

## Parsha Points to Ponder

by Rabbi Dov Lipman

### Nitzavim-Vayeilech

- ① Why does the Torah switch from the plural - which is used in the entire first section of the Parsha - to the singular when it mentions the covenant which God is making with the Jewish people on that day (29:11)?
- ② Why does the Torah preface the teaching that the covenant applies to future generations (29:14) by saying the seemingly obvious and extra words AND NOT WITH YOU ALONE DO I MAKE THIS PACT (29:13)?
- ③ What does Moshe mean when he specifies that the Jewish people should listen to G-D's commands ACCORDING TO ALL THAT I COMMAND YOU TODAY (30:2)? Of course the source for what they should do is coming from what Moshe is telling them so why does he have to say this?

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The suggested answers are elsewhere  
Ponder the questions first, then see further

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### Suggested answers

- ① The Kli Yakar explains that the switch to the singular teaches that this covenant was to create responsibility for each Jew to the other. The singular indicated that all of the people were molding into one, singular unit.
- ② The Ohr HaChayim answers that the extra, introductory words teach the people that while they accept that pact they must actively accept the covenant for the future generations and it is not simply not that G-D will obligate the future generations as well.
- ③ The S'forno teaches that these extra words refer to Moshe's command that the people not observe the Torah by rote and without meaning as had been done until this point but that they inject a freshness and depth to their mitzva observance.