

Hashem, our G-d, spoke to us in Chorev, saying: Enough of your dwelling by this mountain. (1:6)

Rashi quotes the *Midrash* which defines *rav*, enough, as abundance. This refers to the abundance of reward and achievement that *Klal Yisrael* gained during their one-year layover at *Sinai*. At *Sinai*, they received the Torah, built the *Mishkan* with its accoutrements, and Hashem designated the *Zekeinim*, Elders, as the leaders of the nation. Now, it was time to move on. The *Nesivos Shalom* offers an alternate exposition, with a homiletic twist. Chorev may be translated as destruction, referring to the *churban*, destruction of the *Bais Hamikdash*. Does this mean that we as a nation in exile are finished? Do we have no hope? *Rav lachem sheves* should be read as *Shabbos*. True, without the *Bais Hamikdash*, the Three Festivals during which we were *oleh regel*, pilgrimaged to the Temple thrice annually, were no longer possible. The *korbanos*, sacrifices, we had offered on the *Mizbayach*, Altar, were no longer feasible. *Shabbos*, however, is here to stay. It is our holy island in time which will never leave us. We should not give up, because, through *Shabbos*, we can achieve a sense of holiness even in our contemporary exile, when there is no Temple.

Furthermore, *Hashem Elokeinu diber eileinu b'chorev*. The sanctity of the Torah which we received remains with us even in Chorev – *churban*. Even in exile, the *Shechinah*, Divine Presence, is with us on *Shabbos* and through our commitment in Torah study.