

“Hashem will answer you on the day of affliction.” (*Tehillim* 20:2)

This is analogous to a father and son who were walking on their way. When the son tired, he said to his father, “Where is the city?” The father responded, “This will be your sign, when you see a cemetery you will know that the city is close by.” So too, Hashem said to Klal Yisroel, “When you see that the afflictions are covering you, at that time you will be redeemed.” As the Passuk says, “Hashem will answer you on the day of affliction.” (*Medresh Tehillim ibid*)

Perhaps the reason for this is that the passuk (*Yeshaya* 57:15) says that Hashem dwells specifically among those who are humble of spirit. The Maharal (*Netzach Yisroel* 11, see our *Shir HaShirim* email from last week) explains that because of this, Hashem dwells among *Klal Yisroel*, especially during our exile when we are humbled. The Chofetz Chaim writes that when Hashem dwells among us He saves us from all our afflictions, as the Passuk says, “Since Hashem, your G-d, moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you.” Therefore, when our afflictions peak and cover us, we can be sure that Hashem will immediately rest His presence among us, saving us from all afflictions.

However, we needn't wait until our suffering peaks. As soon as we experience affliction, if we humble ourselves and realize our complete powerlessness to save ourselves and that only Hashem can help us, our humility immediately merits the dwelling of Hashem's presence among us, thereby saving us from any and all affliction!

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