

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat Vayehi*

14<sup>th</sup> Tevet 5780

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Maqam Hijaz Haftarat Vayikrevu Yeme David*

Issue #874

January 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

*Candle Lighting 4:29pm \* Shekiah 4:47pm \* Minha Friday Night 4:35pm*

*Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 4:10pm \* Shabbat Ends 5:30pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:00pm*

*Time for Talit 6:23am \* Seasonal Hour 56:00 \* Alot Hashahar 6:12am \* Netz Hachama 7:19am*

*Weekday Minha 4:40pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 4:15pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 5:25pm \* Chatzot 12:03*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:00am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:56am*

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

*When Yaakov finished instructing his sons... he expired and was gathered to his people.* The long exile in Egypt actually began with Yaakov's passing. What happened? Yosef was the second in command, the viceroy to Pharaoh himself, and yet he could not at this moment speak directly to Pharaoh. He had to send messengers (heads of Pharaoh's household) to Pharaoh in order to request permission to fulfill his father's wishes. After permission was granted, Egyptian royalty accompanied Yosef and his brothers during the Levaya of Yaakov Avinu. Although the exile had officially began, the holy Shechinah of Hashem rested upon the entire delegation while escorting Yaakov's body to his resting place, and all of the people gathered cried bitterly. The children of Esav, Yishmael, and Keturah arrived to wage battle against the twelve tribes, however once they saw Yosef's crown placed upon the coffin of Yaakov, they descended from their horses and placed their crowns upon the coffin as well. Even the horses and donkeys then cried over the passing of Yaakov. They performed a eulogy when they reached *Goren HaAtad*. Why hadn't they done so in Egypt? Because there's goodness and blessings in a place that a Tzaddik lives, even after the Tzaddik passes on. Any Egyptian that participated in escorting Yaakov Avinu did not experience sickness, suffering, or death for that entire year, for it is a great merit to mourn over the passing of the righteous and take part in the eulogies. When they reached the Maarat Hamachpelah resting place, Esav came and argued that only four pairs of people can rest here. Since Yaakov already used his place to bury Leah, the last remaining place belonged to him, Esav. The Shevatim argued that Yaakov had purchased this from him. Esav countered that although he may have purchased Esav's double portion fit for the eldest born son, he had not purchased his simple portion for being a son of Yitzchak as well, and since they were both sons, they each deserved one burial spot in Maarat Hamachpelah. Yaakov had already exhausted his right for burial here by burying Leah. The remaining plot therefore belonged to Esav. However, the Shevatim argued that he indeed even sold his burial plot to Yaakov. Esav demanded to see the document of sale.

They explained that it was in Egypt. Naftali was sent to retrieve it, as he was very swift. Chushim the son of Dan was present, but due to his handicap he was unable to understand what was going on. He took his stick and delivered a powerful blow to the head of Esav, causing Esav's eyes to pop out and fall between the legs of Yaakov. Yaakov opened his eyes and saw the fulfillment of David Hamelech words. Some say that Esav hadn't died as a result of that blow; rather Yehuda then killed him, fulfilling Rivka's words, that they would not die during the same day, although they were buried on the same day. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **Insights on the Parasha**

**1** – Twice we find in the Pasuk that Zevulun precedes Yissachar when listing the sons of Yaakov, by the Berachot of Yaakov, and by the Berachot of Moshe, even though Yissachar was older than Zevulun. Why? To teach us a powerful lesson: Zevulun supported Yissachar financially and allowed him to learn Torah without the burden of working for a livelihood. By doing so, Zevulun was actually raised higher than Yissachar. Supporting the learning of Torah elevates a person to a higher level than the one who is actually learning Torah, earning him great reward in this world and in the next world. If one who supports Torah financially also sets time aside for his own Torah learning during his free time, all the more so will his reward multiply in value! (*Sefer HaSihot*)

**2** – The Pasuk says that Bnei Yisrael will bless their children to be as Ephraim and Menashe, and then the Pasuk explains that Yaakov placed Ephraim before Menashe. Why was it necessary for the Pasuk to clarify this, if it stated clearly Ephraim before Menashe? The Ktav Sofer teaches us from this: Fathers must teach their children Derech Eretz, to blend in with people, with honor and respect. Most importantly, along with character and morals, we must follow in the ways of the Torah, the essence of our existence, as everything else is secondary in comparison. Ephraim was the studious son, busy with learning Torah, while Menashe was the responsible son who ran the household for Yosef.

