

Of course, only Choni HaMagel could draw a circle and say "I shall not move from here until You will have mercy upon Your children." Only he could be **sure** that his prayer would be **immediately** answered. But what we can learn from Choni HaMagel is that just as he asked rain to fall, as a son asks for things from his father, so every Jew requests his needs from G-d as sons of their father. How can we compare ourselves even in this respect to Choni? Our sages say that "A person is **obligated** to say 'When will my deeds reach the deeds of my fathers, Avraham, Yitzchok and Ya'-akov.'" And because Choni HaMagel has blazed the path for us, it is now **easy** for each Jew to do likewise.

Now we can understand why the rain did not come down "normally" in the first place. The world can be viewed in two different perspectives: From the world itself, seeing only its external appearance; or from **above**, seeing its true, inner nature. When Choni viewed the world from **his** lofty level, he saw it in its inner perspective, on a level much higher than it is externally. Thus, to him, even when the rain came down in drops or in torrents, it could still be proper and "normal."

Likewise, although G-d certainly knows what kind of rain is needed, nevertheless, when viewed from **above**, the world appears to be a level fitting for a lofty type of blessing.

It was therefore necessary for Choni's disciples to tell him to pray for rain which the **world** needs: not too much. Although from Choni's perspective the world was lofty enough to absorb such blessings, nevertheless, externally, as the world actually is, it is not yet on that level. It needs "normal" rain.

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