacrifices in order to repair any damage that they've done from their sins. This is why waiting for a Bet Hamivdash of perfection to fall from the sky is the antithesis of the function of the Bet Hamigdash. It's precisely the place for the broken to be repaired and the unclean to be cleansed.

Division

The sin of entitlement is severe. Rashi says the reason why it says the Canaanite and the Perizzite were in the land is to prove the argument that Avraham had against Lot. Though the land was promised in the future, they were not entitled to it at this time because *'the Canaanite and Perizzites were then in the land.'* I would make another suggestion. Previously, it said the Canaanites were then in the land. Now it says the Canaanites and the Perizzites. Why are there more now? I suggest that when there is a machloket (divisiveness) between Jews, our enemies multiply. Precisely the same type of enemies that also feel entitled. The wars of entitlement are severe. And blessing comes from the opposite, from sacrifice and from feeling non-entitled.

Elections

We see the dynamic and consequence of entitlement being played out in the election battles as well. As the Judicial elites and their pawns cling to their entitlements and manufacture and

fabricate crimes to hold on to their power, the Canaanites and Perizzites in the polls are also increasing. And the generation of victory and self sacrifice is in danger.

The confidence of our enemies increases by our divisions. This is what occurred on Oct 7 and a potential unity government that is a capitulation to the left is not unity at all, but a terrible disaster. It is better to separate like Avraham did with Lot. The door will always be open to return and when Lot does teshuva he has the ability to bring Moshiach as we have explained. May it happen soon.

Merchant and Buyer

Canaan means merchant. It is a land that has been bought and sold over and over again. But the owner of this land is not like other owners that feel an entitlement to the property that they own.

> "It was taught: Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai says: Three good gifts did the Holy One, Blessed be He, give to Israel, and all of them were given only through suffering (*yissurin*). And these are they: Torah, the Land of Israel (*Eretz Yisrael*), and the World-to-Come (*Olam HaBa*)." (Berakhot 5a)

Blood, sweat, tears and self sacrifice are the currency of entitlement to Eretz Yisrael. That which purchases the next world and the secrets buried deep in the Torah purchase the Land as well. It is a land that looks behind a curtain to inspect the purchaser and decides if she will allow herself to be betrothed.

Through the conquest of Canaan which re-establishes the order of the universe one foregoes one's own self for the greater glory of the Creator. Whether it is Canaan of the past or the Ishmaelite that occupies today the same struggle of entitlement shapes not only this tiny land but the entire world. Nobody owns Canaan, but Israel can belong to you if you are married to her, for better or for worse. To serve her is a great entitlement.

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