

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
*Parashat **Lech Lecha***
13th Cheshvan 5781

Maqam Saba
Issue #911

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
*Haftarat **Lamah Tomar***
October 31st 2020

*Candle Lighting 5:36pm * Shekiah 5:54pm * Shir Hashirim 5:30pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 5:15pm * Shabbat Ends 6:34pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:04pm
Time for Talit 6:25am * Seasonal Hour 6:00 * Alot Hashahar 6:13am * Netz Hachama 7:26am
Weekday Minha 4:35pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:12pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:29pm * Chatzot 12:39
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:16am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:17am*

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Without any introductions for Avram, our Parasha begins with Hashem commanding him to leave his place of residence, where he resided since birth, and move on to another unknown location. Hashem told Avram: "Go from your land, from your birthplace, and from your father's house." Rashi explains: "For your own benefit, for your own good." It is now time that Hashem will make him into a great nation, for once he leaves, he will be able to merit having children. Furthermore, Hashem guaranteed Avram not only children, but also money and a good reputation. If the positive results were guaranteed to him in advance, what was the test to leave? Avram had traveled far and wide over the years, gathering followers in the faith of Hashem, and brought them home with him. He was the leader and teacher of myriads of converts. He was now being commanded to leave them all behind, without providing them any valid reason, and would be moving on to some unknown destination, seemingly throwing away all that he had worked so hard for all his life. The converts might, as a result of being abandoned, just decide to change their minds, and without spiritual guidance they may forget about Hashem altogether. Still, Avram did not question the commandment and listened to Hashem, passing the test. Avraham told Lot that if he would choose to go to the left then he would go right, but if he would choose to go to the right then he would go left. Simply put, this means they were parting ways. Where did Lot choose to go? He decided to dwell amongst the wicked people of Sedom. Avraham knew that

as long as Lot was in his company, Hashem's Presence would be limited. Avraham had been willing to sacrifice a lot in order to pass the tests that Hashem challenged him with, and he did not wish to lose out on advancing further in spirituality and closeness to Hashem just because Lot was in his company. In order to retain his level of prophecy, he had no choice but to ask Lot to take leave. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Hashem promised Avram that those who bless him will be blessed, while those who curse him will be cursed. While the blessings are written in the plural form (with a Yod), the curses are written in the singular form (without a Yod). The reason is as follows: when a person wishes to do something good, like bless a Jew, then Hashem joins him and considers it as if it is already done even before it is completed. Thus, Hashem's company warrants the plural form. However, if someone wishes to do something wrong, like curse a Jew, then Hashem distances from this individual, and the act is not considered complete unless actually executed. This is why the Pasuk writes it is singular form.

2 – The Pasuk states that he believed in Hashem and it was considered *Tzedaka*. *Tzedaka* here refers to a merit, which Avraham acquired as if he had fulfilled a Mitzvah. For just believing, Avraham benefited. This is the opposite of what transpired to Yaakov Avinu, who even after Hashem guaranteed to protect him, he nonetheless was concerned. Avraham,

however, trusted that Hashem would protect him, and therefore gained merit for his actions.

Rishon LeSion: R' Rephael Hazzan ztl 1741-1821
R' Rephael Hazzan was born in 1741 to R' Chaim Hazzan, the oldest son of R' Yosef Hazzan. When he was very young his father R' Chaim passed away, leaving him as an orphan. A wealthy man R' David Mordor had mercy on the young boy and adopted him as his son. His uncle Eliyahu Hazzan also helped. As a wise youth, R' Rephael spent his days and night studying Torah. At the young age of seventeen, he was already lecturing his insights on Torah to the public. Even before turning thirty years old, he was appointed as a judge on the court in Izmir Turkey. The Rabanim of Izmir, known for their scholarly achievements, valued his abilities and skills, and appointed him as a leader of a city. His reputation spread far and wide, and many questions in Halacha were directed to him from all over the land. The students of the Vilna Gaon, who learned in Galil in Israel, also sent their questions to him. The collection of responsa was published as a set of famous work known as "Chakre Lev" which became world-renowned.

