

It will be when all these things come upon you – the blessing and the curse... Then you will take it to your heart. (30:1)

While no one can actually pinpoint the corollary that exists between our rebellious behavior and the curses which follow, a definite pattern in history demonstrates that allegiance to Hashem is followed by blessing and sinful behavior precedes punishment. There are those who vehemently deny this verity, and have chosen to ignore what is plain to see. They continue to remain indifferent to what even a simpleton can deduce.

Hashem has been very upfront with us. In *Parashas Ki Savo*, the Torah outlines the wonderful blessings that will be showered upon us for complying with the Torah. There is also a litany of ninety-eight curses, which are Hashem's punishing rod for exacting retribution. The choice is up to us: Do we want to earn blessing, or are we on the road to curse? In his commentary *Pnei David*, the *Chida*, *zl*, observes that there are 676 words in the text of the *k'lalos* which Moshe *Rabbeinu* said to the nation. The number 676 is likewise the *Gematria*, numerical equivalent of the word *ra'os*, bad/evil.

This is what the Psalmist means when he writes (*Tehillim* 34:20), *Rabos ra'os tzaddik, u'mi'kulam yatzilenu Hashem*, "Many are the mishaps of the righteous, but from all of them Hashem rescues him." The *Chida* explains this homiletically: The *tzaddik*, Moshe, enumerated the *k'lalos*, curses, which (in number of words) equals the word *ra'os*, 676, but all of these *k'lalos* can each be turned into blessings by Hashem. As long as we include Hashem in our lives, we will be spared. The Almighty will transform *k'lalah* into *brachah*.

How does this radical change occur? The *Chida* explains that Hashem's Name is mentioned 26 times in the *k'lalos*. The Name *yud, kay, vov, kay* equals 26. Thus, 26 times 26 equals 676. Hashem converts curse into blessing. By including *Hashem Echad*, the Almighty is **one**, we add one to 676 increasing the total to 677. Therefore, by incorporating Hashem into our lives, we are able to transform *raos* = 676 to *ezras*, salvation, which equals 677. Let us make Hashem a part of our lives. The difference spells salvation.