

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat *Chaye Sara*

25th Heshvan 5780

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Maqam Hijaz Haftarat *V'Hamelech David*

Issue #868

November 23rd 2019

*Candle Lighting 4:15pm * Shekiah 4:33pm * Minha Friday Night 4:20pm*

*Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 3:55pm * Shabbat Ends 5:14pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:44pm*

*Time for Talit 5:55am * Seasonal Hour 57:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:44am * Netz Hachama 6:52am*

*Weekday Minha 4:20pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 3:58pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:09pm * Chatzot 11:42*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:35am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:32am*

Sponsored by: Mr. Victor Emil Kamo, his wife Mireill, their parents, and their children.

Blessings of physical and spiritual success for the entire family, Amen.

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Avraham Avinu was tested ten times and passed each one of them: 1- Nimrod imprisoned him for 13 years. 2- Nimrod threw him into a fire. 3- Hashem instructed him to leave his hometown. 4- The first famine in history occurred only in Canaan. 5- His wife Sarah was taken by Pharaoh. 6- The war with the 4 kings. 7- The covenant which detailed the fate of his descendants who will be in servitude for 400 years. 8- Circumcision at the age of 100. 9- Sending away Hagar and Yishmael. 10- Akedat Yitzhak. The Rambam excludes the first two, regarding the episodes with Nimrod, and instead includes the following two: 1- He married Hagar, a maidservant, which was not honorable. 2- He sent Hagar away while she was pregnant. Rabi Yona excludes the first test and instead includes: the occurrences surrounding the burial of Sarah – Hashem had promised him the entire land of Canaan, and yet here he was paying 400 silver coins, a very large sum, for a small piece of land. Why was he tested exactly ten times? To counteract the ten times that his descendants, Bnei Yisrael, would one day test Hashem. Avraham enabled forgiveness for them in advance. Why did Sarah pass away immediately after Akedat Yitzhak? Avraham always functioned with the Midah of Hesed, mercy and kindness, and never functioned with the Midah of Din, strict judgment. Through the performance of Akedat Yitzhak, Avraham proved that in service of Hashem he would even function with the Midah of Din, if necessary. Sarah, however, already proved that she could function with the Midah of Din, when she

instructed Avraham to send away Hagar and Yishmael. Sarah had fulfilled her Tikun in the Name of Hashem, and was waiting for her husband Avraham to do the same. Hashem had instructed Avraham to listen to his wife, Sarah – referring to the usage of the Midah of Din when necessary in service of Hashem, as she had already done. When Sarah heard that her husband Avraham had performed the Akedah, thus fulfilling his Tikun, using the Midah of Din in service to Hashem, she was overjoyed and immediately her soul left her body and returned to Hashem. This is why the passing of Sarah immediately follows Akedat Yitzhak. May Hashem bless us and watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Pasuk says: *These are the days of the years of Avraham's life, which he lived* – regarding Adam it also says the words 'which he lived'. Why? Adam was supposed to live 1000 years, but gave 70 years away to David Hamelech. Avraham as well lost years of his life, in order that he not witness the sinning of his grandson Esav. (*The Rama*)

2 – The Pasuk says that Hashem blessed Avraham with '*Kol*' – everything. Rebi Shemuel BeRebi Yitzhak explains: one who chases righteousness, charity and kindness will be repaid with life, righteousness, charity, and honor. There are three things that can prevent one from kindness and charity: 1- one who is weak or not healthy, 2- one who is not given the opportunity to be the responsible party to distribute charity, and 3- one who is dishonored

and embarrassed by being turned away while trying to perform the Mitzvah of collecting charity for those in need. Regarding these three preventative obstacles, the Pasuk promises that one who tries will succeed: 1- He will be repaid with 'life', so that he will not be weak or unhealthy, 2- he will have 'charity and righteousness', meaning the people will entrust him with the responsibility and career of collecting and distributing charitable funds, and 3- he will be 'honored' while performing his mission, and not disgraced. Avraham, who was a generous benefactor and philanthropist was therefore blessed with all these things.

History in Brief

After the destruction, the Romans raided the country, leaving only three fortresses in the remnants of the wars: Horidion, Machir, and Masada. The three were desired by the Roman corps, but Titus did not pay attention to them, as he was anxious to return to Rome in honor of the victory celebration. As news spread from Rome that his own father Vespasian would become Caesar in Rome, supported with great love and glory, Titus immediately set out on his way to return to the city of Rome. He boarded his large ship, took with him the spoils of Jerusalem, and also brought Shimon and Yochanan the Galilean, the leaders of the rebels. Other boats brought along sixteen thousand Jewish captives of war back to Rome. What did this evil man do next? He took the Parochet from the Holy of Holies and made it into a big basket, where he placed all the vessels of the Temple that were made of gold and silver. During the journey, the sea surged with a windstorm which threatened to sink the large boat. Titus stood before his men and declared: "The Hashem of the Jews has no power except on the water - Pharaoh drowned in the sea, Sisra drowned in the Kishon River, and now He wants to drown me in water as well. If He is indeed powerful, He should rise up on land and battle me there!" Immediately a heavenly voice rang out and said to him: "Evil, son of Evil, descendant of Esav the wicked, I have made a small creature in my world, which will enter you and will not come out. When you step on land, you will make war with it. This will be My way of performing my answer to your request, by way of simple and easy things." When Titus

