

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat **Mishpatim** (Shekalim)*

1<sup>st</sup> Adar 5781

*Maqam Saba*

Issue #926

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat **Vayichrot Yehoyada***

February 13<sup>th</sup> 2021

*Candle Lighting 5:09pm \* Shekiah 5:27pm \* Shir Hashirim 5:05pm followed by Mincha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Mincha Shabbat 4:50pm \* Shabbat Ends 6:10pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:40pm*

*Time for Talit 5:50am \* Seasonal Hour 62:00 \* Alot Hashahar 5:38am \* Netz Hachama 6:52am*

*Weekday Mincha 5:20pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 4:48pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 6:05pm \* Chatzot 12:10*

*Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:46am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:48am*

**Friday February 12<sup>th</sup> and Shabbat February 13<sup>th</sup> will be Rosh Hodesh Adar**

*Last of the Shovevim Fasting: Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup> fast starts 5:43am and ends 5:51pm*

*Those who wish to contact R' Farhi can call (646) 512-3412*

*To sponsor, please mail your 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

Our Sages of blessed memory teach us: There are three things not decided on merit; rather they depend on Mazal: children, longevity, and livelihood. Hashem promises us in this week's Parasha that if we serve Hashem properly, then Hashem will bless us with bread by providing us with a comfortable livelihood, He will make sure we are not barren by blessing us with children, and He will fulfill our days by granting us longevity. These three important blessings, livelihood, continuity, and longevity, usually fluctuate between people based on their personal Mazal. If so, how does the Pasuk promise us these blessings? Bnei Yisrael are above the normal parameters of Mazal, meaning that even if their Mazal is to be poor, barren, and heaven forbid to live a shortened life, nonetheless Hashem promises that we can break that Mazal and achieve success in those areas by serving Hashem, referring here specifically to the service of praying with the congregation. Praying in Shul with a Minyan can overpower Mazal! Our ancestors, Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov, through prayers, were able to have children even though the Mazal was not in their favor. This is the outstanding power of prayer! The Pasuk states: *You will serve Hashem, and He will bless your bread, your water, and remove sickness from amongst you.* The Pasuk first begins speaking in plural, *you will serve Hashem*, but then switches to singular, *your bread, your water* (– this, of course, is only noticeable when written in Hebrew). Every morning, while many people pray in Shul with a Minyan, many others pray at home. One who prays at home loses out on so many things: Amen, Kaddish, Kedushah, Barechu, Chazarah, Cohanim, Sefer Torah,

etc. Shul is considered as a mini Mikdash. One who prays at home speaks to Hashem on average only a quarter of the time he would have done in Shul. The merit and reward for praying in Shul begins from when he steps out of his house, continues through every step he takes, until he returns home. Throughout this entire time he is considered to be serving Hashem. When one prays alone, he requires a lot more concentration, fear and awe, in order for his prayers to be accepted. However, when one prays with a Minyan, even though he may be lacking concentration and meaning, his praying will still be accepted. Let us return to the Pasuk: Each and every one of us ask Hashem for bread and water, for a livelihood. Each and every one of us ask Hashem for protection from sicknesses, for health and strength. We ask personally, for ourselves and for our family. How will we be able to attain and merit these blessings, which are *singular* in nature, as they are requests for ourselves? Only if we serve Hashem in *plural* form, with a Minyan, praying together and each beseeching Hashem for mercy and kindness *together* as one. Together we can achieve great heights. If one prays for livelihood while the other prays for health, if they are praying together in a Minyan, then they will *both* be answered for livelihood and health, even though each only prayed for one of the two! We are all connected and responsible for each other, as our actions have a direct effect on each other. We all benefit from the goodness of one another, and gain Hashem's salvation, mercy, and kindness through unity and friendship. If we pray together in Shul with a Minyan, pray for the well-being of one another, then we will certainly once