Yaakov made a point of positioning Ephraim before Menashe to reiterate the importance of Torah over worldly concerns.

### ***History in Brief***

The emperor sent Flavius, minister of Israel, to siege the Masada fortress. Masada is an ancient fortification in the Southern District of Israel situated on top of an isolated rock plateau, akin to a mesa. It is located on the eastern edge of the Judean Desert, overlooking the Dead Sea 20 km (12 mi) east of Arad. Built on a wide rock very high on all sides, it descends steeply into the abyss, where no man can pass except by two narrow paths ascending to it on the slope of the rock. The first path is narrow and is constantly twisting like a snake, earning its name: the snake's path. The slopes are narrow and twist many times. In the thirty times that it rises, each is 128 meters long, for a total of  $30 \times 128 = 3,840$  feet, all the way to the top to a wide plain. One who ventures on these roads must be strengthened and very careful on his feet, because death is a real possibility if one should slip from either side where a deep abyss opens. The other lane rises from the west, and is much easier to pass through. It is noticeable in the mountain to this day. However, it is fenced off by the tower that was built, a thousand feet from the top, which made it exceedingly difficult to pass through to the tower if your intention is to conquer it. Yonatan Cohen Gadol first built the fortress and called it Masada. Then Herod the King fortified it and made it practically impenetrable. He prepared it for himself, to be used as an escape from the Jews, upon whom he inflicted more harm than did many evil rulers before. He also prepared this to escape from Cleopatra the queen of Egypt who had cast her eyes on the entire land of Israel. Herod made sure that there would be sustenance for those who would settle there. The most fertile soil was located at the top of the mountain. He prepared the earth and sown it with all kinds of vegetables and fruits, in order that those who would seek refuge there would not starve while living safely in the fortress.

### ***Health and Recovery***

Blood pressure is a measurement used in medicine. In the body, the arteries carry blood away from the heart. As blood travels through the arteries, it presses against the walls of the arteries. Blood pressure measures how hard the blood is pushing against the walls of the arteries. Usually, "blood pressure" measures the pressure in larger arteries delivering blood to body parts other than the lungs, like the brachial artery in the arm. Blood pressure is usually measured in millimeters of mercury (mmHg). There are two numbers in a blood

pressure. The first is the systolic pressure. It measures how hard the blood pushes against the walls of the arteries when the heart is in systole (beating and pushing out blood). This is when the pressure against the walls of the arteries is highest. The second number is the diastolic blood pressure. It measures how hard the blood pushes against the walls of the arteries when the heart is in diastole (resting between beats and not pushing out any blood). For example, the pressure on the walls of the arteries is 122 mmHg when the heart is beating, and 65 mmHg when the heart is resting. This blood pressure would be written as "122/65" and read as "122 over 65." Mean arterial pressure is a person's average blood pressure. Pulse pressure is the difference between the systolic and diastolic pressures. To measure blood pressure, doctors use a device called a sphygmomanometer. Blood pressure is usually lower for children and gets higher as a person gets older. For healthy adult humans, the systolic blood pressure should be below 120, and the diastolic blood pressure should be below 80. However, blood pressure can be very different for each person. Blood pressure also changes naturally during the day (in a circadian rhythm). It gets lower during sleep and gets higher when a person gets up. It is lower when a person is resting and higher during activity. Many other things - like stress, disease, drugs, and what a person eats - can change blood pressure. Even the stress of having blood pressure taken can make it higher. This is called "white coat hypertension." People can have health problems if their blood pressure is too high or too low. High blood pressure is called hypertension. A person has hypertension if their blood pressure is high and stays high over time. Hypertension is very common. About one in every three adults in the United States has high blood pressure. Hypertension is sometimes called "the silent killer" because it often causes no symptoms, so many people have high blood pressure without realizing that anything is wrong. However, hypertension can hurt the heart, blood vessels, kidneys, and other parts of the body. It can cause serious health problems like heart attack, stroke, and kidney failure. Low blood pressure is called hypotension. If the blood pressure is too low, the heart, brain, and other parts of the body do not get enough blood and oxygen. Low blood pressure can cause problems like dizziness and fainting. If a person's blood pressure is low enough, they can have seizures, lose consciousness, and even die.

