

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Vayehi

18th Tevet 5781

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Maqam Hijaz Haftarat Vayikrevu Yemei

Issue #920

January 2nd 2021

*Candle Lighting 4:21pm * Shekiah 4:40pm * Shir Hashirim 4:10pm followed by Minha Friday Night Shahrarit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:05pm * Shabbat Ends 5:22pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:42pm*

*Time for Talit 6:14am * Seasonal Hour 55:00 * Alot Hashahar 6:14am * Netz Hachama 7:20am*

*Weekday Minha 4:25pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:08pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:17pm * Chatzot 12:00*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:59am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:54am*

Sponsored by: Mr. Yechezkel Cohen, his wife Bella, their son Toby, and their children.

They thank Hashem publicly for the recent miracle they experienced. They wish his mother

Mrs. Rosette Cohen health and longevity, and for his wife *Bella*, his Eshet Hayil.

May Hashem bless them all spiritually and physically, Amen.

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

As Yaakov Avinu blesses his children in turn before passing away, he begins with his first four oldest children, Reuven, Shimon, Levi, and Yehuda, who were all directly involved in the sale of Yosef to Egypt. Reuven had been the one to suggest that they throw him into the pit, intending to rescue him later on. Shimon and Levi suggested that they kill him outright. Yehuda was the one who suggested that they sell him to the Arabs. Yaakov now is blessing them according to their actions. Reuven had been quick to unjustifiably, and brazenly, switch Yaakov's bed, the place where the Shechinah rested, and therefore lost his double portion as the Bechor: the Kehunah and the Malchut. While he was quick in this regard, on the contrary he was slow to save Yosef. True, he wanted to stall, have Yosef thrown into the pit now, and later return to save him and bring him back to their father, but he did not act quick enough. Instead of saving Yosef, he had gone to do Teshuvah for the incident with his father's bed, which was neither the time nor the place to do so. Yosef was currently in a life-threatening situation, and Reuven now was not quick to act, as he had been quick in other circumstances. If someone is in danger of his life during Shabbat, you cannot say that it is Shabbat and therefore you cannot save him. The time to act is now. This is why Reuven lost his Bechor rights to Kehunah and Malchut. Shimon and Levi had murder on their minds,

and were categorized as such by Yaakov, as they had killed out Shechem unjustifiably, and then had intended to have Yosef killed as well. Yehuda, however, saved Yosef from death, and said that their hands should remain clean. He suggested having Yosef sold, removing him from any danger right away, and leaving the outcome up to Hashem. Yehuda therefore merited the Malchut. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Why did Yaakov say that Bnei Yisrael will bless their children to be like Ephraim and Menashe – were they greater than all the Avot and the Shevatim? Yaakov had mentioned that Ephraim and Menashe were born in Egypt, and were to him like Reuven and Shimon. Yaakov was testifying that even though they were born in exile amongst the Goyim, nonetheless they remained pure and righteous as his own sons Reuven and Shimon, who had been more sheltered. This quality, to remain separate from the Goyim during exile, is what we need to be blessed with in order to survive. Even though we get weaker through every generation, nonetheless, just as Ephraim and Menashe were as great and as holy as the previous generation of Reuven and Shimon, so too we should remain as great and as holy throughout the generations as the previous generations. Also, just as Ephraim and Menashe were raised in the

palace of the Pharaoh, in the lap of luxury, amongst the honored and esteemed, so too we should be blessed with honor, wealth, as well as the same high level of Yirat Shamayim, as Ephraim and Menashe, Amen.

