

Congregation

◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat **Korah**

5th Tammuz 5780

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Maqam Nahwand Haftarat **Vayomer Shemuel**

Issue #896

June 27th 2020

*Candle Lighting 8:12pm * Shekiah 8:30pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 7:55pm * Shabbat Ends 9:12pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:42pm
Time for Talit 4:01am * Seasonal Hour 87:00 * Alot Hashahar 3:43am * Netz Hachama 5:28am
Weekday Minha 7:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 7:18pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 9:07pm * Chatzot 12:59
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:04am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:31am*

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Korah was distinguished, exalted, and honored within the nation. He helped carry the Holy Aron. What foolishness caused him to question Hashem's chosen one, Moshe, whom we are to trust and believe forever? Moshe, the Torah teaches us, was humbler than any other person. He never argued with anyone for the sake of his own honor. However, Korah did not have a complaint against Moshe directly, rather he questioned the appointment of Elitzafan Ben Uziel and believed that he, Korah, deserved that position, as he was the son of Yitzhar, the second son of Kehat, after Amram, and Uziel was only the fourth son of Kehat, therefore Korah son of Yitzhar believed he deserved to be appointed as Nasi before Elitzafan son of Uziel. Korah failed drastically with the three things that remove a person from this world: jealousy, desire, and honor. We must all learn a valuable lesson from this episode: it is vital to realize the importance of looking away from the possessions of others, to remove ourselves from jealousy, and understand with clarity that Hashem gives each and every individual exactly what he requires in this world in order to face and pass the trials and tribulations that are set forth before him during his lifetime. Do not look at what your friend, your neighbor, or even your brother and family own, for it will lead to jealousy if you are noticing with an evil eye. Remember that there are two worlds, this world and the next world. We all have our own purpose in this world and Hashem provides us with the necessary tools in order to succeed with our goals, so that we can earn reward for the next world. Everyone can appreciate his own lot if he just recognizes how fortunate he is to have what Hashem has given

him. Enjoy life in this world and acknowledge all the blessings that you have. Thank Hashem for waking up every day, for everything that you are blessed with, and be satisfied with your lot. Jealousy, desire, and honor will not only remove you from this world, but also from the next world! Our focus in this world must be on ourselves, to grow in Torah, and draw closer to Hashem. We must bless our friends, our neighbors, and our relatives, and gaze upon them with a good eye, that they should enjoy their lot, so that we too may enjoy our blessings in this world with happiness and appreciation, thanking Hashem for everything we have each and every day. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Pasuk states that the three sons of Korah did not die: Asir, Elkana, and Aviasaf. Why? When they sat with their father Korah and his group of followers, as Moshe Rabbenu approached, they looked down at the ground in thought: if they would stand out of respect for Moshe, they would embarrass their father, however if they didn't stand for Moshe they would transgress the commandment to stand for an elder in Torah. They decided that it would be better to stand for Moshe and honor the Torah than to remain seated for their father. In this merit, they did Teshuvah, remained alive, entered the holy land of Israel, and established a family which produced the great Shemuel Hanavi. They are honored in Tehillim chapter 88, and mentioned in Tehillim chapter 49.

2 – The Pasuk teaches us that 14,700 people passed away during the plague that hit the nation following the episode with Korah. Why

specifically this amount? Yaakov Avinu had instructed his children to carry him after he passed away, with the exception of Levi, whose descendants were destined to carry the holy vessels of the Mishkan and were unable to carry something that causes impurity. Therefore, it was Yaakov Avinu that established Shevet Levi as the priests of the nation. Yaakov Avinu lived for 147 years - those that argued with his word, those that argued regarding the authenticity of Shevet Levi and their exalted status within the nation to be destined to serve in holiness, were hit with a plague that struck 100x his years of age, 14,700 people, as the Pasuk states: a hundredfold will be chased away from you. This number only included those that argued against Shevet Levi, however Korah and his immediate followers that had other complaints were not included in this total. (*Meshech Chochmah*)

History in Brief

20 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 88AD. On that day, when Rabi Eliezer Ben Horkenus argued with the Sages, ruling that many things were pure, Raban Gamliel the Nasi, whose sister was married to Rabi Eliezer, took the items that Rabi Eliezer claimed were pure and burned them as if they were impure. Why did he do this? Because he wanted to decrease arguments in our nation. Raban Gamliel did this at the risk of personal damage, since Rabi Eliezer was a great scholar in Torah learning, someone about whom the heavens had declared was the authority on all Halachic rulings. Another story to relate his greatness: once, as the Sages entered the study hall in Yavneh, a heavenly voice rang out and declared that two were fitting and deserving of Ruah Hakodesh, divine inspiration, and were considered to be on the level of prophecy. The voice stated that one of the two was Shemuel Hakatan, but then went silent without revealing who the second person was. Everyone believed Rabi Eliezer was the second person that was not mentioned. Had this happened during the times of the Bet Hamikdash, Rabi Eliezer would be labeled a Zaken Mamre who argues with the majority. Such actions deserve the death penalty by the hand of Bet Din. When they decided to ostracize him, they wondered who would be able to deliver the message to Rabi Eliezer. Rabi Akiva volunteered

to go, believing that if anyone else would go, who was not on the level, then that person would die due to the greatness of Rabi Eliezer.

