

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Bo

10th Shevat 5781

Maqam Siga

Issue #923

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Hadavar Asher

January 23rd 2021

*Candle Lighting 4:43pm * Shekiah 5:01pm * Shir Hashirim 4:40pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:25pm * Shabbat Ends 5:45pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:15pm
Time for Talit 6:15am * Seasonal Hour 58:00 * Alot Hashahar 6:03am * Netz Hachama 7:12am
Weekday Minha 4:25pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:27pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:40pm * Chatzot 12:07
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:57am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:55am*

Tu B'Shvat will begin Wednesday night January 27th

Shovevim Fasting: Thursday January 21st fast starts 6:04am and ends 5:25pm

Monday January 25th fast starts 6:01am and ends 5:30pm

Sunday January 24th starting 9:00am will be a Ta'anit Dibur in Beth Yosef

Those who wish to speak with R' Farhi can call (646) 512-3412

Those who wish to sponsor can mail their donation to:

Vaad Tehilim Torah c/o R' A. Farhi

2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

As Bnei Yisrael were leaving Egypt, *the dogs held their tongue and did not bark*. The Pasuk teaches us this in order to differentiate between the Jews and the Egyptians. But, didn't the Torah already show enough differentiation through each and every one of the ten plagues? If the great wonders and open miracles were not enough, will the dogs' willingness to hold their tongues now be the clear indication that Bnei Yisrael are set apart from the Egyptians, and beloved before Hashem? Also, why does the Pasuk use future tense, 'so that Bnei Yisrael will know', and not present tense? Shouldn't it be teaching that Hashem wishes for Bnei Yisrael to know at *that* time, present tense, and not just that they will know, future tense? Let us explain: the purpose of the ten plagues was to exact vengeance against the Egyptians for their cruelty, for time and again torturing the Jewish nation who were under their reign of terror. However, throughout the ten plagues, there was no indication that Bnei Yisrael were specifically set apart and respected uniquely as when they were leaving Egypt and the dogs unnaturally held their tongues. This demonstrated that they were beloved before Hashem, even though in Egypt they had fallen prey to the idolatry that Egypt had worshipped, and had been steep and deep in the many levels of impurity.

If Bnei Yisrael rivaled in the wickedness of the Egyptian worship, how then could it have been that Hashem held them so beloved? This is something that one could have wondered and questioned, had it not been for the fact that Hashem gave them a clear indication of His love and affection, when the dogs unnaturally held their tongues as they were redeemed. They were the sons of Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov, and they were beloved simply because of the fact that they were the chosen nation. That night, while great screams rang out from all the Egyptian households, the dogs held their tongues, they did not bark as would have been usual and expected. Barking and growling would in the least have decreased the great happiness the nation was enjoying upon finally leaving Egypt after hundreds of years. Hashem's miracle to change the nature of the dog on that night, that not even one dog acted naturally, therefore provided a clear sign that Hashem loves Bnei Yisrael, not only during that time, but throughout all generations. This is why the Pasuk speaks in future tense, as the miracle indicated an important lesson not just for those specifically present, but rather for all future Jewish souls yet to be born as well. Hashem's love for us continues on forever more. May Hashem watch over us, Amen. (*Ktav Sofer*)

Insights on the Parasha

1 – So that you will tell your son and your son's son. Why was the eighth plague of locusts different from any other plague? The Pasuk says, “*It rested in the entire border of Egypt*” which could be understood that the locusts *rested* on Shabbat, a phenomenon to relate for generations. It then says, “*the land was darkened*” indicating the conclusion of Shabbat, followed by “*it ate all the grass*” as the locusts then got back to work, the plague, after resting through Shabbat. (*Hadarah Shel Torah*)

2 – Hashem turned back a very powerful west wind and it carried the locust-swarm and hurled it toward the Sea of Reeds; not a single locust remained. Why when Hashem brought the locusts does the Pasuk say that Hashem *guided* an east wind, a *regular* east wind, not a very powerful wind, but when Hashem removed the locusts was it necessary to use a *very powerful* west wind? When the locusts were brought in, they had wanted to come to Egypt to eat the grass, the fruits, and help exact vengeance against the Egyptians, so only a regular east wind was required, as they came happily and willingly. However, when they were being removed, they did not want to leave and would have been much happier to rather just stay put in Egypt, therefore a very powerful west wind was necessary in order to remove them from the land. A person should consider the following: if locusts, which were not created to perform Mitzvot, were to be treated as such, how much more so should a Jewish person, born to perform Mitzvot, be willing to do the will of his Creator, as with a very powerful force of wind. (*LeMa'an Shemo Be'ahava*)