### ***Mussar: The Days of the Shovevim***

The days of Shovevim begin Monday January 13<sup>th</sup> and continue until Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup>. The word *Shovevim* is comprised of the initial letters of the six Parashiot included in these weeks: Shemot, Vaera, Bo,

Beshalach, Yitro, Mishpatim. This time frame in essence requests from each and every Jew to awaken from their slumber and produce a personal calculation. Ask yourself: What am I doing? What can I do better in order to serve Hashem and improve my spirituality and holiness? We must first fix the mistakes that we do constantly or frequently, and repent, for this is the proper time. *“Behold, the cries of Bnei Yisrael have come before Me.”* – our prayers must be voiced strongly during these days. The clear advice is to increase in Torah learning each day, whether with a study partner or by attending an extra Torah class. Torah has the power to bring repentance, *“Like storm winds upon vegetation”*. Some have the custom to fast every Monday and Thursday during this time period from Alot Hashachar until a half hour after Shekiah (this time fluctuates during the six weeks). One who wishes to fast must accept upon himself from Mincha of the previous day in *Shema Kolenu*, or at the end of the Amidah if he forgot: *“Behold I accept a Taanit upon myself for tomorrow, Beli Neder.”* This *Kabballah* (acceptance) enables you to say Anenu during the fast. If he did not make a *Kabballah*, he may not say Anenu, but still fasts. One must be careful with the following: (1) Do Teshuvah (2) Learn Torah (3) Recite Tehillim each day (4) Be careful with Netillat Yadayim (5) Feed the poor (6) Eat the correct amount of bread for blessings (7) Be careful with Birkat Hamazon and all Berachot (8) Answer Amen with concentration (9) Be careful not to talk during Chazara, Kaddish, and Sefer Torah, for it is compared to wasting seed (10) Concentrate during Keriat Shema and pronounce each word clearly (11) Dip in the Mikveh (12) Try to be a Sandak (13) Go up for an Aliyah and read with the reader (14) Say Berich Shemeh when taking out the Torah (15) Give charity each day (16) Be careful with Oneg Shabbat (17) Honor Torah and its learners (18) Pray with concentration and tears (19) Learn Mishnayot (20) Do Mitzvot properly (21) Be careful with Mayim Acharonim and say Birkat Hamazon without stalling (22) Be one of the first ten in Shul (23) Be careful with Tefillin (24) Look into the Torah when it is shown to the congregation (25) Work to make peace between friends and spouses (26) Train children to serve Hashem (27) Bring joy to the bride and groom (28) Guide others to repentance. (29) Complete 100 Berachot each day (30) Distance from fights and problems (31) Don’t speak Lashon Hara (32) Speak optimistically about our nation (33) Recite Keriat Shema before going to sleep (34) Be careful with Seudat Shelishit and Melave Malka. (35) These days help a person return to holiness if treated properly. Therefore, during these days, our responsibility is greater than all other days of the year. All souls can be

repaired to the level it was at Har Sinai, during the acceptance of the Torah and the revelation of the Shechinah. Watch over these weeks and Shabbatot with holiness and purity, for they will be beneficial for you in return, and will erase all of our sins. May Hashem merit us, Amen.

### **Rishon LeSion: Rabbi Yom Tov Algazi 1727-1802**

After Rabbi Gedaliah passed away, the Rashash was appointed in his place, teaching twelve distinguished and illustrious students in his yeshiva, as they united together into one group. They all signed an agreement that made them as one body with one soul. They vowed to help each other, not only if the problem proved to be physical trouble, but also if it proved to be a spiritual problem of sin. Additional notes were in their agreement: not to hold a grudge or any negativity against one another at all, and to always forgive each other immediately with all their heart and soul. If one from their group were to leave this world, everyone else would try to do additional Mitzvot and good deeds in this world to save his soul from judgment. There were more of such details in the agreement. All members of this “Ahavat Shalom” group signed the agreement, including: Rabbi Shalom Sharabi the leader, along with his loyal students, including: the holy Chida (Rabbi Chaim Yosef David Azoulay), Rabbi Chaim di Rosa, and Rabbi Yaakov Algazi. The greatest of his disciples was Rabbi Yaakov Algazi. His greatness in Torah and his teachings illuminated the whole world. The depth of his wisdom and his sheer genius are reflected in his Sefarim, which to this day the Torah world stands on. His heart was as one of the Rishonim, and his rabbi did not pass before he declared upon him: “Our father, our shepherd, and a holy man”. Who was Rabbi Algazi? Born in Izmir, Turkey, in his youth his family immigrated to Israel. His father, Rabbi Yisrael Algazi, the Rishon LeSion, did not rest or remain silent until his son became great in Torah. His hopes did not fail him.