again be a powerful nation. Now, each prayer is different, and nobody is the same. Hashem knows what is in your heart; He knows your intentions and actions. Some live near the Shul and some live far away. Some come on time and some come late. Some attend even through rain, snow, and hail, while others decide to pass up on the opportunity for the simplest of reasons. Hashem knows, Hashem understands, and Hashem rewards accordingly. Nothing goes unnoticed or uncalculated! Therefore, apply the sincere effort, do not speak in Shul at all, and make a serious difference to your Mazal and your life. Accept the blessings that Hashem wishes to shower you with – by going to Shul and praying with a Minyan. Concentrate on the meaning of the words, let your soul absorb the holiness, and ascend to great heights. If the prayers will not be completely effective, they will at the very least be partially effective. With work and effort everything can improve and you can be spiritually successful. Hashem desires our prayers, and wants to hear us talk to Him every day! May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **Insights on the Parasha**

**1** – The Pasuk says: *The Nasi (chieftain) among your people you should not curse.* Even if you are the Nasi, the leader, you must be careful not to curse others. In the merit of not cursing others, you will be blessed with what the following Pesukim speak about: having produce that can then be properly tithed. *You shall give Me the first-born among your sons. You shall do the same with your cattle and your flocks.*

**2** – *If the thief is not caught, then the owner of the house shall depose before Hashem that he has not laid hands on the other's property.* Rabbi Meir of Premishlan (1703-1773), a disciple of the Baal Shem Tov and a descendant of Hillel the Elder, explains: How can a simple Jew, who is not learned or a Chassid, draw closer to Hashem? *If he has not laid hands on the other's property.* If one is careful not to wrongfully use another's possessions, and be completely clean of any form of theft, then he will be able to draw closer to Hashem.

### **History in Brief**

*50 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 118AD.* While Rabbi Akiva taught and developed thousands of students, he was keen to direct his family first and foremost. The Sages taught: Rabbi Akiva commanded Rabbi Yehoshua, his son, about seven matters: 1- My son, do not sit at the high point of a city, where many people pass, and study there, as the passersby will interrupt your learning. 2- Do not live in a city whose leaders are Torah scholars, as they are too busy studying to govern properly. 3- Do not enter

your house suddenly, without knocking first, out of concern for modesty. All the more so do not enter the house of another, as he might not be ready to receive you. 4- Do not withhold shoes from your feet, as it is disgraceful to go barefoot. 5- Wake up in the morning and eat, in the summer due to the heat, as it is best to eat before it grows hot, and in the winter due to the strength you will need to tolerate the cold. 6- Make your Shabbat like a weekday and do not be beholden to other beings. 7- Exert yourself to join together with a person upon whom the hour smiles, i.e., a successful person. It once happened that Rabbi Akiva was passing through a cemetery, and he came upon a man who was black as coal, and was carrying a great burden of wood that he was collecting. Rabbi Akiva initially thought that the man was alive. Rabbi Akiva commanded him to stop, and said to him: "Why are you doing this difficult work?" The man said to him: "I am dead, and every day I am sent out to collect wood." Observing the dead man's charred appearance, Rabbi Akiva concludes that the wood is being used to burn the man for his sins. Rabbi Akiva said to him: "My son, what was your profession in the world?" The man explains: "I was a tax collector and I would favor the rich, allowing them to bribe me, while overburdening the poor. Also, there is not a single sin that I did not commit." Rabbi Akiva asked him: "Haven't you heard anything from those appointed to punish you about how you might be relieved?" The man answers: "I did hear of one possibility: If only I had a son who would stand in front of the congregation and recite Kaddish to which they will answer *Yehe sheme rabah mevorakh* (may His great name be blessed) then I would be immediately released from this punishment." *Yehe sheme rabah*, of course, is the central line of the *Kaddish*, and Akiva immediately sets out to locate the man's still-living son, and to urge him to lead the congregation in the prayer.

