

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat ***Beshalah***

13th Shevat 5780

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Maqam Ajam Haftarat ***Vatashar Devorah***

Issue #878

February 8th 2020

*Candle Lighting 5:02pm * Shekiah 5:20pm * Minha Friday Night 5:10pm*

*Shaharit Shabbat 8:20am * Minha Shabbat 4:45pm * Shabbat Ends 6:03pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:33pm*

*Time for Talit 5:58am * Seasonal Hour 6:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:46am * Netz Hachama 6:59am*

*Weekday Minha 5:10pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:43pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:58pm * Chatzot 12:10*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:49am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:50am*

Shovevim Fasting: Thursday February 6th fast starts 5:48am and ends 5:44pm

Monday February 10th will be Tu B'shvat, and we do not fast Shovevim on Tu B'Shvat

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Hashem informed Moshe that a double portion of Mon would fall from the heaven on Friday in order to provide enough provisions for Shabbat as well. Moshe did not give over this information to Bnei Yisrael. Instead, the Pasuk tells us that after the Mon fell on Friday and they collected the double portions, the Nesiim, the princes of the tribes, went over to Moshe and discussed this occurrence. Why didn't Moshe advise Bnei Yisrael in advance that a double portion would be given on Friday to accommodate Shabbat? Also, why did the Nesiim alone approach Moshe and not the rest of the nation? We learned that the Mon was delivered in three fashions: 1- The righteous received the Mon on their doorstep, baked and ready to be eaten without requiring any effort from the recipient. 2- The average person received the Mon nearby as well, however it was not baked and required additional effort from the recipient before it can be consumed. 3- The below average recipient, categorized as a sinner, would have to collect the Mon which appeared in the form of wheat that required grinding and many other steps before it was baked and ready to be eaten. No matter the situation, the Mon fell every day, only enough for that day, and would not be enough for the next day, in order that Bnei Yisrael strengthen their trust and belief in Hashem and understand that Hashem is their only source for sustenance and provisions. This is why Moshe did not advise them that on Friday they would receive a double portion for Shabbat, because he wanted them to rely on Hashem without being reassured in advance. When Friday arrived, with the extra portion, the righteous approached Moshe with the question as to why a double portion fell that day. Why? Because they couldn't understand the need for Shabbat's portion to arrive on Friday. How so? Because even if the Mon would fall on Shabbat, the righteous would not have to desecrate Shabbat as it

would arrive on their doorstep ready to be eaten without any preparations required. They would not need to bake it or go out and collect it. Moshe responded with a lesson: they must nonetheless prepare food for Shabbat, in honor of Shabbat, as a symbol for future generations that only what has been baked and cooked from Friday, before Shabbat, can be enjoyed on Shabbat. With these values, we find many stories in the Gemara told about righteous men who went out of their way in order to personally prepare food, delicacies, in honor of Shabbat. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Pasuk states that the people went out to the desert in order to collect the Mon, which fell in the desert and not in their courtyards or in front of the general nation's living quarters. Why? The amount of Mon that descended from heaven each day was enough to last for thousands of years. Each day, the leftovers would melt away in the sun and turn into a stream of liquid in the desert. Had the Mon fallen near their living quarters, the tremendous volume of water that would result from all the Mon melting would have been unfavorable, possibly causing great damage to the nation by flooding their living quarters. Hashem therefore made the Mon descend specifically in the desert.

History in Brief

In the years following the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash, there was a terrible mass sacrifice of the Jewish refugees in the Masada fortress, involving the men themselves killing the women and children, by the instruction of Elazar HaCohen. They had been besieged by the Romans who were forcing their way in with the intentions to capture and torture them. Their only escape from terrible suffering and

defilement, they decided, was to sacrifice the women and children themselves. When the Romans breached the fortress on the morning of the 15th of Nissan, on the holiday of Pesah, Elazar HaCohen led the charge with his brethren against the Romans. They all fought to their deaths, killing many Romans in the process. When no Jews remained, the Romans declared victory over the fortress. Nine hundred sixty men were slaughtered that day. Who revealed the details of this occurrence in history? One old woman from the family of Elazar Ben Yair, along with five children, had been able to hide in the wellsprings while all this was taking place in the Masada fortress, and they related the details to the world, for all generations to know how they had lived in holiness and with faith, sacrificing their lives in order to remain pure and whole before Hashem. And so, the roaring fires of Yehuda once so bright now darkened. In later days, they found remains of Megillat Yechezkel, which has been preserved for ages, but cannot be read from except for chapter 37.