stepped off his boat and onto land, a small insect entered his nose and made a tiny puncture in the brain's membrane, where it remained for seven years, torturing Titus with non-stop pain.

Health and Recovery

We wrote last week: When a person is in a state of fear or stress, the body immediately releases adrenaline, which is the body's "gasoline". This raises the blood sugar levels so that the body and muscles can use sugar, use "gas", can thus have more power, and can then act and protect against the cause for the fear or stress. Adrenaline causes the blood vessels to shrink and the blood pressure to rise. Here comes the question: Our bodies, which were created with great wisdom, as we say every day, "Who created man with wisdom" - why can't it distinguish between great, small, or medium forms of danger? Why does the body always secrete the same amount of adrenaline as if it's in great danger? The answer is, on the contrary, that it is in fact the wisdom of our wonderful Creator, that adrenaline secretion is designed to help man have the ability to save himself from danger. In times of danger, every fraction of a second is important, so if the body would have to start calculating the size of the danger to measure the amount of adrenaline secretion, then by the time the calculation is decided on the size of the danger, perhaps the danger has already caused the harm it was threatening. Hence, until the command to give off adrenaline is given, very precious time has been wasted. Therefore, the Creator created man so that in such a moment of danger no time is wasted for intellectual consideration, but rather immediately the adrenaline is secreted. There is no doubt that life today has changed. There was a time not long ago when man knew only what was happening within his immediate vicinity. There were no cellphones, telephones, or even telegrams, which would arrive two months late, or not at all. Today, we are completely and constantly engrossed and busy with the media, telephone, cellphone, updated press, internet, and much more.

Mussar: Obligation of Man

The purpose of creation is that man fulfills Hashem's commandments. Without purpose life would be worthless. Without Mitzvot man is just like an animal. We recite in prayers that man is

permitted over animal 'Ayin', meaning that man has the ability to say 'no' – *I do not wish to act in such a manner*. Man has the choice to decide between good and bad. One who does not properly take advantage of this choice is therefore categorized as an animal. Also, man is equipped with 'Ayin' – the three Hebrew letters represent: *Amira (speech) Yedia (understanding) and Netina*, characteristics only given to man, but not to animals. Once man realizes his purpose, he must fulfill it truthfully with joy and happiness. One who realizes his goals and works hard to achieve them has great reason to rejoice and celebrate. Such happiness is the core of life and the foundation for success. Without happiness, holiness and even the understanding of Torah cannot enter man. Even when man is suffering painfully, he is obligated to recognize the good in his life and believe with great trust in Hashem that everything done is for the best and will occur in the proper place and time.

The Tenth Rishon LeSion:

Rabbi Raphael Meyuhav 1700-1771

When the teachers of the children came before Rabbi Raphael with an important question, they asked Rabbi Raphael: "Should we accept into our Yeshivot the children of Karaites, those who only learn and observe the Torah in its simplistic form, who do not learn or observe the Talmud and its commentaries, and just teach them Tanach, or should we send them away?" The Rabbi asked them: "Do those fathers circumcise their sons?" They answered, "Yes!" The Rabbi declared, "If so, then they should be accepted into your Yeshivot. Try to instill in them faith, perhaps one day the children may return from the incorrect path of their fathers to the correct path of their ancestors, and they will grow up to learn and observe the Oral Torah." Over time, some kinship was established between the Karaites and the other Jews. It happened one day that the government demanded a huge sum of money from the Jews in taxes in order to fill the empty treasury. The Rishon LeSion, Rabbi Raphael, called all the leaders to an urgent meeting. So as not to call attention to the assembly, they gathered in the Karaite synagogue, which was situated in the depths of the earth, hidden from view, where the governors' eyes will certainly not catch them. Everyone else had already gathered, only Rabbi Raphael still had not yet arrived. When the rabbi arrived, he nodded his head in greeting to those gathered, and began to descend the stairs. Suddenly an outcry was heard in the air space, as the rabbi fell to the ground. His assistant helped him rise

up but the rabbi fell again. A few words managed to leave his mouth: "An evil spirit dwells here, take me out of here." The rabbi was removed from the synagogue and a crowd gathered around him. Rabbi Raphael continued to speak: "An evil spirit dwells on those steps - an evil spirit! Is it possible to uncover the foundation of the stairs?"

