

If he shall offer it for a Thanksgiving offering. (7:12)

The *Midrash* says that, in the future (with the advent of *Moshiach Tzidkeinu*), all *korbanos*, sacrifices, will become null; there will no longer be *korbanos*. The *Korban Todah*, Thanksgiving offering, however, will continue in full force. Likewise, all prayers will become *bateil*, null, but prayers of *todah*, gratitude, will continue unabated. *Chazal* do not give a reason for this.

Horav Eliyahu Baruch Finkel, zl, cites the commentary of the *Ramban* to *Parashas Bo*, where he writes that the purpose of Creation was that we should pay gratitude to the Creator, and that the purpose of *mitzvos* is to serve as a vehicle for us to have faith in Hashem and thank Him for creating us. In other words, the purpose of our creation, the purpose of the Torah and *mitzvos*, is to bring us to the point of appreciating what Hashem has done for us and to pay gratitude to Him for this unparalleled gift.

With this in mind, *Rav Eliyahu Baruch* distinguishes between the *Korban Todah* and the other *korbanos* such as: *Olah*, Elevation/Burnt-Offering; *Chatas*, Sin-offering; *Asham*, Guilt Offering; *Shelamim*, Peace offering. The aforementioned *korbanos* are each brought to complete or repair something that is lacking, a deficiency that was created by a misstep on our part. A Sin-offering or Guilt-Offering is there to atone for an infraction on our parts – be it unintended or intentional. We created a void which must be repaired. Even the *Korban Olah* atones for one's non action concerning a *mitzvas aseih*, positive *mitzvah*, or inappropriate thought which did not lead to action. Something was left lacking, which must be corrected via the act of penance by offering a *korban*. The *Shelamim*, Peace-offering, is just that: an offering that increases peaceful relationships and harmony among people as they share in the *Korban*. Something is corrected by these offerings.

In the future, everything will be perfect, thus circumventing any reason for atonement or repair. *Korbanos* will become obsolete, because sin and lack of harmony will be antiquated. Saying "thank you" will never become outmoded. Gratitude is and always will play a dominant role in our lives. It is the purpose of the creation of man. This idea applies equally to prayer, of which all – except for prayers of gratitude – exists to complete an inadequacy which is the result of spiritual deficiency. Gratitude will always be necessary, because, without it, we are not human.