History in Brief

35 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 101AD. Rebi Yishmael Ben Elisha established a Yeshiva for Talmidei Hachamim, known as the Tana Debe Rebi Yishmael in the Gemara. In his youth he was imprisoned by Rome, and was redeemed by Rebi Yehoshua for a large amount of money collected for his release. He was the student of Rebi Nechunia Ben Hakana, the colleague of Rebi Akiva, and established 13 rules used to expound and explain the Torah, as we recite every morning in Shaharit, i.e. Kal VaChomer, Gezera Shava, etc. He is famous for his sayings in the Gemara, such as: "there is no chronological order in the Torah", and "greet everyone with a kind face". Once, a person vowed not to marry his sister's daughter because she was unappealing to him. They brought her to Rebi Yishmael, who adorned her and made her look attractive. He then asked the uncle: is this the girl who you vowed not to marry? He answered that had he known that she could be adorned and made to look attractive he would not have made the vow. Rebi Yishmael therefore annulled the vow. Rebi Yishmael then cried over the Bnot Yisrael who were in truth attractive, but only appeared unappealing because of poverty. Amongst his celebrated students were: R' Meyer, R' Yonatan, R' YOSHAYA, and R' Ilai. He was one of the ten martyrs. Rebi Akiva would call him his brother. Once, they learned a Mishna that stated: One cannot learn during Shabbat Friday night by the light of an oil lamp, lest he need to intensify the flame quality and without thinking tip the lamp so that more oil moves towards the wick, thereby desecrating Shabbat. Rebi Yishmael considered this concern not to apply to himself, as he surely would never do such a thing, even unintentionally, during Shabbat. Unfortunately, he learned by the light of a lamp one Friday night, and had indeed mistakenly tipped the lamp. He praised the words of the Sages, and admitted his mistake on thinking it did not apply to him. He promised that

when the Bet Hamikdash would be rebuilt, he would bring a nice fat sin-offering as a sacrifice for desecrating Shabbat unintentionally.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Shlomo Moshe Suzin 1736-1836

In 1825, as R' Shlomo was returning home from one of his journeys, he found that the position of Rishon LeSion was vacant, as R' Yom Tov Danon had passed away that year, and the Rabbanim had not appointed a replacement yet. The people were overjoyed with the return of R' Shlomo Moshe, honored him greatly, and wished for his to fill the position as Rishon LeSion. In fact, he had assisted R' Yom Tov Algazi, who had served as Rishon LeSion before R' Yom Tov Danon. Unanimously appointed, he accepted the position and got to work, leading and guiding the people both spiritually and physically. He served as the Posek and judge of the city.

Health and Recovery

Good advice to protect from the cold weather: do not sit on metal or stone seats, as they lower the body temperature and damage the body in a way that will affect a person in his older years. Rather, sit on a seat cushion made of fabric and material. Some women use strong cleaning agents on the floor in order to make it clean and shine. However, use of such strong cleaning agents is terribly unhealthy to the body, and so such products should be used sparingly, preferably only once a year. Be careful to dress the children warmly every day, bundled up against the freezing cold outside. Parents must be actively aware of the outside temperature to make sure to dress their children accordingly in the morning, so that when they leave the house in the morning to go to school, they will not catch cold outside. This applies to older children as well, even teenagers, who likewise need their parents to make sure they dress warm and appropriately.

Mussar: The Days of the Shovevim

The days of Shovevim begin Monday January 4th and continue until Thursday February 11th. The word *Shovevim* is comprised of the initial letters of the six Parashiot included in these weeks: Shemot, Vaera, Bo, Beshalach, Yitro, Mishpatim. This time frame in essence requests from each

and every Jew to awaken from their slumber and produce a personal calculation. Ask yourself: What am I doing? What can I do better in order to serve Hashem and improve my spirituality and holiness? We must first fix the mistakes that we do constantly or frequently, and repent, for this is the proper time. *“Behold, the cries of Bnei Yisrael have come before Me.”* – our prayers must be voiced strongly during these days. The clear advice is to increase in Torah learning each day, whether with a study partner or by attending an extra Torah class. Torah has the power to bring repentance, *“Like storm winds upon vegetation”*. Some have the custom to fast every Monday and Thursday during this time period from Alot Hashachar until a half hour after Shekiah (this time fluctuates during the six weeks). One who wishes to fast must accept upon himself from Mincha of the previous day in *Shema Kolenu*, or at the end of the Amidah if he forgot: *“Behold I accept a Taanit upon myself for tomorrow, Beli Neder.”* This *Kabballah* (acceptance) enables you to say Anenu during the fast. If he did not make a Kaballah, he may not say Anenu, but still fasts. One must be careful with the following: (1) Do Teshuvah (2) Learn Torah (3) Recite Tehillim each day (4) Be careful with Netilat Yadayim (5) Feed the poor (6) Eat the correct amount of bread for blessings (7) Be careful with Birkat Hamazon and all Berachot (8) Answer Amen with concentration (9) Be careful not to talk during Chazara, Kaddish, and Sefer Torah, for it is compared to wasting seed (10) Concentrate during Keriat Shema and pronounce each word clearly (11) Dip in the Mikveh (12) Try to be a Sandak (13) Go up for an Aliyah and read with the reader (14) Say Berich Shemeh when taking out the Torah (15) Give charity each day (16) Be careful with Oneg Shabbat (17) Honor Torah and its learners (18) Pray with concentration and tears (19) Learn Mishnayot (20) Do Mitzvot properly (21) Be careful with Mayim Acharonim and say Birkat Hamazon without stalling (22) Be one of the first ten in Shul (23) Be careful with Tefillin (24) Look into the Torah when it is shown to the congregation (25) Work to make peace between friends and spouses (26) Train children to serve Hashem (27) Bring joy to the bride and groom (28) Guide others to repentance. (29) Complete 100 Berachot

