



*...For the Lord desires you, and your land shall be inhabited... and the rejoicing of a bridegroom over a bride shall your God rejoice over you.*

*(Haftorah Parshas Nitzavim, Yeshaya 62:3-5)*

*The owner of the wedding hall looked on in amazement. He had been taken by surprise when he was informed that the chosson and kallah were remarrying each other after having been divorced for years. Usually, such a celebration would be low key, however, what he was now witnessing was the happiest chasuna he had ever seen. He pulled a close friend of the family, who happened to be an acquaintance of his, aside and asked him for a little more background to the story. What he heard explained it all. The reason the husband and wife had originally divorced was the exact opposite of the usual cause. Their love for each other was actually the envy of many a couple, however there was a medical issue that had forced them to separate. Following their divorce, they had both fallen into a tremendous depression as they both could not imagine going on in life without the other. After five long years of unbelievable suffering doctors had discovered a cure for the medical issue that had caused their separation and they had immediately booked a hall for a chasuna like no other!*

The Malbim explains the above pasuk: *The rejoicing of a bridegroom over a bride shall your God rejoice over you*, as follows: Usually, when a divorced couple remarries, the happiness is lower key than a regular wedding. However, when Hashem will take us back to Him with the coming of Mashiach, “*The rejoicing of a bridegroom over a bride shall your God rejoice over you.*” Why is this so when we in fact we have suffered so terribly during the thousands of years of our being distanced from Him? For just as in the above analogy, it was only out of His infinite love that Hashem had been forced to send us away for our own good. In truth, His love for us had never diminished and deep down neither did our love towards Him. Rather, we both suffered for thousands of years refusing to give up on each other even on pain of death, such as when we suffered countless times rather than forsake Him. Therefore, when the time finally comes when we can return to each other, the celebration will be literally the happiest day since the creation of the universe! *The rejoicing of a bridegroom over a bride shall your God rejoice over you* for all eternity!

