

## הפטרה ליום שני של שבועות

### HAFTORAH FOR THE SECOND DAY OF SHOBUOS

***The Haftorah for the Second Day of Shobuos (in Chutz Lo'Oretz) is taken from Sefer Chavakook, one of the shorter Books of the Prophets which make up "The Twelve," from verse 20, the last verse, of Chapter 2 till the end of the Book.***

1. This Haftorah is unusual in that in most communities a poem is chanted by the Reader after he has recited the preliminary Brochah and the first verse of the Haftorah. It is a beautiful poem and mirrors the "Akdomus" poem recited before the Torah Reading of the first day of Shobuos. This poem, too, is in praise of HaShem, the Giver of the Torah and the Talmidei Chachommim who are devoted to learning the Torah and asks HaShem to protect and prosper those who study the Torah.
2. The Novvi Chavakook lived towards the end of the First Beis HaMikdash era, when the Jewish People faced being exiled from their Land by the Babylonians under their king, Nevuchadnetsar. The people were not disposed to listen to the prophet and he beseeches his listeners not to seek safety in making alliances with their neighbouring peoples against the Babylonian king but instead to return to HaShem and His Torah and to place their trust in Him.
2. On the face of things, the Haftorah itself has not a great deal to do with the Torah Reading of the day nor with the Yom Tov of Shobuos. Chavakook prays to HaShem that He should please be merciful with the Jewish People in the impending exile. The connexion — with the Yom Tov of Shobuos rather than with the Torah Reading of the day — is that Chavakook recalls how it was only the Jewish People who were eager to accept the Torah and he paraphrases the words of Mosheh our Teacher in the Sidra VeZos HaBerochah. There, Mosheh tells how the peoples of Sayyir and of Porron (that is, Aysov and Yishmo'el) refused to accept the Torah of HaShem, claiming that what is written in it and the demands that the Torah makes run contrary to their chosen lifestyle of violence and immorality. But the Jewish People, says Chavakook, didn't even ask what is in the Torah — they trusted implicitly in the goodness of HaShem and know that He would not command anything that is to our detriment. His demands, though not easy to fulfil, are not so difficult that they cannot be obeyed. And in any case, the Mitzvos of HaShem are for our own benefit. "HaShem wanted to purify and ennoble the Jewish People and therefore He gave them an abundance of Torah and Mitzvos." Chavakook also recalls how the Jewish People accepted the Torah with eagerness and enthusiasm and in the merit of this, Chavakook asks that HaShem should shield and protect His People in their wanderings through the exile that he saw was coming because of their backsliding.
4. The Novvi ends his prayer with expressions of trust in HaShem and His mercies and tells how in the future the Jewish People will be reconciled to HaShem and His Torah.