

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**  
*Parashat Toledot*  
5<sup>th</sup> Kislev 5781

*Maqam Mahour*  
Issue #914

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**  
*Haftarat Masa Devar*  
November 21<sup>st</sup> 2020

*Candle Lighting 4:16pm \* Shekiah 4:34pm \* Shir Hashirim 4:10pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 4:00pm \* Shabbat Ends 5:15pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:45pm  
Time for Talit 5:48am \* Seasonal Hour 58:00 \* Alot Hashahar 5:40am \* Netz Hachama 6:50am  
Weekday Minha 4:15pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 4:02pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 5:10pm \* Chatzot 11:41  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:34am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:32am*

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

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This week, Parashat Toledot centers around portraying the magnificent and unique characteristics of our forefather Yitzchak. Not for naught was he titled the Olah Temimah, the pure and complete sacrificial offering, as his actions proved that he would move away from quarrels, unlike the other patriarchs. Avraham his father had pursued courageously after four mighty kings to rescue Lot, his nephew, from their hands. Conversely, Yitzchak shied away from strife while living in the land of the Philistines, and did not fight for his full rights regarding the wells he had dug and owned properly. Even in his own home Yitzchak did not demand a dominant and determining role. This is particularly evident in the great fact that Yitzchak lived all his life mistakenly believing his elder son Esav walked the line of his fathers, tithing everything, even straw and salt, and based on this mistake Yitzchak thought that Esav deserved the blessings from him before his death. At this point his wife Rivka, who appreciated the accurate virtues of her two sons, and knew the difference between the innocent man Yaakov and his brother Esav, the deceiver, made a decision in the household regarding who deserved the blessings, which affected the fate of the entire world until this day. Even after a great conflict seemed inevitable between the two boys, as Esav promised to kill his brother one day, Yitzchak was not the one holding court and taking vigorous measures to foil this plot, rather Rivka was the one to offer a plan for Yaakov to escape from Esav, to leave their home and settle with Lavan her brother. Yitzchak's innocence and purity has been used as a barrier and protection for our people of Israel throughout the generations. The blessings given

to Yaakov when he brought his father treats achieved outstanding enlightenment and protection for the people of Israel throughout the ages, and all of the abundance that we enjoy throughout the history of Israel was directly a result of Yitzchak's blessings in this week's Parasha. When the people of Israel are troubled and persecuted, when they appear to be in a slump, Yitzchak is the one recommended as our salvation, the one that steps up to beg for compassionate for his children. When Hashem tells Yitzchak that his children have sinned, Yitzchak is the one to respond: *Master of the Universe, are not my sons also your sons? If you can forgive them, that would be best, but if not, please take half and I will handle the other half!* Immediately Hashem takes pity on his sons and forgives them. From this we can learn that we must follow in the path of our fathers, learning kindness from Avraham, the study of Torah from Yaakov, and mercy and love for others, becoming the voice and healing for the offended, hearing their cries and helping lift them up once again. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **Insights on the Parasha**

**1** – Regarding Yaakov, it just says that he was a *man* of the tents, while by Esav it says that he was a *man* of trapping and also a *man* of the fields. Since Esav had a double personality, he acted righteously in front of his father, but then acted differently while in the fields and out in the world, he is therefore referred to as two people. Yaakov, however, had but one righteous and straight personality, and is therefore properly referred to as a *man* only once. (*Gaon Rav C. A. Shapira*)

2 – “Perhaps my father will touch me and I shall be as a mocker in his eyes” – *Rav Moshe from Kubrin* would explain this verse as a form of rebuke and Mussar: Perhaps my father in heaven will touch into my deeds and actions and see my lack of concentration and devotion when it comes to fulfilling His Commandments, such as prayers and learning.

