

"And Hashem said to Yaakov, arise, go up to Bais Kail and dwell there and make an altar to the G-d that appeared to you when you fled Eisav your brother." (35:1)

Horav A. Miller, Shlita, states that this "dwelling" was not intended to be a permanent residence. Hashem only wanted Yaakov to stop and take an accounting of what had happened until the present. The purpose of this "dwelling" was to avail Yaakov the opportunity for contemplation, so that he could reflect upon all the wonders which Hashem had created for him.

Considering this information was not sufficient. It was incumbent upon him to allocate a specific time to meditate and appreciate all the good which Hashem had done for him. Every experience was part of a chain of events specifically preordained for Yaakov's ultimate benefit. Yaakov built the altar, and he expressly related Hashem's kindness and beneficence. Only after the entire history was narrated, was Yaakov prepared to leave. Indeed, every aspect of his history was significant, since each detail constituted a link in the chain of kindness.

Similarly, Moshe recounted all of *Klal Yisrael's* travels and experiences, so that they would be enabled to read about their journeys and to be reminded of Hashem's benevolence to them. For us each to look back at our own personal history is to discern the hand of Hashem remarkably guiding every facet of our lives. In so doing, we recognize His every kindness. It is not only right, but it is our obligation!