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Hayom Yom: 26 Sivan

וַיֵּרְדוּ חַיִּים שְׂאוּלָה – שְׁגָם בְּשְׂאוּל חוֹשְׁבִים שֶׁהֵם חַיִּים.

הַבְּרָכָה בְּ-וַיֵּרְדוּ חַיִּים שְׂאוּלָה, כְּמוֹ בְּנֵי קֶרַח לֹא מָתוּ, מְקוֹם נִתְבַּצֵּר לָהֶם וַעֲשׂוּ תְּשׁוּבָה, כִּי תְּשׁוּבָה מוּעֵלֶת רַק כָּל עוֹד שֶׁהוּא חַי, וְזוֹהִי הַבְּרָכָה, שְׁגָם בְּשְׂאוּל יֵהִיוּ חַיִּים וְיִזְכְּלוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת תְּשׁוּבָה

[With regard to the company of Korach, it is written:]¹ “They will go down alive to the grave.” That is, even when in the grave they would think that they were alive.

There is a blessing in “going down alive to the grave.” As [our Sages explain on the similar statement that] “the sons of Korach did not die,”² “a place was fortified for them [in Gehinnom]” and they repented,³ because repentance is effective only as long as one is alive. [Similarly, regarding those who descended alive into the grave:] The blessing was that even in the grave, they would be alive and able to repent.⁴