each day (30) Distance from fights and problems (31) Don't speak Lashon Hara (32) Speak optimistically about our nation (33) Recite Keriat Shema before going to sleep (34) Be careful with Seudat Shelishit and Melave Malka. (35) These days help a person return to holiness if treated properly. Therefore, during these days, our responsibility is greater than all other days of the year. All souls can be repaired to the level it was at Har Sinai, during the acceptance of the Torah and the revelation of the Shechinah. Watch over these weeks and Shabbatot with holiness and purity, for they will be beneficial for you in return, and will erase all of our sins. May Hashem merit us, Amen.

Story

The author simply could not believe that the great conductor Toscillillo was able to comment on a recording heard through the telephone that the number of violinists in a certain symphony were lacking – there should have been fifteen in total, not fourteen. The author was shocked. How could he possibly have known that there were only fourteen violinists playing instead of fifteen, just by listening to the music over the telephone? Even if his skill was as sharp as ever, and his expertise was second to none, how could his ears, even being as fine-tuned as ever, be able to decipher whether there were fourteen or fifteen violinists playing? The author decided to find out for himself. He made many phone calls until he found the exact person who had conducted this piece and would be able to answer his questions. Indeed, the conductor confirmed that there was supposed to be fifteen violins playing, however, due to unavoidable last-minute circumstances, they lost one and had to proceed with only fourteen. When the author heard this, he ran over to the house of Toscillillo to tell him that he had confirmed what he suspected! But how was he able to tell the difference between fourteen and fifteen, over the telephone no less?

Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu

1 – Jealousy, desire, and honor remove a person from this world, and therefore a person must distance from these characteristics.

2 – However, a person must balance himself when it comes to benefiting from this world and

should not say that he will completely deprive himself of all enjoyment, vowing not to eat meat, drink wine, or dress nicely, for this is wrong and in fact a sinful approach. As we find, a Nazir who deprives himself of wine and grapes is required afterwards to offer a sacrifice for the sin of depriving himself from things that are not regularly forbidden.

Laws: Fasting

1 – “What leaves a person’s mouth is how a person should live”. This Pasuk teaches us that a person must recite the proper blessings before benefiting from food that will enter his mouth, for in the merit of reciting blessings a person will be blessed with longevity and health.

2 – If you are having guests who you know will not wash before eating bread, then it is best not to serve bread and only serve Mezonot.

3 – A restaurant, hotel, or inn that sells meals is allowed to provide bread, even to those who will not wash their hands, as one only needs to be concerned with providing bread if he is giving it away for free, as with a guest, unlike a paying customer.

4 – A son or daughter should try to teach his parents to recite the proper blessings on food if they are not religious in this practice, and should do so respectfully and with sensitivity. If they still won’t listen and recite the proper blessings, then the children can nonetheless provide food for them, but they should not give up, and should continue working on them, for one day they may change their minds and start reciting blessings on their food.

Sponsors

*** **Mrs. Miriam Abadi, her husband Morris, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Yitzchak Ben Miriam 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. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for his sister **Rachel Bat Latifa**, Amen. *** **Mr. Avraham Aharon Farhi, his wife Rania, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Mr. Albir Zaafrani Ben Rina**, Amen.

This week’s sponsorship total is \$1,350.


Weekly cost total is \$1,300

Tizku L’Mitzvot, Amen!

Since we launched our newly designed website in April 2020, there has been **27,900** visits!

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