Mussar: *Tu B'Shevat (15th of Shevat)*

Man was not created to be alone, rather Hashem created around man many different forms of creatures, in order that man can learn lessons to apply to his private life. He must relate his heart to all events around him, to anything and everything that can add wisdom to his wisdom. We all know and see the trees that grow and make fruit. Tu B'Shevat teaches us many lessons for our lives: There are many parts to the tree: the roots, stems, leaves, fruit, peel of the fruit, the fruit itself, and the core of the fruit. Now we will explain the different parts of the tree as mentioned: 1- The roots are hidden from the eye, but are actually of the most important components of the tree through which it can stand. If the root is strong then the blowing winds will not be able to uproot it. 2- The body or tree trunk: this is the vast majority of the building of the tree, which from time to time adds to its thickness with branches and leaves. You can learn the years of the life of the tree through the body. 3- Leaves: they inhale air along with some other necessary materials which promote the entire life of the tree, as well as absorb heat from the sun. 4- Fruits: these are the whole integrity of the tree. The final product can be extracted and enjoyed by people who benefit from all the work of the tree. 5- The peel preserves the fruit itself, and is an essential food for all kinds of animals that live on fruits and vegetation. 6- The core preserves the continued existence of such trees, yielding seeds that

can sprout new trees and whole future generations. What can we learn from all this? Man is similar to a tree in his spiritual life, his Jewish life is the root of faith, which is tied with his Creator and which increases wisdom through the Torah and the Commandments. All aspects connect to his root, which is faith. The body and trunk of the spiritual man is the study of Torah and its observance, building his spirituality, for without Torah and the Commandments he has no spiritual existence. The fruits are what he does to entitle others and teach them, how he affects them in function and purpose will promote healthy spirituality, including the production of seeds as he teaches children and others in order to maintain spiritual life with continuity from generation to generation.

Health and Recovery

We will now discuss general practices regarding proper eating habits, which have a bearing on our health and are therefore worthwhile. These are details that are capable of giving us quality of life and longevity, some of which may seem marginal to us, yet we must pay attention to them. First and foremost: Breakfast: You have to eat breakfast every day in the morning after prayers, because a stomach that is not satiated with food will desire the wrong types of foods, which will cause damage to it and the whole body. The Chafetz Chaim was always very careful to eat breakfast. Once, Gaon Rabbi Isaac came to the Chafetz Chaim's house after the morning prayer in order to speak with him for a few minutes, but the Chafetz Chaim told him: "I am now going to eat breakfast, please come back in twenty minutes." The Chafetz Chaim wrote: One must eat in the morning in order to have the strength to study Torah. After sleeping, start your day with a protein-rich breakfast, consisting of cheese, hummus, eggs, or fish. Those who skip breakfast come to the next meal feeling hungry, which will make them eat the next meal too quickly and overfill the belly. Or, alternatively, they will come to "nosh" from anything close to them until the next meal, which is very unhealthy.

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

As the remaining members of the group that had followed Rabbi Yehuda the Chassid to Jerusalem tried very hard to satisfy their debts and provide sustenance, their creditors, the Goyim who had sold them the land and house which they converted to a Shul and Midrash, began to grow impatient. One

night, the Goyim started a fire that not only burned down the homes of many Jews in that courtyard, but also burned down the Shul along with forty Sifre Torah. For many years this location of destruction remained as the site of Rabbi Yehuda the Chassid's ruins. As hard as they tried, they could not rebuild from the destruction, until 1857, when the Turkish leader allowed them to rebuild. They spent seven years rebuilding the area for the Jewish population to enjoy, constructing the Beit Yaakov synagogue, using funds generously donated by Baron Yaakov Rothschild, father of the well-known philanthropist Binyamin Rothschild. The corner stone was donated by his brother, Alfonse de Rothschild. This became the synagogue of the Ashkenazim, as the Sepharadim used the nearby synagogue of Rabi Yochanan Ben Zakai. In this way the Ashkenazim were able to flourish with prominence in Jerusalem. The Yeshiva Etz Chaim, located in the courtyard as well, was destroyed to its foundation along with the shul during the war of independence in 1948. In 1967, reconstruction began in this area once again.

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. He initially announced the proposal of the Daf Yomi program at the first big conference of Agudat Yisrael in Elul 1923 in Vienna. This meeting included our brethren from all over the east and west, joined especially with the grouping of the greatest Torah leaders and scholars from all over the world at the time. All the heads of the Yeshivot, all the leaders of Poland in Western Europe, with representatives of the ultra-Orthodox communities from Hungary, together celebrated a spirit of solemnity and spiritual excitement, when they heard for the first time at that moment from the stage of the Agudat Yisrael conference the introduction of the Daf Yomi. They reached the height of excitement as Rabbi Yosef Levi, may Hashem avenge his blood, said: "This proposal of the Daf Yomi is the brightest star that will be a pathway and the future guidance in the skies for Orthodox Judaism." Then the genius Rabbi Meir Shapiro stood on the stage and said pleasantly in his tongue: "We must, we are obligated to, obey the holy article which we recite during high holy days: "They will all make as one association to do Your Will wholeheartedly!" With one page of Gemara every

day, we are unifying the God-fearing members of our nation from every end of the world. In one division, unifying through all of exile, with the daily daf all the Jews in the Diaspora thus increase Torah study and glorify it as one. What is a page of Gemara? The wording of the Gemara originated in Babylonia, which is the original source of our Sages from Spain, while the many commentators, Rashi, Tosafot, Maharsha, and Maharam, were all Ashkenazi scholars from France, Ashkenaz, Poland, and so on. We have no other faithful and clear-cut testimony that unifies all of Bnei Yisrael as one other than the Daf Yomi, and it is up to us to learn every day the pages of the Gemara together.

Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu

1 – After reciting Oseh Shalom at the conclusion of the Amidah, we recite Yehi Ratzon that Hashem should rebuild the Bet Hamikdash with the coming of Mashiach. The reason we do this is because prayers nowadays is a service in place of the services performed in the Bet Hamikdash, so we pray that we will be granted the ability to perform the services in the Bet Hamikdash once again. When taking three steps back, we first step back with the left foot, followed by the right, and then the left. We then remain at that position, without moving or speaking to anyone, just as we do during the Amidah, until the Hazzan reaches Nakdishach (Kedusha), at which point we move forward and join in.

2 – During the Amidah we do not join in with the Hazzan Nakdishach (Kedusha), rather we pause in our quiet Amidah and listen to the Hazzan's recitation, and then we continue the Amidah. This is only if the Hazzan is knowledgeable in these laws of fulfilling the obligation of others through his recitation. However, if you know that the Hazzan is an amateur who does not know these laws, then do not pause in the Amidah and instead continue in the Amidah even during Nakdishach (Kedusha).

Laws: *Tu B'shvat*

1 – Some give the number 91 to charity, the numerical value of the word 'Ilan' (tree) and of the word 'Amen'.

2 – Some place on the table 12 types of fruits, corresponding to the 12 tribes of our nation. Some place 15, related to that day of the month. Some set up 30 different types. The more types included the better, for we wish blessings this year on all fruits.

3 – The 15th of Shevat is the New Year of trees. We are forbidden to fast, and Yehi Shem is recited.

4 – Fruits that may have worms (i.e. figs, dates...) must be inspected before consumption. One who eats a worm or bug has sinned greatly, transgressing five negative commandments. Their soul is soiled, and their heart is blemished. Such conditions decrease a person's ability to serve Hashem.

5 – Reciting 'Peri Haetz' once is enough for all types of fruits, whether currently in front of him or in his thoughts and later brought. Another blessing need not be said. This applies to all blessings.

6 – 'Hamotzi' takes precedence over all other blessings. Without bread, the next in line is 'Mezonot'. After 'Mezonot' comes 'Peri Haetz' – first upon olives, dates, grapes, figs, and pomegranates, then upon all others grown from trees. After this, 'Haadamah' is recited upon all other fruits and vegetables. Then, all things under the 'Shehakol' category are blessed. This is the order of precedence.

7 – This order applies only when both are set before you and are desired by you. However, if one is not present, then waiting is not necessary and the order does not take effect. Within a category, those you like better gain precedence.

8 – Lechatechilah, one should not bring fruits after Birkat Hamazon in order to make 'Beracha Acharona', for you are causing a Beracha that is not necessary, and some are strict with this matter. Heed their words. If you did so by chance and did not plan it out, i.e. you forgot, you can eat them. (However, one may bring fruits after Birkat Hamazon during Shabbat in order to add to the required daily hundred blessings one is responsible to recite.)

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Yedidya Laniado, his wife Touni, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Moshe Ben Sarah a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Charlie Hefes, his wife Esther, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Kamo Guindi, her children, and her siblings.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Frieda Bat Jamila a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Kamo Guindi and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yosef Ben Latifah a"h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Eddie, Habib, Victor, and their sisters, of the Kassab HaCohen Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, please join us for a **Azkarah on the Sheloshim of their mother**, Leilui Nishmat their

mother **Emily Bat Mazal a"h**, which will take place Thursday February 6th in Beth Yosef, Tehillim reading begins 3:00pm, followed by Minha at 5:05pm, Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen. *** **Mr. Abboud Avraham, his wife Sabah, and their children: Naim, Yosef, Moshe, and Yonatan.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their son who passed away at a young age **David Ben Sabah a"h**, Amen. *** **Pharmacist Mr. Eli Shalouh, his wife Lillian, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Hacham Aharon Shalouh HaCohen Ben Leah a"h**, 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. *** **The blessed siblings: Rephael, Avraham, and Kamo of the Maleh family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Kamil Ben Jamila a"h**, Amen. *** **The blessed siblings: Isaac, Obdo, Bahu, Touni, Leah, and Sophie of the Arazi HaCohen family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Habib Ben Bahia Arazi a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Tina Farhi, her husband Jack, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Yosef Ben Regina a"h**, Amen.

This week sponsorship total \$1050.

Weekly expenditures total \$1300.

Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

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www.BethYosef.com