

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

*** 2108 Ocean Parkway Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223 ***

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

*Parashat **Lech Lecha***

11th MarHeshvan 5780

Maqam Saba

Issue #866

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

*Haftarat **Lama Tomar***

November 9th 2019

*Candle Lighting 4:26pm * Shekiah 4:44pm * Minha Friday Night 4:35pm*
*Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:05pm * Shabbat Ends 5:25pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:05pm*
*Time for Talit 5:36am * Seasonal Hour 6:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:24am * Netz Hachama 6:36am*
*Weekday Minha 4:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:00pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:20pm * Chatzot 11:39*
*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:24am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:24am*

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

When commanding Avraham Avinu with the great Mitzvah of Milah, Hashem refers to it in the Torah using the word "Berit". Why is it called a Berit? Our Sages teach us that Berit Milah is considered as great as all of the 613 Mitzvot combined. The numerical value of Berit is 612 + the Mitzvah of Milah itself totals 613 Mitzvot. However, Rabi Yochanan teaches us: Hashem made a Berit with our holy nation in the merit of the Torah Baal Peh, the oral teachings. How can we reconcile this teaching with our Parasha? In the Torah it says that the Berit refers to the Milah, while Rabi Yochanan says it refers to the Torah Baal Peh? To explain, we need to understand that Milah and Torah Baal Peh are directly connected: if a person does not have a Milah, he cannot acquire Torah Baal Peh! Hashem did not explain in the Torah which organ requires a Milah. Hashem instructed Avraham to pass the Mitzvah over to his children and future descendants, which is a reference to Torah Baal Peh, Mesorah, as it is taught throughout the generations. Hashem wanted the Mitzvah of Milah to be explained throughout the generations within the Torah Baal Peh. This is why the father recites the blessing before the Milah, "to enter into the Berit of Avraham Avinu", as the only way the child will learn Torah Baal Peh and merit the Berit is through the performance of the Milah. After the Milah, we recite that just as this child merited to enter the Berit, so too shall he merit to learn Torah, referring to the Torah Baal Peh. We also recite after the Milah that the child should merit Chuppah, marriage. Why? Because our Sages teach us that one who is devoid of a wife is devoid of Torah. Therefore, after we pray that

the boy merits Torah, we immediately pray that he also merits a wife. From all this we learn that one can only acquire Torah Baal Peh through the merit of the Mitzvah of Milah. The nations of the world read the 'bible', which is taken out of context from the Written Torah, but they do not read from the Torah Baal Peh, because they simply cannot understand it without a Milah. This is what David Hamelech is referring to in Tehillim when he says that *the same has not been done for all other nations*. May Hashem bless us and watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

As Avraham and Sarah were approaching Mitzraim, he asked her to explain, when asked by the Mitzriim, that she was his sister, so that it will be good for him on her behalf. We know that after 410 years of standing, the first Bet HaMikdash was destroyed due to the three terrible sins of idolatry, adultery, and murder. The second Bet HaMikdash, which stood for 420 years, was destroyed due to the sin of baseless hatred. As Avraham was coming to Mitzraim, he referenced these sins in his words: *they will think Sarah is my wife*, hinting to adultery, *they will kill me*, hinting to murder, and *there is no fear of Hashem in this place*, hinting to idolatry. "Haregu Oti" – they will kill me, the last letters of the word "Oti" Taf & Yod have the numerical value of 410, hinting that these three sins would be the downfall of the first Temple that lasted 410 years. Next, he asks her to say that she was his sister, hinting to closeness and unity, the opposite of baseless hatred. "Otach Yechayu" – they will allow you to live, the last letters of "Otach" Taf and Chaf have the

numerical value of 420, hinting that the downfall of the second Temple that lasted for 420 years will be due to the sin of baseless hatred.

