

Congregation

◆◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Vayetze
12th Kislev 5781

Maqam Ajam
Issue #915

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Ve'Ami Telueim
November 28th 2020

*Candle Lighting 4:12pm * Shekiah 4:30pm * Shir Hashirim 4:05pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 3:55pm * Shabbat Ends 5:12pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:42pm
Time for Talit 5:53am * Seasonal Hour 57:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:50am * Netz Hachama 6:58am
Weekday Minha 4:15pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 3:58pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:07pm * Chatzot 11:44
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:40am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:36am*

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Parashat Vayetze continues discussing the life of Yaakov Avinu. If you analyze the general course of his life, in comparison with the lives of the other Avot, you will find the details to be very interesting. Avraham, a huge spiritual giant, lived a life of Torah and toiled as a distinguished educator. Yitzchak increased the glory of the Torah, guided in peace by Divine Providence. Conversely, we meet Yaakov, whose life was very complicated. Even while in his mother's womb, he struggled with his brother Esav. As he grew older, he was forced to run away from home and hide out in Haran, where his father-in-law the evil Lavan worked hard to continuously deceive him, even replacing his beloved bride Rachel with his older daughter Leah, who he had worked hard for, over the course of seven years. He had worked for nothing else during that time, and then even continued to work for another seven years more for her. He then encountered trouble within his family, between Yosef and his brothers. Nonetheless, Yaakov is called the chosen one amongst the Avot, our ancestors. He represents truth, as it says: *give truth to Yaakov*. He was chosen to establish the tribes of Israel, a nation named after him, as Hashem declared: do not read your name *Yaakov* anymore, but rather *Yisrael* shall be your name. Why is our nation called Bnei Yisrael? Because of the amount of pain, suffering, and trouble he lived through and endured, both at home and abroad,

throughout all his life. Our nation of Israel has lived and still lives in exile from generation to generation, starting from the Egyptian bondage of slave labor, to the time they received the Torah after the grief that lasted 210 years, and then enduring more suffering while traveling through the Sinai desert for 40 years. 40 more years of toil until finally meriting the land of Israel. The suffering and persecution then continued throughout thousands of years, throughout many generations, with the terrible Holocaust that killed 6 million Jews, until we finally succeeded in establishing the State of Israel. To this day, Israel is constantly busy with problems. Everything is but a *ladder set upon the earth, while the top of it reaches to the heavens*. From one end we are always standing on the ground and getting dirty, always prey, while our head reaches up towards the sky, as Israel is protected through divine guidance. Yaakov saw this in his dream, the ladder with angels going up and down, which symbolizes all the difficult vicissitudes of the nation of Israel, which is the essence of our nation, of Israel itself. We are actually the ones in control of Israel's destiny. It is up to us to prevent the problems, to control the rises and falls. Everything depends on our prayers, our learning, and our fulfillment of the Mitzvot. We are the ones that orchestrate our fate, all things that raise us up and protect us; it is all in our hands. May Hashem watch over us always, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – *Rav Nechemiah* explains that Yaakov took three stones. Why three? Symbolic of the three pillars that hold up the world: Torah, Avodah, and Chesed. Each of the three argued that it was the most important and therefore deserved that the righteous man's head should rest upon it. Hashem clarified that each is just as important as the other, and therefore all three became one – symbolic of the one religion of Judaism. (*Rav Fitzonovsky*)

2 – The Pasuk states: Reuven went out during 'Ketzir Chittim'. Whenever the Torah says 'Ketzir Chittim', it means the holiday of Shavuot, the holiday which we celebrate receiving the Torah. The Dudaim flowers given to his mother Leah during Shavuot were used to conceive his brother Yissachar who represents learning Torah. This fulfills the Pasuk in Shir Hashirim that states that Dudaim give off a pleasant smell, referring to the Torah. (*Chatam Sofer*)

Rishon LeSion: R' Yom Tov Danon 1742-1825

After R' Rephael Hazzan passed away in 1821, the Sages of Jerusalem looked to appoint R' Yom Tov Danon as the next Rishon LeSion. He was rich in Torah and Yirat Shamayim. The leaders of the generation considered him as their light through the exile, as their leader showing them the way. His character was perfect. He spent all his days writing Chiddushim commentaries on Torah and Talmud. He collected and stored all the pages of his writings, but, although he yearned for the day they would see the printing press in Italy, he could not make the hard, long, and dangerous journey. Instead, he guarded his writings and waited patiently. For decades, his writings piled up in his home. One day, as he was walking home from Bet Midrash, he noticed smoke in the distance. He ran home and tried to save his writings, but it was too late. Years and years of hard work, work that was never printed or published, was now lost forever, burnt to ashes. This happened years before he would serve as Rishon LeSion.

History in Brief

23 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 91AD. After the passing of Rabi Eliezer, Rabi Akiva tore his clothes in mourning, hit his

body, and wept. Rabi Yehoshua returned the Halacha to follow the opinion of Rabi Eliezer. The Sages eulogized his greatness. Rabi Akiva became the leader. He had been born in 1AD, the same year as *Yeshu*. His father was a *Ger Tzedek*, a complete convert, a descendant of Sisra. His mother was Yehudit. In the early years of his life, Rabi Akiva was far removed from Torah, but later he merited to have Torah repeated in his name. He learned Torah from his Rebbe Muvhak Rabi Eliezer Ben Horkenos. Until the age of forty Rabi Akiva had been a poverty stricken Am Haaretz, ignorant of any Torah knowledge. He then married Rachel the daughter of a very wealthy man named Kalba Savua. Eventually he became wealthy from a number of sources: 1- His father-in-law gave him half his wealth for excelling in Torah learning. 2- Once while walking along the shores, he found a golden ram. He brought it home, and when he found the owners, he returned it. The owner was so impressed by his honesty that he allowed Rabi Akiva to keep it.

