

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

*Parashat **Bo***

6th Shevat 5780

Maqam Siga

Issue #877

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

*Haftarat **Hadavar Asher***

February 1st 2020

*Candle Lighting 4:53pm * Shekiah 5:11pm * Minha Friday Night 5:00pm*

*Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:35pm * Shabbat Ends 5:55pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:25pm*

*Time for Talit 6:07am * Seasonal Hour 6:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:55am * Netz Hachama 7:07am*

*Weekday Minha 5:05pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:35pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:50pm * Chatzot 12:09*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:55am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:55am*

Shovevim Fasting: Thursday January 30th fast starts 5:57am and ends 5:35pm

Monday February 3rd fast starts 5:53am and ends 5:40pm

We do not fast on Rosh Hodesh or Tu B'Shvat

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

This week's Parasha features the last three plagues of the ten total that Hashem inflicted upon Egypt while redeeming our nation from slavery. There is a symbolic hint to this through the numerical value of the Parasha's name: "Bo", numerically "3", referring to the last 3 plagues in this Parasha. Hashem instructed Moshe to advise Pharaoh about the seventh plague that would be coming shortly: Locusts. Moshe explained to Pharaoh in detail the phenomenal and supernatural plague of locusts that would soon hit Egypt. Usually, locusts collect in an area slowly, as gradually only a few gather together each time, over multiple occurrences. Also, naturally, once a swarm of locusts has devoured an area of its vegetation, the swarm then moves on to the next area. This plague, however, was performed against the usual laws of nature. The locusts collected extremely quickly in one shot in large quantities, so closely packed together that they blocked the skies and sunlight to the effect that the Egyptians could not tell the time, could not even differentiate between night or day. After devouring the vegetation, they did not move on, but rather advanced into the homes and remained in the area for a longer stay than nature dictated. When Moshe completed his vivid explanation of the plague, the fear and trepidation was visible on the faces of the Egyptians. They even began to allow the men, and only the men, to leave. The women and children, however, must be left behind, their strategy being that the bond between father and son, the link and continuity of their Jewish family's beliefs and traditions, would then slowly but surely weaken and eventually perish altogether, leaving room for the Egyptian

mentality and cultures to govern their lifestyle. Moshe keenly understood their motives and immediately declared that everyone would be going, men, women, and children of all ages. Moshe mentioned the children first, as they are the light of our people who will continue to shine throughout the generations. Moshe also declared that the livestock would be taken as well in order to perform services to Hashem. Just as the sheep follow their shepherd, so must our nation follow our Father in heaven, even into a barren desert void of food and drink. We completely rely and depend on Hashem alone, on His mercy and kindness, to provide us with what we need to live. Their devotion is celebrated by the Navi who writes that Hashem values their actions of following Hashem even by entering into a barren desert that isn't equipped to nourish with vegetation or produce. The nation followed Hashem and merited to accept the Torah at Har Sinai. This was the holiday that Moshe declared to Pharaoh – the true holiday and celebration of our nation. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The people picked up its dough before it could become leavened... upon their shoulders... they requested from the Egyptians silver vessels, gold vessels... These Pesukim are teaching us a very valuable lesson: Although they possessed with them great treasures and wealth, they did not carry that on their shoulders; rather, they carried those packages on the animals while they traveled. However, the Matzah and Maror, the precious Mitzvot, our true treasures, is what they carried on

their shoulders, for Hashem's commandments were dear to them and more precious than anything else.

2 – When Hashem wished to punish the Egyptians with the plague of darkness, the Pasuk in Tehillim and the Midrash explain that the angels did not argue or disagree with this plan. Why was the angels' approval significant to this plague? What is the importance of this fact? And what difference would it make to the angels anyway? Rav Yissachar explains: the ministering angels sing praises to Hashem once a day. During the three days which the Egyptians were hit with the plague of darkness, the sun did not rise. These three days were considered one long day, and the angels were unable to sing the Shirah to Hashem, as we learn from the angel that fought with Yaakov Avinu that the Shirah is recited at Amud Hashachar. The plague of darkness in fact caused a great loss to the angels, and for this reason Hashem consulted with them. They did not object.

History in Brief

As the Roman governor, Lucius Flavius Silva, commanded his soldiers to burst through a section of the wall, the besieged men rushed to build a large thick wooden wall to close off the breach, and then filled it with dirt. The Romans retaliated using a multitude of burning torches to set fire to the wooden wall, as the war intensified between the two sides for an entire day. As Elazar the son of Anani witnessed the wall of Masada burning, leaving no place to escape and no chance for salvation, he gathered the people of Masada and spoke to their hearts, saying: "Waiting for us behind these walls is either a cruel death, or slavery followed by a cruel death, to be decided by terrible corrupt Roman judges. The Romans will surely hit us with all their pain and hunger for revenge, while our wives will be defiled, and our people slaughtered. We must choose to die with valor, instead of at the mercy of our cruel enemies. What do we have left in this life after the destruction of the Temple, and after the exile from our land?! We must sacrifice our children to Hashem as our father Avraham had intended to do to his son Yitzchak, and we too will die with them as well. Each man will fall by the other's sword." So, that night, which happened to be Pesah, they gathered their wives and children and discussed with them the plan Elazar had given them. They all agreed on the plan of mass death as sacrifices to Hashem, hugged and kissed each other goodbye, and justified the plan with the reasoning that it is better to die in holiness and purity than to be taken captive and be killed later

