

Congregation

◆◆◆'"Beth Yosef'"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat **Ki Tisa & Parah***

18<sup>th</sup> Adar 5780

*Maqam Hijaz*

Issue #883

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat **Vayhi Devar***

March 14<sup>th</sup> 2020

*Candle Lighting 6:43pm \* Shekiah 7:01pm \* Shir Hashirim 6:30pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 6:25pm \* Shabbat Ends 7:44pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:14pm  
Time for Talit 6:00am \* Seasonal Hour 6:00 \* Alot Hashahar 5:46am \* Netz Hachama 7:09am  
Weekday Minha 6:50pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 6:13pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 7:39pm \* Chatzot 1:04  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:13am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:23am*

-----  
Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah  
-----

Moshe Rabbenu broke the first set of Luchos when he came down the mountain and witnessed Bnei Yisrael's sin with the Golden Calf. How did Moshe know that he would be allowed to destroy the work of Hashem? Our Sages teach us that Hashem agreed afterwards with his actions, but how did Moshe know this in advance? When Moshe saw that Bnei Yisrael had sinned, he asked himself: How can this be that they fell so quickly from such a high spiritual level? Bnei Yisrael really did not deserve to commit such a terrible sin, however events unfolded in such a way in order to teach Bnei Yisrael that Teshuvah, forgiveness, when one properly repents, is indeed possible. They had lost the first Luchos, a most terrible consequence, and yet they still were able to correct what they had erred, because Hashem desires the Teshuvah of our nation. Hashem gave them a second pair of Luchos, and allowed them the opportunity to use the Torah to draw close to Hashem once again. Hashem wants us to create a sanctuary for Him in order to dwell amongst us, so that He will remain in our midst always. But something is still difficult to understand: if Bnei Yisrael didn't deserve to sin, then how could they be made to sin, even for the purpose of teaching everyone a powerful lesson of repentance? We know that they were led to believe Moshe was not returning from heaven, that they were being abandoned, and these thoughts led them to the sin of the Golden Calf. How then can we understand their position in this sin? When they received the Torah at Har Sinai, Bnei Yisrael were so elevated that the ministering angels descended from heaven and gave every Jew two crowns, one for Naaseh and one for Nishma. What happened next? They let the crowns get to their heads, pun intended, and began to conduct themselves in a lightheaded way, eating and drinking, while believing that their lofty

spiritual levels were due to their own merit and to their credit. Such an attitude will quickly destroy a person from greatness, and drag him down to unfortunate lower levels. A person has to always understand that he is not yet complete, not yet fulfilled, and as long as he is still alive, he has more work to do to grow and achieve. While it is true that Bnei Yisrael reached a very high spiritual level at Har Sinai, they should have paused and remembered that they were still lacking in spirituality and humbled themselves to Hashem in order to do His work in this world. By letting their spiritual accomplishments and success get to their heads, by believing their greatness was complete, they caused their own spiritual downfall by being tested with the sin of the Golden Calf. Moshe Rabbenu is titled the trusted servant of Hashem throughout His 'household'. Can Moshe steal anything from Hashem? Why is he trustworthy? Rather, he is trustworthy because he made sure to only see and know what he was supposed to witness, for if he would see more than he deserved, then it would be as if he was stealing knowledge from Hashem. The Pasuk says that Moshe diverted his face so as not to look directly at the Shechinah. Every person, even Moshe Rabbenu, is expected to know their limits and their place, understand their spiritual level, not grab more than he deserves, and thereby understand that there is much more to do and he is responsible to grow and continue accomplishing further while alive in this world. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

**Insights on Megillat Esther**

Why did the wicked Haman plan to annihilate the Jews on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Adar? If it was because Moshe passed away in Adar, then he should have scheduled his plan more precisely on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Adar? Haman knew Moshe passed away on the 7<sup>th</sup>,

and wished to wait until the week of mourning was over before implementing his plan. During the week of mourning for a Tzaddik, the merits of the righteous protect the nation and the world, for his soul is still attaining correction in this world, as we find right before the Mabul's Great Flood, Metushelah passed away and the rains did not begin until after the seven days of mourning passed, for his soul was protecting the generation from destruction. Therefore, Haman waited until the 13<sup>th</sup> of Adar, the last of the seven days of mourning for Moshe, understanding the concept that part of a day's passing is considered to have passed in its entirety, and he need not wait another moment to carry out his evil plan. Also, his calculations involved the following: the 13<sup>th</sup> day of Adar was the day that the plague of darkness hit Egypt, when the sinners of Bnei Yisrael who did not deserve to be redeemed died as well under the cloak of darkness, in secrecy and privacy from the world. Haman therefore believed this day to be unique in carrying out capital punishment for the sinners of Bnei Yisrael. (*Alshich and Manot HaLevi*)