History in Brief

50 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 118AD. Rebi Akiva, when praying with the people, would shorten his prayers, so as not to burden the public with waiting for him. However, when he prayed alone, he would start in one corner of the room and somehow find himself much later in another corner of the room, due to his intense levels of concentration and depth of thoughts in prayers. There was a story about his Rebbe, Rebi Eliezer, who went before the congregation to pray on their behalf for rain, but he was not answered. Rebi Akiva then went before the people and prayed to Hashem, “*Our Father, our King, there is no other king besides you, please have mercy on us*”. Immediately it started raining. When the Sages began saying that Rebi Akiva was greater than his

Rebbe, Rebi Eliezer, a heavenly voice rang out and declared that it was not a matter of greatness, but rather a matter of who was exceptional when it came to being forgiving and easygoing. When they noticed how effective the *Avinu Malkenu* prayer had been, they added many lines to it and began reciting it during the ten days of repentance. Rebi Akiva had sons and daughters. Once, when his son married a wife, the next day Rebi Akiva asked him if he had *found* a wife “*Matza*” or “*Motza*” – both words each referring to a different Pasuk, *Matza* from the Pasuk that depicts a good wife, and *Motza* from the Pasuk that depicts a wife who is more bitter than death.

Rishon LeSion: R' Yonah Navon 1765-1841

The grandfather of R' Yonah Navon, author of the *Sefer Nechpah Bakesef*, was a great Sage in Jerusalem. He was the Rebbe of the holy Rav HaChida, who writes that his Rebbe was one of a kind in his time, a Chassid and Mekubal, who from the young age of six was already advanced in his Talmud learning like a thoroughly learned scholar. At the age of seventeen he was on the same levels as those who were leading the generation. All his life he learned Torah with great sacrifice and in poverty. He passed away at the young age of only forty-seven. His grandson was born in his merit, named after him as R' Yonah Moshe Navon, in 1765, five years after the passing of his grandfather in 1760. At the age of 72, he was appointed as Rishon LeSion in 1837, but served for only four years before his passing in 1841. An American priest, in his travels, had reached as far as Egypt, and so he ventured onwards to Jerusalem. He had heard so much about the life of those Jews living in Jerusalem, and he wanted to see it for himself. When he first reached Chevron, he got to know a small congregation that generously provided room and board to those guests in the area that were in need. The priest enjoyed their hospitality, not revealing his identity. If such was their character, he was now curious to meet their leader, the Rabbi and teacher of the people. When he asked who their leader was, they said that R' Yonah Navon was their wise Rishon LeSion in Jerusalem.

Health and Recovery

Calcium is very important for the building and health of the bones, the teeth, and the overall muscles throughout the body. Through Hashem's mercy, much of the food we eat provides calcium, so that we are not lacking in this important

nutritional value. If you eat properly and healthy, you will not be lacking in necessary vitamins and nutritional value. Through Hashem's kindness, we enjoy such a grand variety today of healthy food, available in all corners of the world. Vitamin D is not as available through foods as much as we need, however Hashem made the sun have the ability to provide us with Vitamin D, which then enables our bodies to properly make the most of the calcium we ingest. As the building of our bones depends on calcium, the Vitamin D helps us soak in the calcium into our bloodstream. If a person makes sure to have enough Vitamin D from a young age, then he has the best chance to have stronger and healthier bones as he advances in age.

Mussar: Ta'anit Dibur (Tikkun Shovevim)

This Sunday January 24th we will be conducting a day of Ta'anit Dibur in our Bet Knesset Beth Yosef starting at 9:00am – the goal is to complete Sefer Tehillim three times consecutively, without speaking any other words all day. One who fulfills this goal will be rewarded greatly from heaven, and he will gain atonement for the following sins: 1 – For interrupting Torah learning with unimportant words. 2 – Speaking during Shabbat as if it were a weekday. 3 – Speaking in Shul, especially during Kaddish, Chazara, and Sefer Torah. 4 – Lashon Hara. 5 – Lies, cynical speech, flattery, and profanity. 6 – Speaking openly about private family purity matters. Also, one gains the following: 7 – Tehillim reading creates a pleasant spirit before the Heavenly Throne. 8 – It awakens a time of mercy and acceptance for our nation. 9 – Hashem cleanses us from the above-mentioned sins to the point that we are considered like new creations, clean of sin, like a bride and groom who are clean of sin when they get married. 10 – Hashem will send Refuah for the sick. 11 – Hashem will distance evil decrees from us. 12 – Hashem protects us from the Evil Eye. 13 – The gates of Parnassah will open before us. 14 – We will not leave this world before our time. 15 – Enemies and plunderers will be distanced from us. 16 – A woman will not heaven forbid experience a miscarriage, and the child and mother will survive the birth healthy and strong. 17 – The merit of King David a"h will protect us and he will pray for us. Altogether, we will enjoy these seventeen rewards for performing the Ta'anit Dibur – 17 is the numerical value of Tov – good. Therefore, we must all join in this special Mitzvah, may Hashem merit us and send Mashiach, Amen.