in disgrace and impurity. Immediately the men rose up and slaughtered their wives, sons, and daughters, placed them in the pits of Masada, gathered dirt and buried them. Then they collected all their possessions and set it all on fire, so that their enemies would not benefit even from their possessions.

Health and Recovery

Stress and cigarette smoking cause the blood vessels to shrink and thus result in high blood pressure. Inadequate hydration by not drinking enough water, as well as physical inactivity, decreases the blood pressure and causes low blood pressure, i.e. less blood is then provided for all the organs. A patient with low blood pressure is not in as much danger as one with high blood pressure, and the condition is actually not as common. For those with high blood pressure, it is advisable to purchase a home-based device for accurate monitoring at regular times in order to make journal entries of the results at regular intervals. Also, during every visit to a physician, whereupon a prescription for drugs is written, one must inform the doctor that he is hypertensive, as there are Medications, such as cortisone, that cause an increase in blood pressure and sugar. One must make a point every day to sit, relax, and stay relatively still for about 10 minutes, while sitting with your feet folding slightly forward. Exercise, going up stairs, drinking coffee, excitement, and even a phone call can raise your blood pressure from its true value. When you take pressure-reducing medication, you may be happy to see that the count has decreased and the number looks natural, but in reality you did not address the main problem! The real treatment to lower blood pressure is to avoid eating cakes and candies, reduce the overall amount of food intake during meals, and exercise every day.

Mussar: Ta'anit Dibur (Tikkun Shovevim)

This Sunday February 2nd we will be conducting a day of Ta'anit Dibur in our Bet Knesset Beth Yosef starting at 8:45am – the goal is to complete Sefer Tehillim three times consecutively, without speaking any other words all day. One who fulfills this goal will be rewarded greatly from heaven, and he will gain atonement for the following sins: 1 – For interrupting Torah learning with unimportant words. 2 – Speaking during Shabbat as if it were a weekday. 3 – Speaking in Shul, especially during Kaddish, Chazara, and Sefer Torah. 4 – Lashon Hara. 5 – Lies, cynical speech, flattery, and profanity. 6 – Speaking openly about private family purity matters. Also, one

gains the following: 7 – Tehillim reading creates a pleasant spirit before the Heavenly Throne. 8 – It awakens a time of mercy and acceptance for our nation. 9 – Hashem cleanses us from the above-mentioned sins to the point that we are considered like new creations, clean of sin, like a bride and groom who are clean of sin when they get married. 10 – Hashem will send Refuah for the sick. 11 – Hashem will distance evil decrees from us. 12 – Hashem protects us from the Evil Eye. 13 – The gates of Parnassah will open before us. 14 – We will not leave this world before our time. 15 – Enemies and plunderers will be distanced from us. 16 – A woman will not heaven forbid experience a miscarriage, and the child and mother will survive the birth healthy and strong. 17 – The merit of King David a”h will protect us and he will pray for us. Altogether, we will enjoy these seventeen rewards for performing the Ta’anit Dibur – 17 is the numerical value of Tov – good. Therefore, we must all join in this special Mitzvah, may Hashem merit us and send Mashiach, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

Rabbi Yom Tov Algazi 1727-1802

As Rabbi Yehuda the Chassid and his followers stood at the gates of Jerusalem, they hoped to breathe a sigh of relief. They purchased a large courtyard from the Gentiles, a courtyard which included a large house that soon became a central synagogue. This was near the Bet Knesset of the Ramban. However, after only a few short days in Israel, abruptly bitter news fell upon them: their admired rabbi and leader Rabbi Yehuda the Chassid passed away. In silence and in great pain, the immigrants mourned over the loss of their leader, like sheep without a shepherd. Without Rabbi Yehuda, many returned back to where they had originated. The sages of Jerusalem grew suspicious of the group’s sudden appearance in large numbers, thinking perhaps they had some connection to the Shabtai Tzvi movement back in the 1600s. Only some remained, who occupied the newly purchased property. During the difficult times that followed, the money they had brought with them from Europe quickly depleted. Whatever money they had left was needed to spend on the courtyard they have bought on interest from the Gentiles, and at least provide bread for the young children. The Gentiles were ruthless, and threatened terribly if ever they would be late on their payments. The debts from the interest payments increased from day to day, and many of them despaired. The remaining members of

the group had to assume the burden of those who had left as well. One day, the patience of the Gentiles exploded. The remaining members of the group got up in the middle of the night to find a terrible situation that terrified the residents of the courtyard: large tongues of fire were seen coming out of the synagogue, threatening to burn down their houses next.