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

Once, as Rabi Yochanan Ben Zakai traveled from Yerushalayim, and Rabi Yehoshua Ben Chanania followed behind him, they saw from a distance the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash. Rabi Yehoshua commented: woe to us over the Temple's destruction, which had brought atonement for the sins of our nation. Rabi Yochanan answered: we still have a very good option for atonement that is just as effective – doing acts of kindness. Daniel Eish Chamudot would spend his time, energy, and resources in order to prepare all the needs for a bride and rejoice together in their wedding celebrations. He helped bury those that passed away, gave money to charity, prayed three times a day, and taught Torah to the masses. One who builds a Bet Knesset for payers creates a miniature Mikdash. To recite the Seder Korbanot and Pitum HaKetoret in Shul, as well as the Beraita of Abaye on Seder Maaracha, Perek Ezehu Mekuman, Perek Rabi Yishmael, and having the Cohanim stand in front of the Kahal and bless the congregants, are all ways to perform the services nowadays. Such ways will enable the prayers of the congregants to be heard and to be fulfilled. We don't ask the Hazzan to just pray for us, we ask him to perform the prayer services for us, as if conducting the services in the Bet Hamikdash. The groom breaks a glass cup on the night of his wedding to remember

the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash even during the happiest of occasions. We fast four times a year in remembrance of the destruction as well. We recite lengthened versions of supplication every Monday and Thursday, to stir up mercy in heaven for our nation, to protect us through the rest of the week. We collect Zecher Machatzit HaShekel and read Parashat Shekalim every year in the month of Adar so that we do not forget the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash.

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

Folic acid is important for building up our body. It is essential for the metabolism in the body and for preventing blood vessel diseases. It is found in green leaves such as lettuce and the like. It is important and recommended to periodically monitor folic acid levels in the body while conducting a general blood test, especially in adults today. The worldwide medical recommendation is that women aged 20-40 should intake about 400mg/day of folic acid and monitor the amounts in the blood. One of the side effects is constipation. Another important level one must monitor is Vitamin B12, which is found in animal-derived foods, especially in all types of beef, because beef has 10 times the amount of B12 than chicken. Studies in Israel indicate a high deficiency of vitamin B12 in adults, especially those who do not eat meat. This deficiency causes anemia, weakness, fatigue, and neurological dysfunction, and can also be a cause of difficulties in regular movements. These levels can be checked with a simple blood test. Vegetarians need to constantly monitor their levels of protein and vitamin B12 in the blood. If indeed a deficiency is found, first add non-fat meat to the diet and menu, two or three times per week at least. There are tablets that dissolve under the tongue to be taken once a day for adults, but they can cause digestion issues, so such tablets may not always be the best solutions to increase levels. It is recommended that you occasionally receive vitamin B12 injections as directed by your family physician based on your blood levels. Also, ask your doctor whether to take B12 alone, or to take a B12 and folic acid combination tablet.

#### ***Mussar: Silence is Golden***

One who wishes to be successful in life should watch his tongue from improper use. Distance yourself from speaking about others. Speak about Torah or daily necessities only. Know that most problems that befall people are due to their evil speech. If one

would make sure to be careful, he could reach very holy levels. Fortunate are those who calculate their words for they will be rewarded handsomely in the next world while enjoying a comfortable life in the meantime. King Solomon says, *When a person guards his mouth and tongue, he is protecting himself from suffering.* A foolproof plan to be safe from suffering is proper speech. Hashem is everywhere, how then can you speak improperly before Him? How careful must one be with every word he utters! If one speaks freely without caution, he should realize and be warned that he is pushing Hashem away and will experience a great loss. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **Rishon LeSion: R' Yom Tov Algazi 1727-1802**

Rabbi Yom Tov sat in his room assigned to him by his French host, and began to examine an ancient handwritten manuscript. Shortly after he opened the ancient writing, it almost crumbled in his hands. The rabbi recognized the work and said without doubt: this is the Ramban's handwriting who lived in the 1200s, hundreds of years ago! After further examination, it became clear to him, above all else, that this was the Ramban's commentary on Bechorot and Nedarim. Rabbi Yom Tov's joy knew no end. From that moment, he hardly ever put the writing down. His head dealt with the analysis of the Ramban's commentary. He engrossed his thoughts on the lectures. This discovery was an important element and played a prominent role in the writing of his Sefer, Halachot Yom Tov, which became a foundational Sefer used in the Midrashim of Torah for its novelty, and nobody passes up the opportunity to analyze it while learning Bechorot. From France, Rabbi Yom Tov made his way on to Germany. He decided to first move through Holland, the Netherlands, as the Dutch communities were descendants of Spanish deportees, and were now large and wealthy communities. The emissaries were particularly successful in the Dutch cities, and in a vigorous move the rabbi with his friend Rabbi Yaakov Hazan then headed for Germany, to Greater Frankfurt. Frankfurt was the city of Rabbi Natan Adler and Rabbi Pinchas Horowitz, known for wonders. With great respect, Rabbi Yom Tov was introduced to Rabbi Natan Adler's Bet Midrash, "Nesher HaGadol". Rabbi Natan and his disciple Rabbi Moshe the Chatam Sofer, began to discuss deep topics in Torah and Talmud. In great happiness, they immediately recognized Rabbi Yom Tov's powerful acumen in learning. His answers in Torah,

in arguing his point to victory in the war of Torah, were comparable in level as one of the Rishonim.