Story

The poor Jewish water carrier, who would spend most of his days providing water to those who paid him for his services, would recite the complete Sefer Tehillim in Shul each day. One day, as he left the Bet Midrash, he noticed something different on this regular weekday. Men, women, and children were all out and about, dressed in their best Shabbat clothing, all on their way somewhere specific. He watched as the roads filled with people dressed in fine clothing, directed by the Shamash. What was so special about that ordinary weekday? He asked one of the people passing by. He was first ridiculed for being so oblivious to anything besides drawing water and reading Tehillim, but was then informed that the wealthy man of the city had declared that day a special holiday, a cause for great celebration, over the completion of his Sefer Torah. This Sefer Torah was not ordinary; many previous generations had never seen such a beautiful Sefer Torah, written so well. The party was sure to be one that would be very enjoyable for all, in honor of this masterpiece of a Sefer Torah.

Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu

1 – A person should live in a neighborhood of righteous good people, and should not live in a neighborhood with crooked and dishonest people. It is a positive biblical commandment to cling to Torah scholars.
2 – A person should marry the daughter of a Torah scholar, and marry off his children to the children of a Torah scholar. A person should eat and drink with Torah scholars, spend time with them as much as possible, and help provide for their needs, whether with clothing, food, drink, or otherwise.

Laws: Tu B'Shvat

1 – Some donate the number 91 to charity, the numerical value of the word 'Ilan' (tree) and of the word 'Amen'.
2 – Some place on the table 12 types of fruits, corresponding to the 12 tribes of our nation. Some place 15, related to that day of the month. Some set up 30 different types. The more types included the better, for we wish blessings this year on all fruits.
3 – The 15th of Shevat is the New Year of trees. We are forbidden to fast, and Yehi Shem is recited.
4 – Fruits that may have worms (i.e. figs, dates...) must be inspected before consumption. One who eats a worm or bug has sinned greatly, transgressing five negative commandments. Their soul is soiled,

and their heart is blemished. Such conditions decrease a person's ability to serve Hashem.

5 – Reciting 'Peri Haetz' once is enough for all types of fruits, whether currently in front of him or in his thoughts and later brought. Another blessing need not be said. This applies to all blessings.

6 – 'Hamotzi' takes precedence over all other blessings. Without bread, the next in line is 'Mezonot'. After 'Mezonot' comes 'Peri Haetz' – first upon olives, dates, grapes, figs, and pomegranates, then upon all others grown from trees. After this, 'Haadamah' is recited upon all other fruits and vegetables. Then, all things under the 'Shehakol' category are blessed. This is the order of precedence.

7 – This order applies only when both are set before you and are desired by you. However, if one is not present, then waiting is not necessary and the order does not take effect. Within a category, those you like better gain precedence.

8 – Lechatechilah, one should not bring fruits after Birkat Hamazon in order to make 'Beracha Acharona', for you are causing a Beracha that is not necessary, and some are strict with this matter. Heed their words. If you did so by chance and did not plan it out, i.e. you forgot, you can eat them. (However, one may bring fruits after Birkat Hamazon during Shabbat in order to add to the required daily hundred blessings one is responsible to recite.)

Sponsors

*** *Mr. Eli Chaim Alhalabi, his wife Evon, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their son *Rafi and his wife Madelyn* on the birth of their son and his Pidyon, Mabrouk, Amen. *** *Mr. Victor Kabariti, his wife Lillian, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Moshe Ezra Zafrani, his wife Rita, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the Bar Mitzvah of *Yitzchak Sardar HaLevi*, Mabrouk, Amen. *** The young man *Joey Farah Hamra, his parents, and his siblings.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his grandfather *Yosef Ben Nahlie a"h*, and Leilui Nishmat his aunt *Rachel Bat Latifah a"h*, Amen. *** *Minyan Minha Kahal "Bet Aharon" in*

NJ. May Hashem bless them with success in all their endeavors, Amen. *** *Mr. Shlomo Albkadi, his wife Linda, their parents, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat grandfather *Yosef Ben Nahlie a"h*, and Leilui Nishmat aunt *Rachel Bat Latifah a"h*, Amen. *** *Mrs. Tina Farhi, her husband Jack, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father *Yosef Ben Regina 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. *** *Askan Tzibur 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. *** *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. *** *The Janani Family.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat *Jack Yaakov Chaim Ben Sara a"h*, Amen.

This week's sponsorship total is \$1,050.

Weekly cost total is \$1,300

Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

Since we launched our newly designed website in April 2020, there has been **30,200** visits!

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