

Maharal on the Sedra **Eliahu's Fingers Guarantee Yaakov's Redemption**

Vayikra 26:42 - And I will remember My covenant with Yaakov and also My covenant with Yitzchak, and also My covenant with Avraham will I remember, and the Land I will remember.

Rashi - In five places, Yaakov is spelled with a VAV, and Eliyahu is spelled without a VAV in five places. Yaakov took a letter from Eliyahu's name as a security that Eliyahu will bring the news of the redemption of his sons.

Gur Arye - Mizrachi explains the five citations of Yaakov with VAV, one here (in Vayikra) and four in Yirmiyahu, refers to the five books of Torah, as if to say Eliyahu swears by the Torah he will bring the news of redemption. However, EIRAVON [security, guarantee] does not mean oath, and relates to handshake. The five VAVs Eliyahu gave Yaakov resemble and represent five fingers and each has a numerical equivalent of six. Six times five is thirty, the number of bones in the hand [Ohalot 1:6]. Yaakov took the hand of Eliyahu as a guarantee that he would come and redeem his sons.

This midrash hints that Eliahu was created to redeem Israel, and he stands in waiting for this event. Till then, his name is incomplete, with one letter held by Yaakov. Note that the rabbis said that both are alive - "Yaakov our father is not dead" [Taanit 5b] and "Eliyahu rose in a storm to the heavens" [Melachim

Bet 2:11]. The redemption of Israel will be through the merit of Yaakov, and furthermore, it will not occur without Eliyahu, who will unite Israel by returning the hearts of the fathers to the children and hearts of the children to their fathers [Malachi 3:27].

- Column prepared by Dr. Moshe Kuhr