

"And He brought us to this place and He gave us this land – a land flowing with milk and honey"

Rashi explains that "this place" refers to the Beis Hamikdosh, whereas this land refers to Eretz Yisroel.

The Sefer Zera Shimshon (R. Shimshon Chaim Nachmeni – who lived in the 18th Century CE) asks that the order seems puzzling. Surely the posuk should first say Hashem gave us Eretz Yisroel, prior to mentioning that He brought us to the Beis Hamikdosh?

He answers based on a fascinating Targum Yonoson in Shemos 19:4, where the posuk states וַאֲשֶׁר יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל - referring to how Hashem looked after us when He took us out of Egypt and "carried" us "on Eagle wings". The Targum there says that this refers to the time of the offering of the Korbon Pesach in Egypt, where Hashem carried us on clouds to the site of the Beis Hamikdosh to shecht and offer the Korbon and then transported us back to Egypt that night.

This is what our posuk is hinting to when it states He brought us to the Beis Hamikdosh first and only afterwards gave us Eretz Yisroel.

He then gives another very different explanation based on a Kabbalistic idea brought down in Sefer Chesed L'Avrohom (3:3) and Zohar that Eretz Yisroel has large invisible partitions that divide between it and Chutz L'Oretz – spanning from the heavens down to earth. These prevent the 70 שְׂרָיִם (ministering angels) of Chutz L'Oretz from entering the airspace of Eretz Yisroel – thus preventing any invasion into Eretz Yisroel. At the time of the Churban – Hashem so to speak breached the partitions and gave the שְׂרָיִם permission to enter – thus enabling the invasion of Eretz Yisroel and subsequent destruction of the Beis Hamikdosh.

The Zera Shimshon suggests that this is why the posuk first mentions bringing us to the Beis Hamikdosh and only then mentions giving us the land. Because although we went to Eretz Yisroel before building the Beis Hamikdosh – but it was only once the Beis Hamikdosh was built that we were truly secure in Eretz Yisroel as this resulted in the invisible partitions preventing us from any invasion from foreign invaders.

We can perhaps suggest that neither of these explanations are mutually exclusive, as the first explanation refers to a pilot visit to the place of the Beis Hamikdosh, which happened before we left Egypt, whereas the second explanation refers to what happened after Hashem gave us Eretz Yisroel to live in.