History in Brief

After Titus destroyed the Temple, he instructed his ministers and his army to leave nothing untouched, to consume everything with their wrath. Titus ordered them to destroy the entire city, to its core. Jerusalem was hit with a wave of destruction that left behind mourning and tragedy in its wake. As Titus ended the war, his soul desired to take pride in congratulating his army for their victories, and so he handed out gifts to the heroes of the corps. Arising with arrogance, he set up a grand stage in front of the remaining walls of Jerusalem. Standing on the dais with his entourage of ministers, he called out the praises of his heroes before the entire army. The heroes were then decorated with golden wreaths, tied together with golden chains. The gold was brought out from hiding places in the ground, gold that had been hidden away during the siege, that were now discovered through the revelation of the tortured prisoners while in the hands of their captors. Titus then descended from the stage to the sound of applause and great fanfare. He offered sacrifices to the idols of Rome according to their traditions. He then made a feast that lasted for three days, as he and the army ministers enjoyed desecrating Mount Zion to its shame. Titus was cruel to Yochanan the Galilee, the leader of the resistance, who hid in the tunnels and hungered with his men, until, at the height of his hunger, he came out from his hiding place to beg for bread. Titus cuffed him with iron cables, and paraded him through the city in disgrace and contempt for seven days. He then imprisoned him for life.

Health and Recovery

In order for a person not to become diabetic, one must change his eating habits. Even though it is very difficult to change one's habits, keep in mind that the difficulties of being diabetic are much more difficult. It is better for a person to learn how to voluntarily limit himself than to be forced to limit, to stop oneself when he still has

a "mouthful" rather than to be restricted of having anything altogether. It is better to practice restraint when mistakes won't be deadly, than to wait until perfection is necessary. Diabetes is a terrible disease that affects all organs, especially blood vessels, from the head to the feet. It damages the blood vessels in the heart, neck, kidneys, brain, causes loss of vision, damages the nervous system, numbs the senses, and causes loss of feeling in the fingertips and feet. Necrosis can also occur, which is the death of body tissue. It occurs when too little blood flows to the tissue. One who is at risk needs to be tested to find out if he has high sugar levels in the blood, as diabetes injures the blood vessels in a fashion similar to the rust that eats away at the water pipe from the inside. Smoking increases the risks of diabetes; the higher the frequency of smoking, the greater the risk of diabetes. According to many studies, smoking increases the risk of chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer, and heart disease.

Mussar: Serving Hashem

1 – We must believe that Hashem created everything from nothing and is always watching over everything. **2** – Hashem has no partners and needs no helpers. We must fear His judgment and His supremacy. **3** – Saying Hashem's Name any time besides during prayers or learning, and in any language, is forbidden. **4** – We must pray and learn with love and affection, and sing Hashem's praises. **5** – One may enjoy pleasure from this world only in order to continue serving Hashem, and in order to help others serve Hashem as well. **6** – Always keep in mind that your actions are performed in order to serve Hashem, whether you are eating, sleeping, playing, or working. **7** – Honor and love those who learn Torah properly. **8** – Recite Shema at the correct times – during Shaharit, Arbit, and before falling asleep. **9** – Concentrate during prayers and know what you are saying. **10** – Emulate Hashem's ways: be merciful like Him. **11** – Honor and respect the Shul and Midrash. Don't chat or act disrespectful while there, and sit properly with awe and Midot Tovot (proper conduct). **12** – Distance yourself from a possible

transgression, and definitely from a known transgression. **13** – Trust only Hashem. Do not consult psychics, soothsayers, or star-gazers. **14** – Remember Hashem’s kindness at every moment, and constantly thank Him for everything. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

The Tenth Rishon LeSion:

Rabbi Raphael Meyuhas 1700-1771

After the robbers returned Rabbi Raphael's assets, Rabbi Raphael continued on his way through the Sinai Desert to Jerusalem. Suddenly, an old Jewish man appeared before him. “Where are you going?” The man asked softly. “To the Holy City? If so, come with me, don't be afraid. I will show you the way.” The visage of the old man inspired peace, so Rabbi Raphael joined him as they made their way together to Jerusalem safely, without fear. When they arrived at the city gates, the rabbi wanted to thank the man for his assistance, but the old man has suddenly disappeared. The news of the rabbi’s arrival passed through the city, and soon a messenger arrived in front of him with a comforting welcome. A great feast was held in honor of the rabbi. Rabbi Raphael, before a large crowd, began telling over the story of his journey, the miracles and wonders he had experienced. Since then, Rabbi Raphael became known as: Rabbi Raphael the Miracle Worker. In 1755, Rabbi Raphael ascended to the throne of Rabbanut in Jerusalem, at the age of fifty-five years old. His good name, outstanding reputation, and great Torah knowledge preceded him, and he led the inhabitants of Jerusalem with a balanced hand and fearless rule. All his regulations were passed and accepted immediately without hesitation.