Story

In Hungary, there was a city filled with Hachamim, a source of pride for our holy nation, filled with Rabbanim, Geonim, Dayanim, Talmidei Hachamim, all who served Hashem with full devotion. Those conducting business would do so with complete honesty and proper ethics, with fear of heaven and according to the strict laws of the Torah. The Rav of the city was the holy Gaon Rav Avraham Yehoshua Frand ztl, known as one of the greatest Tzaddikim of his generation. He led the people in spirituality, judged and ruled cases brought before him, answered all difficult questions in Halacha, and passed decrees and ordinances to the masses. Difficult questions regarding Agunot, married women who could not clarify if their husband was still alive and therefore could not remarry, came to his table and he worked hard to pass a ruling that would allow them to move on in life and remarry, with the guidance of heaven. The responsibility of the generation lay on his broad shoulders, and he spent his life in the Bet Midrash serving Hashem by serving the people. Everyone, big and small, came before him and listened to his opinions and rulings. He was always busy with continually thinking in Torah and dealing with the public's general and specific needs. Many nights his bed remained empty and deserted while his desk was full of Sefarim, worn out from their heavy usage over many years.

Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu

1 – When reciting the last word in Shema, Ehad, have in mind for each letter: Alef: Hashem is the One and Only. Het: Hashem rules in the seven heavens and on earth, totaling 8. Dalet: Hashem rules in all four corners and four directions. If one does not concentrate while reciting the first Pasuk of Shema, he must repeat it with concentration, but should be careful not to repeat it immediately, rather he should finish the first paragraph until Ubisharecha, and then repeat Shema and Baruch Shem.

2 – When reciting Shema, one must hear himself saying the words, and be careful with proper pronunciation. One should recite the words with the

Taamim, tune, of the Torah. Also, whenever one word ends with the same letter that the next word begins with, one should pause briefly between the two words: i.e. Bechol Levavchem, so that the two words are not pronounced as if they were only one long word. One should properly stress the letter Ayin in the word Nishba. The same applies to the Zayin in Tizkeru and Uzchartem, as these words mispronounced have different meanings.

Laws: Shabbat

1 – A tool that is used specifically for work, such as a hammer, or a cooking pot designed for cooking, must not be moved during Shabbat as it is considered Muktzeh. However, they can be moved if one wants to use them for a permitted purpose during Shabbat, such as to use a hammer to crack a nut, or to use the cooking pot by filling it up with water in order to drink from it during Shabbat.

2 – A wooden match stick is not allowed to be moved unnecessarily during Shabbat, but if you want to pick your teeth with it, then you are allowed to move it and use it. The same applies to a needle, which is not allowed to be moved unnecessarily due to Muktzeh, however if it is needed in order to remove a thorn from your finger, then you can move it. This is called moving an object for the sake of its usage.

Sponsors

*** **Rabbi Edmond Nahum, his wife, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** The young man **Michael Victor Kamo.** Blessings and success for the entire family, may Hashem bless him to grow in Torah and be a source of joy for his parents and grandparents, Amen. *** **Mr. David Kabariti, his wife, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Yosef Salame, his wife, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Sion Shalouh HaCohen, his wife Noura, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Loris Bat Miriam a”h,** Amen. *** **Mrs. Leah Salame and her children: Faraj, Jack, Miriam, and Clemence.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yitzhak Ben Miriam a”h,** Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife**

Becky, and their children. Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah, Amen. *** **The Shakalo family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Touni Mazal Bat Rachel 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. *** **The blessed siblings: Rachamim, David, Yehoshua, and Evon, of the Houdrie Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Rabbi Mordechai Sharaby zt”l,** Leilui Nishmat their father **Mordechai Ben Mazal a”h,** and Leilui Nishmat the fallen holy soldier **Avraham Ben Frieda a”h,** Amen. *** **Mr. Leon Aharon Farhi, his wife Eva, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Daniel Ben Aysah a”h,** Amen. *** **The blessed siblings: Moshe, Aharon, Natan, Yitzhak, and Sophie, of the Sarway Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, please join us to hear Derush Leilui Nishmat their father **Shamah Ben Baida a”h, Wednesday 7:00pm in Shevet Achim,** Tizku L’Mitzvot, Amen. *** **The blessed siblings: Sara, Linda, and Yosef, of the Halabieh Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Kasem Ben Esther a”h,** and Leilui Nishmat their mother **Mary Bat Salha a”h,** Amen. *** **The Amash Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, please join us to hear Derush Leilui Nishmat their father **Subhie Cohen Amash a”h, Sunday after Minha (4:15pm) in Shevet Achim,** Tizku L’Mitzvot, Amen.

*This week sponsorship total \$1600.
Tizku L’Mitzvot, Amen!*

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