



Dear Friends of Tzohar All Over the World,

We have all been through a challenging year.

If there is one message we have learned this year, it is that our plans can always change. A person plans to go to work, travel to see family, celebrate s'machot with friends and family or simply send their children to school. It never occurred to us that a miniscule and invisible virus would disturb, let alone silence, all of our plans.

If they had told us a year ago that the world would be at a stand still for a period of over a year, we would have likened it to a script of a Hollywood movie. Then reality came and turned our whole world around.

It seems to me that there is no better preparation for the holiday of Pesach than internalizing and facing this reality. When we read in the Haggadah about the Ten Plagues and our children ask, was it so? Could this be true?, we will have an answer our parents were unable to give. We saw with our eyes how G-d brought upon us a tiny virus that put the whole world on hold - not imaginary, not theoretical, but real.

Thank G-d, we can see the light at the end of the long and dark tunnel - **"those who walk in dark saw great light."**

But it is a mistake to think that with this we have seen the end of this pandemic that has overtaken our lives over the past year. The Coronavirus exposed the deep fractures that exist within Israeli society, between secular and religious, between Haredi communities and Israeli general society, between left and right, etc. The past year has brought to the surface questions of mutual responsibility and the societal solidarity this is needed to continue to exist. The Coronavirus pandemic challenged the rabbinic world and necessitated courageous leadership, calling for both a commitment to Halacha and resilient, relentless battling against the challenges and dilemmas brought about by the pandemic.

We, at Tzohar, strived to provide a response to many questions that engaged Israeli society. From religious marriage and new forms of prayer services to various ethical and other inquiries about communal issues.

As we approach the holiday of freedom, we wish good health for you and your families, for the Jewish People, and for the whole world.



Rabbi David Stav



RESPECT TZO HAR RELEVANCE