NOAM HASHABBOS
נועם השבת

Shabbos: A New Beginning Every Week

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By קידוש on Friday night we say that שבת is a remembrance for יציאת מצרים, and the commentators have difficulty because שבת preceded מצרים! Shabbos is זכר למעשה בראשית. It's a remembrance of creation.

I believe that שבת has a very strong similarity to יציאת מצרים. Because by יציאת מצרים we were in the depths of טומאה. We had fallen to מ"ט שערי טומאה, and yet השם took us out of מצרים because we had set our eyes on הר סיני, because we decided we are going to be מקבל the Torah, and we were prepared to shut out our past, to block the מ"ט שערי טומאה that we were in, and just march towards קבלת התורה.

And that's why השם told משה רבינו that His name that corresponds to יציאת מצרים is אהיה, which means "I will be." It's the ability of a יד to say, "No matter what I was until now, from now on I'm going to focus on what I can be and what I will be." And it was in that merit that השם took us out of מצרים.

שבת קודש is the same. חז"ל say that when שבת enters, it should be as if all your work is done. And the מאור עינים says that it's not just referring to one's physical work; it's referring to spiritual work. A person should not enter the שבת burdened by their spiritual status. A person should go into the שבת thinking about, "What can I be, and what will I be?" A person needs to enter שבת by saying, "אהיה"—I will be. And in that manner, שבת and יציאת מצרים are the same. שבת is זכר ליציאת מצרים.

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