

VAYELACH 1981
Rabbi Joseph Radinsky

In this week's Torah portion, Vayelach, we learn how G-d predicts that the Jewish people will go astray after false gods and then He will Haster Astir, He will hide His face. G-d will no longer intervene actively in human affairs and He will just let evil occur. He will not try to prevent it. He will say, "You human beings think you do not need Me, then run the world without Me". The Rabbis ask why does it say twice the word Hastir? By the way, the English Hester comes from this. The Rabbis answer by saying that not only will G-d hide His face but we will not even know that He is hidden. We will know that something is wrong but we will not know what. We will not even know that we are missing G-d. The Jews throughout 4000 years of history have had a relationship with G-d. We knew that we needed Him and that He gave us strength and faith to overcome all our problems. Today we are living in such an age of Hester. G-d is hidden and most Jews do not even know He is hidden. Many Jews know things are wrong and they are searching. They try all sorts of causes not just because these causes are right and just but because they have to do something. Others get embroiled in all sorts of fads. There is a fellow who jogs everyday past the house. He looks like the angel of death. He looks so bad. I thought he was just some poor soul but I found out later that he is one of the most prominent doctors in town. He jogs 25 miles everyday and he looks worse every week. He obviously is not just running for health but because he is obsessed by some demon. How many people do we find who divorce their wife, abandon their children because they feel something is wrong and they have to do something. They do not realize that if they turn to G-d, turn to their religion that they would find a source of strength. In Europe people were poor. Many times they starved. They did not know where the next meal was coming from yet they had an inner strength and joy which allowed them to overcome. In America Jews have everything but many of them lack the inner strength to overcome their problems. Many Jews run off on all sorts of tangents. It reminds me of the story of the fellow who came up to the hot dog stand and said, "I want that hot dog on the bottom". The vendor said, "But the ones on top will fall down". "I don't care. I'll pay extra". The vendor asked, "Tell me, why do you want it?" and the man answered "Because I am for the underdog". We Jews unfortunately do not know whether to look to solve a void in our lives. This reminds me of a Chassidic story of a daughter of a Chassidic

VAYELACH 1981
Rabbi Joseph Radinsky
PAGE TWO

Rebbe who came to her father crying and crying. "Why are you crying?" She answered, "We are playing hide and seek and nobody could find me. Nobody is looking for me." "Isn't that the object of the game?" he asked. This is the same with G-d. He is hiding but He wants us to look for Him. If we do we will be able to find Him. May we all look for Him because if we do we will be assured that we will have a Happy Year, maybe not a prosperous year or a year free from problems, but we will find the strength to overcome our problems.