History in Brief

23 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 91AD. Caesar Nerva favored the Jews. He gave them tax breaks and treated them fairly throughout his empire. He asked R' Yehoshua many questions to test his wisdom and was very happy with the results. The Caesar's daughter, however, commented to R' Yehoshua that it was unsuitable for such wisdom to be held within such an unappealing body. She was foolishly judging R' Yehoshua based on his appearance. R' Yehoshua asked her where her father stores his best wine, and upon hearing that the wine is stored in barrels, he exclaimed his surprise that such valuable liquid would be stored in such simple containers. Surely, it would be more appropriate for expensive liquids to be stored in gold and silver! She listened and switched her father's wine into gold and silver containers, whereupon a short while later they spoiled into vinegar. The Caesar asked R' Yehoshua how such a wise man can give such terrible advice, and R' Yehoshua explained that he was only

directing her to take her own advice regarding his appearance and apply it, to show her the error in her judgment, clearly a lesson well taught. Just as wine is best kept in a simple barrel, so too the Torah is best kept in a simple body. When the Rabanim returned from Rome, as Israel was in a state of peace under the rule of Emperor Nerva, the Sanhedrin relocated from the city Usha in Galil to Yavneh. Raban Gamliel established a Yeshiva in Lod. The wife of R' Eliezer, named Ima Shalom, was the sister of Raban Gamliel. After Raban Gamliel anathematized her husband, she worried that the prayers of her husband would bring a fatal blow to her brother. From that day onward, she prevented her husband from reciting supplications after the Amidah. One day, a poor person came to the door asking for bread, and while she was giving him something to eat, her husband recited the supplications after the Amidah. She rushed over to him asking him to stop, worried he would cause harm to her brother. Immediately a Shofar was heard in the distance, announcing the passing of Raban Gamliel, due to the power of R' Eliezer's prayers.

Health and Recovery

It is common for older people to fall and hurt themselves while getting out of bed in middle of the night. Why? Older people usually sleep in completely dark rooms, since they are not deep sleepers and the light will prevent them from sleeping deeper. Also, the older a person gets, the more frequent are his bathroom visits. Even with the light on, they take longer to reorient themselves upon waking and finding their footing on the ground. Even a slight obstacle easily avoided by a younger person can cause a serious fall to an elderly person. Therefore, it is important to place a small nightlight in their room and along the path towards the bathroom. Likewise, it is important to maintain cleanliness and make sure the walkways are completely clear and unobstructed by anything. Even the carpet should be in perfect condition. Tables and chairs should not have protruding legs. These precautions can help even during the daylight hours. Another reason why the elderly are more at risk of falling is due to their physical condition in terms of their blood pressure. Upon standing up, their blood pressure can suddenly drop from the movement.

Therefore, an elderly person must always look for support, and hold on to something while standing up or even sitting down. Another reason why the elderly are more at risk of falling is because they take different medications for different purposes, like high blood pressure or sugar, and the medicine, which lowers their blood pressure, can weaken them while performing even simple physical activities such as standing up or even sitting down.

Mussar: *Obligation of Man*

The purpose of creation is that man fulfills Hashem's commandments. Without purpose, life would be worthless. Without Mitzvot man is just like an animal. We recite in prayers that man is permitted over animal '*Ayin*', meaning that man has the ability to say '*no*' – *I do not wish to act in such a manner*. Man has the choice to decide between good and bad. One who does not properly take advantage of this choice is therefore categorized as an animal. Also, man is equipped with '*Ayin*' – the three Hebrew letters represent: *Amira* (*speech*) *Yedia* (*understanding*) and *Netina*, characteristics only given to man, but not to animals. Once man realizes his purpose, he must fulfill it truthfully with joy and happiness. One who realizes his goals and works hard to achieve them has great reason to rejoice and celebrate. Such happiness is the core of life and the foundation for success. Without happiness, holiness and even the understanding of Torah cannot enter man. Even when man is suffering painfully, he is obligated to recognize the good in his life and believe with great trust in Hashem that everything done is for the best and will occur in the proper place and time.