### **Rishon LeSion: R’ Rephael Hazzan 1741-1821**

An honorable envoy of Sages was sent to Hebron to appoint R’ Hazzan as the next Rishon LeSion, however R’ Hazzan was not interested in the position. He had come to Hebron, a smaller quieter area, to live out the rest of his days in peace and tranquility, learning Torah, without the burdens of the public. Yerushalayim was the opposite setting, noisy and busy. To accept the position as Rishon LeSion would mean to disrupt his entire lifestyle. The weight of spiritual responsibility for the people would be too heavy for his aged shoulders. The Sages, however, did not give up. The honor of Yerushalayim depended on R’ Hazzan. Under his leadership, they would flourish exponentially in spirituality. After much cajoling and coercion, R’ Hazzan agreed to accept the position and move to Yerushalayim. When he arrived, the people of Yerushalayim made it a holiday, all work closed, all activities stopped, and men, women and children gathered to welcome the revered Sage R’ Rephael. He was a strong leader who upheld Halacha according to the letter of the law, and the people followed him unequivocally. After only a year serving as Rishon LeSion, he passed away at the age of eighty. He was buried next to his ancestors, may his merits protect us, Amen.

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

*23 years after the Temple’s destruction, in the year 91AD.* After Rabi Eliezer revealed that Rabi Akiva’s death would be harsher than all the others, Rabi Akiva’s limbs began to weaken, his bones began to shake, and his blood melted within. Rabi Akiva cried, “Rebbe, teach me Torah!” When Rabi Eliezer opened his mouth and began teaching Maaseh Merkavah, a fire descended from heaven and surrounded the two of them. The other Sages understood that they were not worthy of hearing these teachings, and

they left. They also learned the secrets of Shir Hashirim, and the eyes of Rabi Akiva shed tears. When the fire returned, and they swore not to use the Pesukim which would cause destruction to the world, Rabi Akiva left and returned to his colleagues. Rabi Eliezer then taught them as well and answered all their questions. Before Rabi Eliezer’s passing, he told them to prepare a seat for Rabban Yochanan Ben Zakai who would escort him to Olam Haba. The last question asked was whether the shoe of Yibum can contract impurity, and he answered that it is pure, while his soul left his body. Rabi Yehoshua then removed his Tefillin, and the Sages did Hatara, finally releasing him from the Herem excommunication that was established by Rabban Gamliel.

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

What is cartilage? We often hear about the importance of cartilage to protect our joint health. But what exactly is cartilage, and how does it keep our joints healthy? Cartilage is the main type of connective tissue seen throughout the body. It serves a variety of structural and functional purposes and exists in different types throughout our joints, bones, spine, lungs, ears and nose. Cartilage is a strong and smooth substance made up of “chondrocytes”, or specialized cartilage cells, that produce a matrix of collagen, proteoglycans (a special type of protein) and other non-collagenous proteins. These materials help cartilage attract water and give it its shape and specific properties. There are three main types of cartilage: elastic cartilage, fibrocartilage and hyaline cartilage. These types vary in their make-up of the substances listed above. Elastic cartilage is present in the ear, nose and parts of the lungs. It is a highly flexible formulation of cartilage. Fibrocartilage is found in the menisci of the knee and the discs of the spine. It is far less flexible than elastic cartilage. Hyaline cartilage is found at the ends of bones – lining the joints of the body – as well as the septum of the nose and part of the breathing tube. Hyaline, or articular, cartilage covers the ends of bones to create a low-friction environment and cushion at the joint surface. When cartilage in the joint is healthy, it effectively allows fluid bending/straightening motions and protects the

joint against weight-bearing stresses. If the cartilage begins to degenerate with age, or if it were to become damaged from an injury, the joint loses some of that protective cushion and exposes underlying bone ends. This damage can lead to excess stress of those areas of bone that are ill-equipped to handle strong forces. While cartilage is very beneficial to the body, it does have a drawback: it doesn't heal itself as well as most other tissues. The cartilage cells known as chondrocytes do not often replicate or repair themselves, which means damaged or injured cartilage will not likely heal well without medical intervention. Over the years, doctors have found some methods that can stimulate new cartilage growth. These techniques are usually used for articular cartilage on the joints. However, these approaches are still in the clinical trial stages and will take time and testing before new techniques emerge.

