

אני לידיד' לידיד' ה' ~~~~~

The Klal Yisroel are told to take a lamb on the 10th day of the month, however they are told to watch it until the 14th, and then slaughter it. Rashi comments, “This watching means examination, as the sacrifice requires checking for blemishes for four days prior to slaughtering. Why did he make the acquisition of the first korban Pesach precede its slaughter by four days, which he did not command concerning the Korban Pesach in future generations? Rabbi Masya Ben Charash used to say, it says ‘And I, G-d passed over you, and I saw you, and behold your time was a time of loving. The time for the fulfillment of the oath, I swore to Avrohom that I will redeem his children has arrived. However, they did not have Mitzvos with which to busy themselves so that they would be redeemed. I therefore gave them two Mitzvos; the blood of Pesach and the blood of Milah....., and because they were steeped in idolatry he said to them.....draw your hands away from idols and take for yourselves a sheep of a commandment.’”

A powerful insight can be derived from the above Rashi into Hashem’s unconditional love for Klal Yisroel. The time had come to redeem the Klal Yisroel, however, they were steeped in idolatry. Yet, Hashem had to fulfill the oath he made to Avrohom, so he provided them with Mitzvos to earn a Zechus to be redeemed. Without Rabbi Masya Ben Charash, we would have thought that Hashem did not want to redeem the Klal Yisroel due to their behavior, but he had to fulfill his oath to Avrohom. However, Rabbi Masya Ben Charash says the Pasuk in Yechezkel calls this “the time of loving.” This was the time for Hashem to express his love. In other words, even though Klal Yisroel was so steeped in idolatry, Hashem loved them.

Often when people sin they feel unworthy of Hashem’s love and feel dejected. This unfortunately does not stir them to change and regain the love, but usually it has the opposite effect. Therefore, it is so important to realize that even when we sin, Hashem’s love is immutable. As our Sages teach us, “Just like water reflects our image, so is the heart of a person.” When we realize how much Hashem loves us, we will love him back.

