

Torah Tidbits from Rabbi Larry Moldo

Corporate Israel.

It might not sound all that appetizing, yet this week Moses announces to the group that has been gathered and listening to him for hours that becoming a nation implies just that. From the text: Deuteronomy 29:13-14 "It is not with you by yourselves that I am cutting this particular covenant, and this consequence. Those who are standing here with us before YHVH our God and those who are not with us today."

The concept of a corporation is that an entity exists in time, but is not tied to any one person's particular lifespan. The corporate entity can indeed disappear, and often does here in America. There are very few corporate covenanted entities, however, which might have made a difference in terms of disappearing - and one of the partners to our covenant cannot disappear so at least one half of the covenant will always be in force.

God, being outside of time, is covenanting with the survivors, the dead and those not yet born. All of us were addressed by Moses, and informed how important remembering God is. Those who have chosen Judaism often say they have no real choice - only Judaism works for them. Those who are born Jewish have had that choice removed from them from the beginning of our existence as a nation.

Our nation is not just a nation - for nations come and go. Our nation is not just a family - for families die out. Our nation is not just a religion - for religions can be harassed into oblivion. Our nation is all three, and possibly even more. When the nation on a land was exiled, the nation continued outside of the land. When massacres struck one segment or another, there were segments that were not in the line of fire. When others informed us that our religious style was out of date, based on their understanding of what our religious style was, many knew that nobody else could tell us what our religious style was in the first place.

God has covenanted with our grandchildren's grandchildren. One of our secondary tasks, in addition to being God's partner in making the world a better place - which is our primary task as a member of corporate Israel - is to imbibe, enliven and enlarge Judaism so that we do not disappoint either side of the covenanted equation.