#### **Mussar: *Emunah***

Trust and belief in Hashem are both very important attributes to acquire. Without trust and faith, what will stop a person from sinning and doing wrong? What is the purpose of life altogether? Hashem's honor and glory fills the entire world, and He opens our eyes and mind to ideas and wisdom. A righteous person lives with trust that Hashem will take care of him and all of existence. It will then be easier to be careful with fulfilling His commandments and distancing from transgression, for you will believe and understand that an ear hears all, an eye sees all, and every action is recorded. According to the toil is the reward. The righteous will be rewarded accordingly and the sinners will face their consequences. Both the good and the bad are delivered from above. If someone or something is causing you trouble or an inconvenience, understand and believe that Hashem is sending that to you for a reason. Everything has a time, a purpose, and a reason. Do not waste your time flattering, hating, taking revenge, or holding grudges, for Hashem is the real source of what you will receive and have already received. Everything done to you is, in truth, for your own good and benefit. One must also believe the words of our Sages and Rabbanim, for their words are based on the Torah and are therefore

everlasting. Work on thinking that Hashem is actually before you and that you are in His presence always, for then Hashem will help you and bless your actions, Amen.

#### ***Story***

The guest, whose appearance seemed out of place in the Bet Midrash, had a question on the Gemara he was learning, so he approached R' Moshe for help. R' Moshe was more than happy to answer all his questions and help him understand the Gemara. Through this initial connection, they began talking, and sure enough he told over his story: The Baal Teshuvah many years ago decided to change his life around and leave behind his carefree lifestyle of wild pointless fun. He began learning about Mitzvot and spent time learning Torah. His heart sang with exuberance, thanking Hashem for the opportunity that he had not been given from his youth. Unfortunately, he began to feel sick and weak. His family sent him to doctors to be examined and diagnosed. After many tests and examinations by many different doctors each in their respective fields of medicine, it was understood that he was seriously sick. Unfortunately, no doctor, regardless of their advanced experience, could recommend a viable treatment. They all gave him only a short while longer to live and then he would leave this world. R' Moshe was shocked by this story. How could he be sitting here learning Torah in depth with concentration while his life hang in the balance? So many have a hard time learning when they have even a slight suspicion that they are sick, and many others can't learn with concentration when they have even a small headache. How can this young man be learning Torah in depth while facing inevitable death?

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

**1** – If, heaven forbid, a Sefer Torah falls to the floor, even in its casing, all who see it fall must fast. If it is too hard for an individual to fast, i.e. the elderly or the sick, then he should give to charity the amount of money his meals for the day would cost. One is prohibited to write mundane words in the block Ashureet script reserved for writing a Sefer Torah.

**2** – There are many different personalities: some are quick to anger, some hardly ever anger, some

are haughty and arrogant, some are modest and humble, some are full of desires, some are content and satisfied, some overeat, some eat very little, some are stingy, some are generous. The proper way to be is moderate and reasonably balanced in all areas of life.

#### **Laws**

**1** – If a baby boy is born on Friday about fifteen minutes after Shekiah, then the Milah is not performed on the following Shabbat, but rather on the following Sunday, since Ben Hashemashot could either be daytime or nighttime, and we cannot perform the Milah on Shabbat if we are not certain that it is definitely the eighth day.

**2** – A baby born through a caesarean delivery is circumcised on the eighth day as usual, however he may not be circumcised on Shabbat but rather the Milah is postponed to Sunday.

**3** – If there is a Milah performed that morning in the Shul, all Minyanim for Shahrit recite Yehi Shem, even after the Milah was already completed. If the seat of Eliyahu Hanavi is still in the Shul, then Yehi Shem is recited even Minha as well, since the holiness of the Milah remains in that spot throughout the day. If the Sandak, Mohel, or father of the newborn boy is in the Minyan, Yehi Shem is recited.

#### **Sponsors**

\*\*\* **Mr. Morris Abadi, his wife Miriam, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Subhie Gunejeh - thank you Hashem for all the goodness and blessings, with her children: Kasem, Shlomo, David, Marco, Shella, Sophie, and Evett.** Blessings and success for the entire family, may Hashem protect them and their entire family from the coronavirus, Amen. \*\*\* A young man who would like to marry a young woman of exemplary character, 23 years old, with a nice dowry/income, please contact Rabbi Aharon Farhi 646-552-3412 who will coordinate the Shidduch. \*\*\* **Mr. Edmon Saade, his wife Hayat, and their children.** Blessings and success


for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his sister **Touni Mazal Bat Shafika a”h** the wife of **Yosef Kassab 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. 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. \*\*\* **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.

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

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