Health and Recovery

Older folks should be mindful of stress and heavy weight on their legs and knees, either while carrying something heavy, or while walking quickly, or while going up and down the steps. Always hold onto the hand railing, or use an elevator, and avoid missteps and stumbles. Another important factor to regard for good health: sleep! Hashem saw all that he had created and *it was very good*. What was very good? Some say this refers to sleep, some say it refers to death. A day is 24 hours long. A person can spend a third of the day sleeping, which is eight hours. Older folks can make do with just six hours of sleep. The Rambam writes: The Pasuk states that *in all our ways we should have understanding*, meaning that while we eat, drink, sleep, work, pray, learn, we must always understand that we are serving Hashem. We are taking care of ourselves, sleeping and resting our body, so that we can be healthy and thereby serve Hashem the following day. Anything we do we should have in mind that it is all for the sake of heaven. If one's actions are LeShem Shamayim, then Hashem considers it as if you have fasted for twenty-four hours.

Mussar: Nervousness, Anxiety, Depression

These types of characteristics are so terrible that they bring about horrible consequences much worse than regular diseases. They can actually even cause serious diseases as well. These characteristics destroy one's life completely and make everything seem very bitter. Such a character brings upon himself feelings of tremendous discomfort. Under these influences, there is no difference between day and night; there is only pain. Everyone must work hard on their character in order to uproot every bit of these characteristics from their system. This will prove beneficial for both the spiritual and physical being as well. His health will miraculously start to improve. He will merit a long life of happiness and goodness. His life will seem *on-track*, for success in this world is given to those who are calm and patient. Everyone has problems and difficulties in life, especially when things do not seem to go as planned. What makes one person different than the next is the way he accepts the hardships and deals with them. If one has problems, with either his wife, his children, his business, or his health, these problems can potentially destroy you! However, one who has a little bit of logic should realize how important it is to be calm and patient, and never become nervous or angry. One should pause and speak to Hashem, asking Him for help and success. Tell Him your problems and form a healthy bond that will lead you to happiness. Be faithful and trusting in Hashem, and never get nervous and angry, especially over things that are anyway not worth the pain. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Story

The guest, who frequented 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. Unfortunately, he became very sick and weak. After many tests and examinations, it became clear that he was

seriously sick. It was so serious that no doctor could recommend a viable treatment. They all gave him only a short while longer to live and then he would leave this world. Most of his life he had wasted away without a second thought, but now that he started learning Torah and serving Hashem, he was finally enjoying life! The Torah was actually helping him survive, enabling him to forget his suffering, his worries, and escape his sickness through the sweetness of the Talmud. Every question, answer, insight, thought, and concept that he learned would assuage his ailments. As time moved forward and the weeks passed by, R' Moshe continued to see this young man frequenting the Bet Midrash, but his situation was quickly deteriorating. One day, R' Moshe noticed him walking very slowly, with a fallen face. He helped him into his usual spot and asked him what was the matter. The young man explained that he was feeling down. He had been having thoughts lately that were bothersome. Here he sat, for the past month, amongst scholars and righteous learned men, who understood the Halachot and were careful with observance and character.

Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu

1 – The proper path in life is to accustom oneself with being average and normal, to not desire pleasures that the body does not require, as the Pasuk says that *the righteous eats to satiate his soul*. Do not trouble yourself for fleeting and temporary pleasures, as the righteous is happy with having enough.

2 – Do not spend wastefully, but rather give money to charity and lend to those who need it. Do not be overly glorified, and do not be depressed either, rather be happy and satisfied in peace. Greet everyone with a pleasant face. One who is moderate, conservative, and lives a balanced life is wise and has great understanding.

Laws

1 – For a Bar Mitzvah boy who is exactly thirteen years old and a day, in other words it is his Hebrew birthday, and he is in Shul putting on Tefillin for the first time, the Shul recites Yehi Shem as he is like a groom. However, if he has already been putting on Tefillin before this date, then Yehi Shem is not recited.

2 – If a groom is in Shul on Shabbat morning and his relatives are receiving Aliyot in celebration of the newlywed, each should receive a short Aliyah of at least three Pesukim, and end on a good note, so that a new reading is done for each, instead of repeating Pesukim in multiple Aliyot. If there are too many Aliyot and repetition is necessary, then so be it, even initially. However, keep in mind not to cause any inconveniences for the congregation.

3 – A Bar Mitzvah boy should receive either the third or sixth Aliyah, rather than even Maftir. One who has a Yahrzeit should get either Mashlim or Maftir, but be careful not to cause disagreements over it.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Yosef Ishay, his wife Suzette, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Avraham and Rachel**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Rabbi Meyer Dagmi, his wife Frieda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **Moshe and Tikvah**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Aslan Zayat, his wife Frieda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the bride and groom **David and Amy**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Rabbi Avraham Sardar HaLevi, his wife Nina, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Victor Guindi Daknish HaCohen, his wife Nadia, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Nadia**, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Latifah Bat Adele a”h**, Amen. *** **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. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Rosalyn Bat Chava a”h**, Amen. *** **Shiur Rabbanit Esther Cohen and her students from Bet Knesset Shevet Achim.** Blessings and success for all their families, may Hashem bless them, Amen.

*This week’s sponsorship total is \$1100. Weekly total cost of production and distribution is \$1300.
Tizku L’Mitzvot, Amen!*

Since we launched our newly designed website in April 2020, there has been **24,400** visits!

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