



PARSHAT CHAYEI SARAH

"Avraham was old, advanced in years, and Hashem blessed Avraham with everything."

This statement appears early in our Parsha of Chayei Sarah, shortly after we read about how Avraham had to pay a rather large amount of money to purchase a burial plot for his wife. In fact, much of Avraham's life was filled with tribulations like this; he was forced to flee from his home, his wife was kidnapped by two different kings, he had problems from his son Yishmael, he almost had to sacrifice Yitzchak, and now these problems with Sarah's burial. Yet, we read that Hashem blessed him with everything.

One explanation given is that regardless of how much Avraham had, or didn't have, he was always happy with whatever he did have. Too often, we know that those who "have" are not satisfied; they are always looking for more, and life becomes a constant struggle to achieve this. Not so with Avraham. Since he was happy with whatever he had, he is considered by the Torah as a "blessed" person.

Another explanation is regardless of all of Avraham's trials, the Torah testifies that he was actually quite wealthy by this point in his life. Yet, the Torah also states that he ruled over all that was his. He did NOT let his wealth rule over him. This, as well, is truly a blessing.

If we take the time to recognize what G-d is blessing us with, and take care to use it properly, then we too, are blessed with everything.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Cohen