

CHAPTER 4:9 ISRAEL AND THE OTHER NATIONS

by Rabbi Yaakov Feldman

Derech Hashem - The Way of G-d 2:4:9

So, G-d has allotted to us the repairing and elevation of all of creation ¹, as we'd indicated ². And He allocated all of His supervision of the world to the things we do ³, if you will ⁴, having given us the ability to grant light ⁵ and bestowance ⁶, or to hide and conceal ⁷, G-d forbid.

Others' actions, though, neither bolster nor weaken creation ⁸, nor do they reveal G-d's presence or hide it. Their actions do, though, affect themselves for better or for worse, either bodily by strengthening or weakening them, or spiritually.

Footnotes:

¹ After Adam and Eve's error.

² See 2:4:3 above.

³ See Zohar at the beginning of *Parshat Bo* as well as *Nephesh Hachaim* 1:3-4.

⁴ This withholding of a bold statement of *utter* human control of things is meant to underscore the undeniable fact that while G-d allocated a lot of control to our actions, at bottom, He's in complete control of things (see 2:8:1 below and *Da'at Tevunot* 9),

⁵ I.e., growth,

⁶ I.e., blessings.

⁷ G-d's presence.

⁸ Still and all see *Da'at Tevunot* 126 where Ramchal makes the distinct point that *all of creation* plays a role in bolstering creation, underscoring the point by saying that "everything is intertwined, and everything is needed to fulfill the mission that G-d had in mind when He created the universe". Also see *Pirkei Avot* at the end of Ch. 6.