Story

Yitzhak David endured the physical examination, was asked dozens of tough and rigorous questions, and then was written up and signed off as someone with excellent health, strong physical strength, and a strong enough spirit to fight for the Hungarian government in their war. This outcome engulfed his being with fear and bitter disappointment. Yitzhak David

was then given his signed documents, and instructed to submit them to the commander of the recruitment center who would then inform him when and where he should report for duty, based on the recommendations of the report. He could read well: he was portrayed in the report as a fine commodity for the army. Who knew where they would send him next, what exactly they planned to impose on him. The line waiting for the commander was long and slow, leaving Yitzhak David feeling lost and bewildered for a long while. When he finally came before the distinguished, powerful military man, adorned with medals and ribbons of honor, something strange happened. The commander looked at the documents he presented to him, looked at the pages and looked up at the Jew's face. Again, he examined the words written by his military doctors and once more looked back at the man standing in front of him. Suddenly, he began to roar at the man frantically: “You are crazy! You are insane! What were the doctors thinking, approving such a crazy man for service in my army? You can’t fight properly on a battlefield!” Yitzhak David did not know whether to laugh or cry. The commander trembled with anger, as he instructed his men to discharge this crazy man from his duties of service in the army. The documents were written up, signed, and processed. They did not need insane soldiers in their midst. Yitzhak David was miraculously excused from service.

Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu

1 – Before reciting Shema, have in mind to fulfill the Mitzvah. When saying “Shema”, have in mind to listen, to understand. Hashem is One – there is nothing else besides Hashem in the heaven and earth. When reciting the word Echad, stress the letter ‘Het’, having in mind that Hashem is King in heaven and on earth, and stress the letter ‘Dalet’, having in mind that Hashem rules in every direction. It is better not to stress if you do not do so correctly. This Pasuk of Shema is recited out loud while your right-hand covers your eyes.

2 – Why do we cover our eyes with our right-hand during Shema? Everyone has a unique

thumb with a unique thumbprint, just as Hashem is unique and there is nothing else in comparison. By reciting both 'Hashem' and 'Elokenu', the two names that mean mercy and judgment, we signify an understanding that although Hashem is merciful at times, and strict in judgment at other times, 'Hashem Echad' – Hashem is always treating us with mercy, and is always the One and only, the One and the same, regardless of strict judgment or mercy.

Laws: Shabbat

1 – In Tzur MiShelo, we recite: “*We are satiated and there is still food left over*”. From here we learn that we are obligated to have leftover food from Shabbat. How so? Being satisfied during Shabbat is a requirement, and one can only recognize that he is satisfied when he leaves over the rest and will not consume everything. It is in fact a Mitzvah to eat food that has been leftover from Shabbat meals, just as the Cohanim in the Bet Hamikdash ate from the leftover Mincha offerings.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Yosef Ezra Zaafrani, his wife Razi, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their son **Rephael and his wife Jani** on the birth of a baby, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Zouki Balleh HaCohen, his wife Shella, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Mrs. Dalya Mizrahi and her husband Jaki** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Joe**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mrs. Becky Levy, her husband Eli, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Shelomo Ben Hasibah a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Morris Nehmad, his wife Rachel, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Shelomo Ben Hasibah a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Faraj Mlabasati, his wife Lucy, and their children.**

Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mashgiach Moshe Kridi, his wife Evon, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Lari Hefes, his wife Karen, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Albert Laoui, his wife Rosette, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Shlomo Gal, his wife, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **The Sharabi Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Anese Bat Miriam a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Yetta Yedid (Sardar), her husband Moshe, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Mordechai Sardar Ben Rosa a”h**, Amen. *** **The Hafif Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Zakie a”h**, Amen. *** **The Nakab Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Jamil Ben Aysah a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Shahoud Shakalo and his children, the blessed siblings: Abdo, Joe, Rimon, and their families.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Touni Mazal Bat Rachel a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Leon Farhi, his wife Eva, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Mr. Yossi Zafarani**, health and longevity, Amen. *** **Mrs. Becky Hara, her husband Taleb, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Eli Ben Jamila**, Amen.

This week sponsorship total \$1300.

Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

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