Story

The tradition of many Jews living in America has been for many years to spend the summer months in the mountains, enjoying the clean air, the open spaces, until Elul calls them back to the city life and the Shofar awakens their hearts. This is especially common amongst the Yeshivot, seminaries, students and teachers, Kollel and Bet Midrash, who take a break from the year of learning and spend time together in the country where they rejuvenate under relaxing conditions and continue their studies in a recreational

environment. R' Moshe, who we will only identify as R' Moshe, was a Maggid Shiur for many years in Yeshiva, and would travel with his students each year to the mountains for the summer, where he would continue teaching them for two months in peace and relaxation.

Two Halachot: *Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu*

1 – Everyone is obligated to set aside time to learn Torah every day, either before or after prayers. This scheduled time must be consistent, never skipped over, in order to fulfill the biblical commandment to learn Torah, both in the day and in the night hours. If one nonetheless will be busy with something very important, then he should at least learn a Pasuk or a Halacha. It is encouraged to recite Tehillim and learn Chok L'Yisrael every day.

2 – All are obligated to learn Torah: the rich, the poor, the injured, the healthy, the old, the young, the busy, the unlearned – all are obligated. If you cannot learn for whatever reason and instead appoint someone else to learn on your behalf, that is beneficial for you. If one is learning and needs to step out for a moment, he should make sure to close the Sefer and not leave it opened unattended.

Laws

1 – Do not include *Baruch Shehasimcha Bim'ono* in Birkat Hamazon of a Pidyon Haben, as this is only intended for a bride and groom.

2 – If the Pidyon will be performed close to Minha time, and the father is praying Minha with them, then some have the custom to recite Yehi Shem.

3 – If the Pidyon Seuda is held during Sukkot, then bread is eaten in the Sukkah. However, if the Seuda of a bride and groom is held during Sukkot, within the first seven days, there is leniency to have the Seuda indoors, if the situation in the Sukkah will be hard for the guests. This leniency is not for a Brit Milah or Pidyon Haben.

4 – To be obligated in Tefillin and Mitzvot at the age of Bar Mitzvah, one must count thirteen years from birth using the Hebrew calendar.

5 – If one cannot perform a Seudat Bar Mitzvah on the day of the Hebrew birthday, and must push off the Seuda to a later day, the boy must

nonetheless begin wearing Tefillin on either his birthday or starting from before his birthday.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Jack Aharon Farhi, his wife Tina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of **Esther**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Albir Mordechai Allaham HaCohen, his wife Louiza, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **their son-in-law Yitzchak and their daughter Berta** on the birth of **Miriam**, and Mazal Tov to **David Yosef Ishay and his family** on the **engagement of their son**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Hillel Tawil from Eli HaCohen, his wife Nina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Albert and Grace Farhi**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Shlomo Gal and his children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Minyan Minha "Kol Aharon" in New Jersey.** May Hashem bless and protect them, Amen. *** **Blessed Brothers: Moshe and Aharon Hasbani.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Nissim Ben Hisni a"h**, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Frieda a"h**, Leilui Nishmat their brother **Avraham Ben Rachel a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat their sister **Esther Bat Rachel a"h**, Amen. *** **The Janani Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Jack Yaakov Chaim Ben Sarah a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Joseph Alkada, his wife Viki, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah and longevity for his mother **Rachel Bat Latifah**, Amen. *** **Mr. Shlomo Cohen, his wife Gila, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui


Nishmat his mother **Kourjie Yaffa Bat Simha 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. *** **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. *** **Mr. Ovadia 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. *** **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. *** **Blessed siblings: Soly, Hillel, Arlett, and Sofia of the Bawabe Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yitzchak Zaki Ben Simcha a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Victor Maleh, his wife Shirley, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Yehuda Aslan Ben Jamila a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Sofi Shaya Mougrabi and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Avraham Ben Kouni a"h**, Amen

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1,500.
Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

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