Story: *Daf Yomi*

Rosh Hashanah in 1924 was the first day that tens of thousands of Jews began studying the Daf Yomi. The genius idea was conceived by the well-known Rabbi Meir Shapiro, may his righteous memory be a blessing, who was one of the greatest scholars of Poland. A Torah genius and a brilliant speaker, he was the founder of Yeshivat Hachamei Lublin. He was born in Ukraine on the 7th of Adar in 1887, and he passed away in Lublin, a young man, on the 7th of March 1933. He was a descendant of Admor Rabbi Pinchas Shapiro and Rabbi Nathan Shapiro author of Megale Amukot. From a young age he became famous as a brilliant scholar. At the age of 23, he was appointed rabbi in the city of Galina in Poland, and established a yeshiva there. In 1920, he was appointed rabbi in Sanok, Galicia, and moved his yeshiva there, and in 1914, he joined the Agudat Yisrael movement where he held a pivotal position until he was elected as the President of Agudat Yisrael in Poland. Rabbi Meir did not merit the blessing of children before he passed away at the age of 46. However, he once stated that he had two children: The Yeshiva filled with Lublin scholars who were magnificent, many of whom were the greatest students of the generation, and his second “child”: the most widely studied program in the world: Daf Yomi – which was accepted all across the country of Israel. He initially announced the proposal of the Daf Yomi program at the first big conference of Agudat Yisrael in Elul 1923. Rabbi Yitzchak Meir HaCohen Levin exclaimed that the most important element was unity: this meeting consists of our brothers from the east and west, joined especially with the grouping of the greatest Torah leaders and Israeli leaders from all over the country.

Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu

1 – If during Amidah one’s Talit slips off to the ground, or a Sefer/Siddur drops to the floor, and this interrupts his concentration, he can pick up his Talit and reposition it, and he can pick up the Sefer in between blessings of the Amidah. During the

Amidah, one needs to face the direction of Yerushalayim and the Holy of Holies. If he is outside of Israel, he needs to face the direction of Israel. If one is facing the wrong direction while praying Amidah in Shul, he should correct the direction. However, if he is praying by himself at home, he should not change his direction in middle of Amidah, just direct his heart and mind towards the Holy of Holies.

2 – If you notice someone in Shul praying Amidah in the wrong direction, you should symbol and gesture to him to correct his stance, as moving your legs without speaking is not considered an interruption in this circumstance. If one forgot to bow at the end of the first blessing of Amidah, he should bow at the end of Atah Kadosh, as the first three blessings of Amidah are considered one.

Laws: Shabbat

1 – Whoever celebrates Shabbat will be blessed to his heart's content, provided he is authentically honoring Shabbat through enjoyment and not just honoring himself by enjoying worldly pleasures, i.e. by acting light-headed and giddy, wasting time, and making jokes, instead of singing praises to Hashem, discussing Divre Torah, and enjoying an honorable meal together. (*Alshich*)

2 – “Hashem blessed Shabbat”: Since we spend a lot more money on the Shabbat meals in honor of Shabbat than we usually spend on any other meal during the week, Hashem blessed the day so that we can be repaid manifold than what we even spend. There are many references to doubling on Shabbat: we eat Lehem Mishneh, double portions of bread, as there were double portions of Man; the Korban included two sheep; the punishment was double – ‘Mot Yumat’; the Azarah is double – ‘Shamor and Zachor’; the reward is double ‘Vayvarech’ and ‘Vaykadesh’; the song is double – ‘Mizmor’ and ‘Shir’ for the day of Shabbat. (*Tiferet Shabbat*)

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Joseph Aboudi, his wife Linda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the engagement of

Richard and Lauren, Mabrouk, Amen. * Dr. Henry Sardar, his wife Alice, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Estella Zaafrani HaCohen, her husband Hacham Shelomo, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Edmon Hiya HaCohen Ben Esther Tira a”h,** Amen. *** **Mrs. Rivka Mouhadeb and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband **Yaakov Ben Latifah a”h,** and Leilui Nishmat her brother **Eliyahu Ben Leora Arazi a”h,** Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Sely Jajati and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yehuda Leon Ben Jamila 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. Charlie Katan, his wife Margalit, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Avraham Ben Salma a”h,** Amen. *** **The Shakalo family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Touni Mazal Bat Rachel a”h,** Amen. *** **Mr. Teddy Levy, his wife Celia, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Altoon Bat Salha a”h,** Amen. *** **Mrs. Henriette Zariff, her husband Hacham Albir, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Shelomo Ben Esther Simcha a”h,** Amen

This week sponsorship total \$750.

Weekly expenditures total \$1300.

Tizku L’Mitzvot, Amen!

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