### **Story**

Esther, a widowed woman from the city of Livorno, Italy, mourned the passing of her husband which occurred many years ago, leaving her alone with their young little boy named Jacob. The fortune of earning a living, as many Jewish homes in Livorno, had stubbornly skipped over the widowed Esther, her small apartment, and Jacob her orphan son. She was frail, sad, tormented, and unable to support herself properly with her son. Twice a week, Jacob would go to the rabbi's house, where some of the children learned Torah. He would otherwise go looking for cash job opportunities that were befitting a boy his age, starting from eleven years old. When he managed to make a few pennies, he did not return home with the coins but purchased flour for dough and vegetables from which his mother would cook stew. One morning Jacob left the house and walked to the nearby synagogue for prayers. At the end of the prayers, he began his regular round to the workshops and residences of affluent people, to offer himself for work, to fulfill whatever was necessary. Usually he was ignored as people would not take a twelve-and-a-half-year-old boy seriously when asked for labor opportunities. That morning when his mother Esther asked him: "Where are you going Jacob?" He answered: "I don't know, Mother, but when I come back in the evening, I'll tell you where my feet carried me."

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

**1** – When the Hazzan completes the silent Amidah and takes three steps back, he waits there for a duration of walking four Amot, and then returns forward. He does not recite even one word or letter in interruption and begins Chazarah. The congregation likewise cannot interrupt with any words in between the silent Amidah and the Chazarah, and remain in their place until Kedusha is recited. After Kedusha, the congregation can return to their seats, quietly. If one is healthy and strong, it is best to remain standing for the duration of Chazarah. All should be careful to answer Baruch Hu UBaruch Shemo to every blessing, and it is best to follow along in the Siddur as well.

**2** – According to Sod, Kabbalah, the Chazarah is even greater than the silent Amidah. If in a Minyan there are not nine men listening to the Chazarah, with concentration, and answering Amen properly, it is

considered as if the blessings recited are being wasted in the Chazarah. Therefore, no matter how many men are present in the Minyan, each should consider himself as one of the nine necessary and must answer the Hazzan with concentration. One who also dons Tefillin Rabbenu Tam should remove the Rashi set after Kaddish Titkabal, recite Shema, Kadesh Li, Vehaya Ki Yeviacha, and then continue the rest of the prayers as usual.

### **Laws: Pesach**

**1** – Thirty days before Pesach we begin learning all the laws pertaining to the fast approaching holiday. *Yehi Shem* is recited throughout the month.

**2** – There aren't any communal fasts during the month of Nissan. However, it is permitted for an individual to fast on the passing of a father or mother.

**3** – Both men and women are obligated to recite Birkat Ha'Ilanot, the blessing on the trees. It is preferable to recite it with a group of ten men.

**4** – The blessing on the trees should be recited on fruit bearing trees, in the presence of at least two such trees, before the fruit grows, before the flowers fall, and can even be recited during Shabbat and Yom Tov.

**5** – It is a good custom, beginning from the first day of the month of Nissan, to read every day the Parasha of the Nasi's donation for the day.

**6** – It is a special Mitzvah for every person, before the start of Pesach, to give charity to the needy so that they should have enough for all their holiday needs.

**7** – A person that is careful from even the smallest amount of Chametz on Pesach will receive special help from Heaven to avoid sinning throughout the entire upcoming year!

**8** – The Shabbat immediately preceding Pesach is called *Shabbat HaGadol*, the *Great Shabbat*, and on this day there's a holy obligation upon everyone to gather in Shul to listen to the rabbi discuss the laws and topics pertaining to Pesach.

### **Sponsors**

\*\*\* **R' Simon Goldstein, his wife Simmy, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Zouki Metta, his wife Stella, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Eli Levy, his**

**wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Zaki Bawabeh, his wife Touni, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Siahou Shami HaCohen, his wife, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Shelomo Boukai, his wife, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **The Farhi Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **David Ben Sarah a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat **Dorett Sarah Bat Zakie a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Yosef Alkadaa, his wife Viki, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Shelomo Ben Badia a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Yosef Albert Guindi HaCohen, his wife Arlett, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Rachel Bat Shafikah a"h**, 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. \*\*\* **The Nakab Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Jamil Ben Aysah 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. \*\*\* **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. Taleb Hara, his wife Vicky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their son **Moshe and his wife Berta** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **Yossi**, and Mazal Tov on the engagement of **Morris and Sharit**, Mabrouk, Amen.

*This week sponsorship total \$1050.*

*Weekly expenditures total \$1300.*

*Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

\* \* \* \* \*

***www.BethYosef.com***