

WHAT SCIENCE TELLS US ABOUT G-D

TIME MAGAZINE ASKED: WHAT DOES SCIENCE TELL US ABOUT G-D? R' ITZKE GANSBURG ANSWERS. * A DEEPER REALITY," IS A VIDEO THAT ILLUSTRATES THE CHASSIDIC PRINCIPLE OF "EIN OD MILVADO," AND THE NEED TO PREPARE FOR GEULA. * RABBI YITZCHOK GANSBURG, THE ONE WHO INITIATED THE PROJECT AND PRODUCED THE VIDEO, TELLS US ALL ABOUT IT.

BY MENACHEM ZIEGELBOIM

There is always a sense of urgency about Rabbi Yitzchok Gansburg, who is affectionately known as Reb Itzke. Despite his advancing age, he doesn't relax. His mind is always thinking of new ideas on how to fulfill the Rebbe's directives, especially the one about publicizing the *besuras ha'Geula* in every place and to every Jew.

R' Itzke doesn't merely come up with ideas – he carries them out, even when they entail a heavy burden of work on his behalf. In the past decade, since the Rebbe said, "do all that you can," R' Itzke has developed and implemented dozens of large projects, which could leave even those young enough to be his grandchildren trailing behind.

Just to mention two examples: R' Itzke circled the Catskill Mountains in a small plane, covering the area with pamphlets about Moshiach. He also produced a mobile Moshiach exhibit, which 80,000 children across America have seen.

But R' Itzke doesn't rest on his laurels. "Not too long ago we marked Chaf-Ches Nissan," he says. "Nice articles were written, wonderful speeches were made – but *tachles!* What was done to bring Moshiach?!"

"I said to myself, let me learn the *sicha* again and pay attention to every



"Not enough efforts are being made to reach the outside, i.e., to bring the message of Geula to the world at large."



word. The Rebbe says that we must ask for Moshiach, but nobody truly asks for him. They cry out for Moshiach only because they were told to do so. The Rebbe simply wants us to be stubborn, and I ask myself: how can we do this?"

After a great deal of thought, he decided to produce a video (available on CD) that would illustrate and explain the topic of *Geula* along with the concept of *ein od milvado* (there is nothing beside Him). R' Itzke doesn't hesitate to say it the way it is, even if it isn't flattering. "You give a class on *inyanei Moshiach*, and how many stay awake until the end of the class? Of those that do, how many go home with a message they can use? Of those, how many can repeat to their families what they learned? You'd be lucky to have one!"

"That's where the idea came from to produce a video on the topic of Moshiach that everybody can take home, which the family can watch, to learn from and then discuss what was taught," he explains.

R' Itzke began working on the video himself. He has the equipment, but after producing some segments, he realized that it wasn't enough to give the video the professional look he was after, and R' Itzke is not one to compromise. He

went to a well-known producer in Manhattan to get him interested in his ideas.

"What do you think is the purpose in life?" the narrator asks people on the street. Three people, a Korean, a typical American, and a Japanese, were surprised by the question. "I have no idea," says the American shrugging his shoulders. "Perhaps that is one of the answers I am seeking in life," says the Korean.

This is the scenario with which the professionally produced, "A Deeper Reality," begins. The deep voice of the narrator can be heard in the background saying, "Since the dawn of history, man has sought to understand his world," as the image of a mountain climber struggling to get to the top, appears on the screen.

There are stunning visuals throughout the 21-minute video. The ideas of the scholars appearing on the video are illustrated to perfection. The guest featured in the video include: Rabbi Levi Garelik, Rabbi Simon Jacobson, Rabbi Gottlieb, Rabbi Zvi Homnick, Rabbi Y.Y. Paltiel, Rabbi Shais Taub, Rabbi Shmuel Butman, and Ms. Rochel Schilder.

Images from the world of medicine, technology, and nature race by, illustrating the awesome advances humanity has made in the past two hundred years. The narrator challenges us with his questions: Perhaps there is still a deeper reality, waiting to be revealed?

