The Radak offers an inspiring and insightful perspective into a well-known verse we recite in Hallel. The verse states, כִּי גָבַר עָלֵינוּ חַסְדּוֹ וֶאֱמֶת ה’ לְעוֹלָם הַלְלוּ יָ–הּ “For His kindness has overwhelmed us and the truth of the L-rd is eternal” (Tehillim 117:2), and is describing the final redemption as both חסד, kindness, and אמת, truth. This is seemingly strange, because the two descriptions are mutually exclusive, for one is not entitled to a חסד, yet one is entitled to an אמת. Is G-d’s bringing the redemption חסד or אמת? It cannot be both!

Resolving this problem, the Radak brilliantly explains that due to the profound pain the exile has caused us, it is easy for Am Yisrael to become skeptical or doubtful. Because of this uncertainty, we perceive the redemption as a חסד, as if we are unsure whether it will come. Yet, once the redemption has arrived, looking back, it will be clear that it is, in fact, an אמת. After all G-d has unmistakably promised it in the Torah (Vayikra 26:46).

This beautiful insight lays out the theological outlook for modern Religious Zionism. It requires patience and perspective. In any transformative process, there are ups and downs, moments of idealism and those of setback. Unclearity and even skepticism are normal and anticipated human emotions in this long and important spiritual process called Jewish history. For the אמת, will only be clear once the redemption has arrived.

Yom HaAtzmaut is a day that celebrates the highs. It reminds us that something worldly and mundane, like the declaration of the State, feels like a monumental חסד, but it actually fulfills a promise, אמת.

Rav Soloveitchik astutely summarizes: “Our history is a strange one: it consists of Divine promises, but at a slow pace. G-d promised Avraham the Land; it was not given to him. Hundreds of years passed but eventually it was indeed fulfilled” (Festivals of Freedom 137).

Rav Dessler (Michtav MeEliyahu) notes that we should not go through the holidays but rather allow them to go through us. We should leave every holiday religiously advanced and spiritually elevated. This Yom HaAtzmaut should inspire us to continue looking forward, knowing that the ultimate promise, the אמת, will be fulfilled.

Rabbi Jesse Horn is a Senior Ra”m (Rosh Metivta) at Yeshivat Hakotel and director of the Mizrachi/Yeshivat Hakotel Mechanchim program.

A member of the Mizrachi Speakers Bureau mizrachi.org/speakers