Health and Recovery

We must be careful with our sense of hearing. If one's hearing levels are decreased, or if one experienced an injury that caused hearing loss, there are a number of ways to deal with the situation. How do you know if someone is starting to experience hearing loss? If he starts responding with "What?" while speaking with you, and asks you to repeat what you said, asking that you try to speak a little louder. These are the initial signs of hearing loss. When someone is having a difficult time hearing, he starts to avoid conversations altogether thus losing friends and companionship. A person who cannot hear properly has a very hard time feeling comfortable in his surroundings. Baruch Hashem nowadays we have technology that can help those who are hearing impaired be able to hear, but unfortunately sometimes the solution devices are quite pricey. Sometimes the issue is due to wax buildup in the ears. A simple test by an ENT specialist can confirm this diagnosis, and the Dr can then clean out the excess earwax relatively easily and painlessly, clearing out the blockage and enabling the person to hear much better. Note: speaker systems placed in schools for ringing the bell or for announcing purposes can reach 110 decibels, which is actually thirty decibels higher than the maximum 80 decibels allowed according to regulations.

Rishon LeSion: R' Moshe Meyuhas 1730-1806

Upon finishing prayers at the Kotel, R' Moshe assured the Pasha that Napoleon would not succeed in his fight against them. R' Moshe did not elaborate, but he did advise him to strengthen the walls of the city immediately. Regardless, he assured again that no harm will befall the people of Jerusalem. In order to win over the heart of the Pasha, he personally began working on reinforcing the walls of the city. Who can see the Rishon LeSion taking such action and not follow along?! Immediately all Jews were working hard to reinforce the walls. After only a matter of hours their work was complete. The words of the Rav were fulfilled completely. As Napoleon advanced towards Jerusalem, news spread that he suddenly

changed his mind and instead set his target on Acco. Acco was one of the most developed trading cities in the country, very advanced in business, and was located in a very strategic area. While the Jerusalem conquest was rejected long-term, in the meantime he concentrated his forces on Acco. Napoleon was overly confident in his power, and he had no doubt that Acco would fall into his hands. However, Napoleon's advance was severed, as the fighting over Acco was fierce and bitter, and at the end his army suffered a heavy defeat. The inhabitants of Jerusalem breathed a sigh of relief.

Mussar: Imperfection

Nobody is perfect. Everyone makes mistakes and has their package of flaws. Only Hashem is complete and perfect. Unfortunately, man has the custom to see the flaws of others and often does not see his own. Perhaps his flaw may even be greater than that of his friend. Seek out the truth and develop yourself properly. Go to the Rabbanim and ask for critical advice. Fear heaven and do the right thing, even if you may not fully understand it. Change for the better a little bit each day and declare, *'When will my actions reach the level of my forefathers Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov?'* Pray for success and truth. Once, a Jewish man in Bagdad came before the great Rav Yosef Chaim (Ben Ish Hai) and explained that his neighbor was a sinner. He asked if he must sell his house and move away, as the Mishnah states *'Distance from a neighbor that is bad'*. The Rav explained that he must read the Mishnah *'Distance a neighbor from bad'* – he must pray and work with wisdom to show his neighbor the truth. One mustn't abandon his neighbor just because he is at fault, rather he must find a way to rid his neighbor of the fault, thereby eliminating the need to move altogether. He listened to the Rav and was successful.

Story: Sir Moses Montefiore 1785-1885

Sir Moses Montefiore was born on the ninth of Cheshvan in 1785 to his father and mother Joseph and Rachel Montefiore in the city of Livorno, Italy. The surname "Montefiore" originated from the head of the family, Rabbi Yosef Haim, the grandfather of Moshe's grandfather, named after his hometown, Montefiore, which means the city of flowers. His entire family, from both his father

and even from his mother's side, were descendants of Spain's deportees during the Spanish Inquisition. They always observed the Torah and performed the Mitzvot. His family earned a living by engaging in commerce, financials, and industrials, and although they emigrated to England, leaving their country of origin, they were considered from the most affluent merchants in the English capital at that time. His father, Joseph, was an honest heaven-fearing man who earned a living in commerce, and Hashem granted him great success. His business deals led him back to his native country, Italy, where he expanded his business by creating another branch there. Even though he was very busy in business, he did not neglect even briefly to properly educate and spend time with his son who was dear and very important to him. The wealth did not illusion and dazzle neither him nor his son, nor did he pass up the performance of Mitzvot, as many of his wealthy contemporaries had done in his generation.

Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu

1 – One who goes up to the Torah for an Aliyah recites Barechu loud enough that everyone can respond accordingly. If they did not hear him and only heard the Torah reader standing next to him answer his Barechu, then they do not answer along. Rather, they then only answer Amen after hearing the Torah reader answer Barechu, but they do not answer Barechu.

2 – After the congregation answers Barechu accordingly, the one who recited Barechu then also answers *Baruch Hashem Hamevorach Leolam Vaed*, and then recites the Beracha on the Torah. After the Torah is read, he recites another Beracha on the Torah accordingly.

Laws: Shabbat

1 – Rabi Elazar teaches us from Tanach that Shabbat is equal to all other Mitzvot in the Torah combined. If we observe Shabbat, we have fulfilled the entire Torah. If we don't, heaven forbid, it is like desecrating the entire Torah.

2 – One who does not observe a Mitzvah in the Torah on purpose is considered a 'Mumar' but his slaughter is valid and his wine is not Nesech. However, a Mumar who does not observe Shabbat is considered to be a Mumar for the entire Torah, his slaughter is invalid, and his wine is Nesech.

3 – Shabbat is the bond between Hashem and our nation. One who desecrates Shabbat is wicked and severs his bond.

4 – A garment that has dust on it, if one is particular not to wear it like that, then he is not allowed to brush the dust off during Shabbat, but if one does not care to wear it like this, then one may brush it off, but not with a brush.

5 – A garment with feathers on it, since the feathers are not woven into the garment, but above it, it is permitted to shake them off, but not with a brush

6 – One can remove dust or dirt from a leather shoe, even with a dry cloth, but not with strength, so that it will not come to brush. However, a shoe made of material is like a garment, and if one is strict with dirt, then he should not wear it during Shabbat.

7 – Rabi Chiya Bar Rabi Aba says: I was a guest by a very wealthy individual, who ate Seudat Shabbat upon a gold table with sixteen servants in attendance at the clap of his hands. The plates, cups, and cutlery were all made of gold, and the table was set with the most delectable dishes. When the host sat to dine, he exclaimed that the world is Hashem's and His honor fills it, so that he should not be haughty. I asked him to what merit did he earn this wealth. He explained that he always worked hard to acquire the best to enjoy on Shabbat, in honor of Shabbat.

Sponsors

*** *Mr. Chaim Allaham HaCohen, his wife Violet, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom Morris and Esther Shakalo, Mabrouk, Amen. *** *Mr. Aharon Hefes, his wife Sara, their parents, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Moshe Hefes, his wife Chana, their parents, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Dr. Nissim Bassoul, his wife Becky, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Rachamim Tawil from Eli HaCohen and his children.* Blessings, Refuah Shelemah, and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother *Pauline Bat Tira Esther a"h*, Amen. *** *Mrs. Gracie Bawabeh and her children: Soly, Eddie, and Arlet.* Blessings and success for the entire family,

Leilui Nishmat their father *Yaakov Ben Simcha a"h*, and Leilui Nishmat their brother *Rachamim Ben Bella a"h*, Amen. *** *Mrs. Olga Hafif and her children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father *Toufic Baruch Ben Mazal a"h*, Amen. *** *Blessed siblings: Faraj, David, Clod, Edmon, Janett, Rina, Esther, Gila, Syma, and Evon of the Nahum Family.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother *Ayala Gazalo Bat Rima 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 Shakalo family.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother *Touni Mazal Bat Rachel a"h*, Amen. *** *Mrs. Frieda Hasbani Rabi and her children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father *Nissim Sami Hasbani Ben Amilia 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 Arazi HaCohen Family.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat *Shelomo Arazi HaCohen a"h*, Amen. *** *Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to *Mr. Morris Kada and his wife Maro* for the bride and groom *Ouri and Rachel*, Mabrouk, Amen. *** *Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the grandfathers *Jack Hanono and Moshe Alhalabi* on the birth of their grandson *Moshe*, Mabrouk, Amen.

This week's sponsorship total is \$1000. Weekly cost of production and distribution total is \$1300. Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

Since we recently launched our newly designed website in April, we already have a total of **8,500** visitors, more than **800** in the past week alone!

* * * * *

www.BethYosef.com