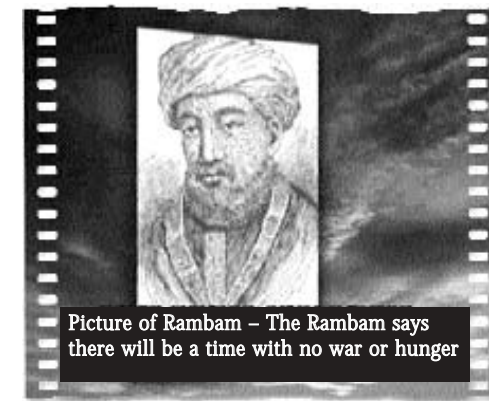
At this point the video begins discussing eternal questions like: how was the world created, and what is the purpose of life. The narrator says that *Time* magazine asked dozens of scientists these questions. The magazine quoted a book called, "*Cosmos, Bios, Theos*," which was written by sixty world renowned scientists, including twenty-four Nobel prize winners, in which one of the editors, a physicist from Yale named Andre Marzano concludes

that, "There is only one convincing answer to the laws of nature, and that is: Creation by an omnipotent, omniscient G-d."

While the viewer watches a vast array of images illustrating technological developments in the fields of biology, medicine, and industry, the narrator says: "In the past two hundreds years, Man has created, invented, and developed more than at any other time in history. The question is, why now? And why all at once? Is this explosion of information at this time a coincidence?"



"Nice articles were written, wonderful speeches were made – but tachles! What was done to bring Moshiach?!"



R' Simon Jacobson: "It's not at all a coincidence. There is a purpose – one that was foreseen by the classic work of *kabbala*, the *Zohar*, which was written two thousand years ago. It says there that in the year 5600, the wellsprings of wisdom, both the holy and the secular/scientific, would open. The purpose of this revelation is to prepare the world for *Yemos HaMoshiach*, regarding which it is written, "And the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of G-d as the waters cover the sea."

Other lecturers follow with discussions about the truth of Creation, about *Elokus*, about the centrality of the Baal Shem Tov's revelation, and about the unity of G-d, i.e., G-d is everything, everything is G-d, and there is nothing besides Him.

"All of science and technology tries to understand the forces within nature," explains R' Garelik. "Life and existence are not just the body and the material world around it. What is visible to us is only the tip of the iceberg, a signpost for an underlying G-dly reality. This reality is far loftier than what we can absorb with our ears and eyes, and the more research scientists do, the more they come to realize that there is far more to existence than meets the eye.

R' Itzke went to the offices of David Chassy, a Jewish man and a professional filmmaker. R' Itzke, with his limited English and with the help of a translator, tried to explain what he wanted – "a video that will explain how the world is ready for Moshiach, and how there is nothing in the world other than *Elokus*."

"It wasn't easy to get my point across to him," R' Itzke admits, but naturally, that didn't deter him. "In the end, he understood the essential point I was trying to make. When he asked about the kind of budget I was planning to work with, I said I didn't have huge amounts at my disposal, but we should begin with what I had."

You went to the filmmaker and



told him, "I want to produce a film about Moshiach and about the unity of G-d." What did he think?

"He is a professional who does what the customer wants."

Things began professionally, but quickly became personal. The producer worked on the film for two weeks, and managed to create seven minutes of it. When he finished, he called Gansburg and said, "I have a seven minute film." That was all R' Itzke's budget could pay for, but he realized that it wouldn't do.

The two continued talking and the conversation became more personal as the producer told him he was married for ten years and had only one child, and that they wanted more children. The doctors said they could not have more children. "All the big doctors we went to say the same thing."

R' Itzke said, "Listen to this story. I once went to the Rebbe for Simchas Torah. There were about 5000 people in 770. Suddenly the Rebbe motioned to someone to come over. This person had apparently asked the Rebbe for a *bracha* beforehand. When he reached the Rebbe, the Rebbe said: 'Hashem gives measure for measure. No doubt you fulfilled what it says in *Shulchan Aruch*, but it hasn't helped yet. The advice for this is for you to give far more than the requirement, and so Hashem too will give you in a manner that transcends limitation.'

"The producer got the point, and took the rest of the expenses upon himself, on the spot. Then he came to me and wrote to the Rebbe with tears. After two weeks he called me and said, 'Gansburg, I have good news...'

"On the 5th of Teives of this year he had a daughter, and he covered all the expenses of the video, which amounted to \$80,000."

After producing "A Deeper Reality," Chassy has taken on more Torah observance. Ever since then, he asks the Rebbe about every important step he takes. (See box.)

Sometimes you learn a topic in Chassidus well, and you can even convey it to others, but when you see it in front of your eyes, it is altogether different and it takes on a deeper significance, which directly impacts on the soul.