### **Story**

Rabbi Avraham, in his dream, after seeing that all the packages of his entire Torah learnings and teachings had disappeared from the heavenly courtroom tables, suddenly an angel entered the courtroom who began looking for something on the tables before the judges. When he did not find what he was looking for, he addressed the soul of the righteous Gaon Rabbi Avraham, who was frightened and alarmed, and spoke as if one man to another: “I know that there was a lot of goods here only a minute ago... beautifully arranged in crates and nice sacks, maybe you noticed where they have gone?” The Gaon felt a special closeness to this angel whom he had never seen before. He understood

that this angel probably came here to save him from this tough situation. Suddenly he felt that he could break through the troubles, as he cried in tears, even though he was no longer a human being here. Rabbi Avraham told him in his dream that only moments ago an angel of sabotage came and caused terrible trouble, ridding the courtroom from all his labors in Torah, the countless holy pages of his learnings and teachings, and blasted them into the unknown. When the new angel heard these details, his face changed into a kind of anger. He raised his voice and cried out: "How can it be that here in the world of truth, one angel can dare to disdain and disavow the teachings of Rabbi Avraham? Is it not known and understood here in the heavenly court that these current generations are nothing like the previous generations?"

### **Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu**

**1** – When positioning yourself at the start of the Amidah, place your feet close to each other as if they are one, as best as you can, like the angels. Bow your head slightly and train your eyes away from anything else, guarding from distractions, even by closing your eyes altogether. It is best to pray from a Siddur with concentration. If you do not have a Siddur, place your left hand over your heart, and your right hand over your left. Pray with humility and awe, like a poor man standing in the doorway.

**2** – Each person should pray according to his custom and tradition, whether Ashkenazi, Sephardic, or otherwise. One should be careful not to mix traditions and customs, adding or subtracting anything. If the Minyan consists of men with different customs and traditions, the Hazzan should pray with his tradition and custom, unless all others in the Minyan are of a the same different tradition and custom, at which point he should do as they do, and only pray in his own usual way while reciting the silent Amidah.

### **Laws: Shabbat**

**1** – Why do we eat fish on Shabbat? A larger fish cannot catch a smaller fish and eat it from the side of the back fin, since the fin will not go in his mouth. How then does he eat? Hashem makes the smaller fish swim straight into the mouth of the larger fish! This teaches us that one who is chasing after his livelihood, even to the point of desecrating Shabbat, he will not succeed. However, one who properly observes Shabbat need not worry about his livelihood, as Hashem will surely bring it straight to his mouth as well. What is meant for him as a livelihood he will receive, without any concern for what others receive.

**2** – We will now continue to list items that are Muktzeh and cannot be moved during Shabbat: A hand grinder,

a scale, leather shoes on Yom Kippur, pins, a sieve, a candle, a weapon, soap without purpose, cigarettes, pots, a phonebook, profession books, baking and cooking utensils, movie film, a pen, a pencil eraser, a hammer, tweezers, an electric plate, stainless steel candlesticks, a lantern, pottery and its cover, an ironing board, a Shofar, an electric blanket, a skewer, a baking mold, Tefillin, and anything that is not a utensil or edible for a human or an animal, and is not of any permissible use during Shabbos, is also Muktzeh and cannot be moved.

### **Sponsors**

\*\*\* **Mrs. Rosette Cohen and her children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **R' Simon Goldstein, his wife Simmy, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Aslan Zayat, his wife Frieda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, please join us for *the Pidyon of their grandson Aslan*, Mazal Tov, to be held **Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup> in Bet Kneset SLC**, Mabrouk, Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Albir Nousseri, his wife Arlette, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Nissim Zayat and his wife Kamo** on the engagement of their daughter **Rachel**, Mabrouk, 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. \*\*\* **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. \*\*\* **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 brothers Aharon and Yitzchak.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Shama Ben Badia a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat **Rachel Bat Adele a"h**, Amen.

*This week sponsorship total \$750.*

*Weekly expenditures total \$1300.*

*Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

\* \* \* \* \*

***www.BethYosef.com***