The video depicts the latest technological advances. According to the Chassidic perspective, these advances are coming about only for the purpose of bringing knowledge of the Creator to every single person. "In seconds, you can reach every person in the world, even thousands of miles away," says the narrator. "You can reach the heart of a person sitting quietly in the privacy of his home and bring him information about the existence of a Creator. All this is nothing but – as the Zohar predicted – a preparation for and the beginning of the world's being filled with the knowledge of G-d."

Rabbi Paltiel explains that, "The Creator created the world but erased His footsteps, to the point that His creations can deny His existence. The reason for this is that the Creator wants us, human beings, to give something of ourselves to the Creation, and thereby establish a relationship with Him, not through logical conclusions but through personal choice. The Creator wants us to reveal Him as Avrohom, the first Jew, did."



Rabbi Butman – 5760 difficult years which we experienced in this world



Rabbi Garelik – We are witnesses to a tremendous explosion in modern technology



Rabbi Gottlieb

I watched the video, and was truly amazed. Apparently, even the deepest topics of Chassidus can be "brought down" to simple, concrete levels. The most tangible message of the video is: Everything was created only to serve the Creator! From that point, it's easy to move on to the topic of *Yemos HaMoshiach*. "Since man has free choice – for on the one hand he can recognize the existence of G-d, and on the other hand he can ignore it and even oppose it – our choice is, to use all this incredible information that has come to the fore in the last two hundred years to hasten the coming of Moshiach."

Rabbi Jacobson: "The Rambam talks about an era in which there is no hunger, war, jealousy, and hatred, since the entire world will be filled with G-dly wisdom. Materiality will no longer be an end unto itself, as it is today, or making money just in order to make money. All man's desires will be focused on a loftier goal – serving G-d. Every good deed a Jew does, is an additional step towards *Geula*. This work in hastening the *Geula* is actually a cumulative process that began thousands of years ago, with the creation of Adam and Chava. So when Moshiach comes and the world will be redeemed, it won't be a sudden event."

Rabbi Homnick: "Take a man sitting in a dark room who grows accustomed to it. If someone comes and tells him there's light outside, the man will say it isn't true. There's only darkness. Obviously the man is wrong. The message of *Yemos HaMoshiach* and *Geula* is: You should know, there's light out there. You don't need to make peace with the exile. The world doesn't have to be the way it is now. There's light at the end of the tunnel and we are constantly approaching it. What remains is – action!"

Producer David Chassy has signed an agreement with various networks in the U.S. to broadcast the film. He expects over 40 million people to see it!

The video was recently produced with Hebrew subtitles for Hebrew speakers. Many activists have bought the video. They show the video to others and then sit down with the members of the household to discuss it and its practical ramifications, i.e., preparing for *Geula*.

What kind of reactions do you get?

"I don't get reactions," says Rabbi Gansburg, "I simply don't wait to get reactions."

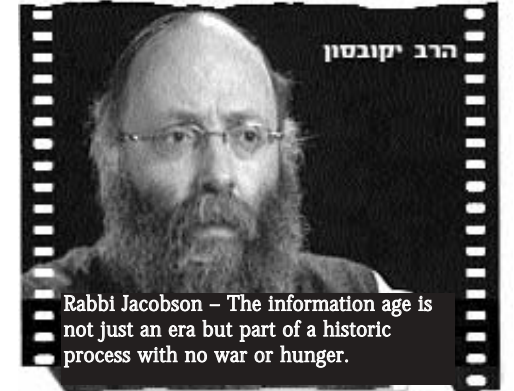
Why? Are you busy producing other things?

"Yes," said R' Itzke abruptly, unwilling to go into detail. After some pressure he disclosed that it has something to do with the Internet.

In the talk I had with R' Itzke he complained that not enough efforts are being made to reach the outside, i.e., to bring the message of *Geula* to the world at large. "They produce another page, another booklet, they have another gathering, but most of this targets *Anash*, not the outside world."

R' Itzke adds, "Each of us has to act as though we write a weekly report to the Rebbe about what we've done to hasten Moshiach's coming. We've all got to wake up and do something stubborn to bring Moshiach."

The video ends on a practical note, about doing another good deed for the *Geula*: doing *chesed* with others, being more considerate of others, learning *pnimiyus ha'Torah*, using one's resources to do good, and many other examples. These deeds have the ability to hasten the *Geula*. *Ha'maaseh hu ha'ikar*.



Rabbi Jacobson – The information age is not just an era but part of a historic process with no war or hunger.



Rabbi Taub – If we go deeper and deeper into what lies at the foundation of Creation



Rabbi Homnick



Rabbi Paltiel