### **Health and Recovery**

Low bone density can be hereditary. If one parent has low bone density, chances are the child may also, and should take extra care from a younger age. Therefore, get tested at ages 40, 45, 50, and make sure you supplement your diet with vitamin D. Drink plenty of water often daily to flush out the toxins from the system. Eat healthy meals, with fruits, vegetables and grains, and distance from damaging and harmful products. Exercise, or at least walk, at minimum thirty minutes daily, to keep the body in optimal performance. What is vitamin D? Vitamin D promotes calcium absorption in the gut and maintains adequate serum calcium and phosphate concentrations to enable normal bone mineralization. Without sufficient vitamin D, bones can become thin, brittle, or

misshapen. Together with calcium, vitamin D also helps protect older adults from osteoporosis. Vitamin D has other roles in the body, including reduction of inflammation as well as modulation of such processes as cell growth, neuromuscular and immune function, and glucose metabolism.

#### **Mussar: Worry**

Worrying is a terrible attribute which is noticeable immediately upon the face. It is considered degrading by all and isn't found amongst people who trust in Hashem. It destroys one's heart and causes many sicknesses. One who chases after worldly pleasures and does not succeed adopts worries and tense feelings upon himself. So much pain for naught! One who worries distances himself from Torah, Mitzvot, and prayers. The only true worries are those felt for sins committed. Such worries are to be felt only for having rebelled against Hashem the Creator of all, and for lacking consideration for all the good He does for you. The soul, which grieves over sins, will then be granted solace and mercy from Hashem. Even the righteous worry that perhaps their actions are not up to par. If a famine presents itself, disease, sickness, war, or any other problem, worry that it may have been your sins or lack of proper actions that caused it to come. If a person is successful, he should worry that perhaps he is being rewarded on this world for his Mitzvot and losing out from the next world. If you are honored, do not be overly joyous; rather worry that your honor may be your reward. Worry likewise for your friend and his problems. If one's relatives passed on, share his sorrow and feel his pain. Your tears are valued by Hashem to save them from their hard times. Also, Hashem counts those tears and saves them for later, so that if a moment arises that warrants you necessary to endure a hardship, Hashem considers it as if you already 'paid the bill' when you were pained for others. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

#### **Rishon LeSion: R' Yehuda Navon 1770-1845**

After R' Yonah Navon passed away in 1841, the Sages of Jerusalem turned to his relative R' Yehuda Navon and asked him to serve as Rishon LeSion, to which he agreed, and served for four years as well until his passing in 1845. His house was always open and available to Torah scholars and students who frequented with words of Torah, as well as leaders and Askanim who sought his wise advice. Even though his duties kept him very busy, he always had an open ear for the poor and needy who came to his door. They would pour out their hearts while he opened his ears and gave what he could from his pockets. He served as the Rosh Yeshiva of Bet Aharon. The best students would come to this Yeshiva to learn Torah and hear

his classes which were deep and sharp. He authored the Sefer "Degel Machane Ephraim" which was a commentary on Sefer "Machane Ephraim" authored by his grandfather R' Ephraim Navon.

#### **Story**

Reuven, the poor water carrier, attended the grand banquet celebration at the home of Shimon the wealthy man, in honor of the beautiful new Sefer Torah that had just been completed. After sitting patiently through many speeches in praise of the Sefer Torah and the wealthy man, his hunger really started intensifying. Words were not spared, yet the food was still not served after an extended period of time. How much longer will all these speeches take? What should he do? How much longer can he last with this hunger? Finally, the speeches ended and everyone gave their attention to the bread and the many delicious dishes served for the event. Suddenly, before anyone had a chance to eat anything, everyone returned to their seats and sat once again, waiting to listen. Another important person had just arrived and wanted to share a few words with the assembled crowd in honor of the occasion. This has gone on far enough, thought Reuven. He needed to eat something! Who would see him, all the way in the far back of the room? He quietly went over to the sink, washed his hands, thinking to return quickly to his seat and just have a piece of the bread on his plate. Suddenly he shook as a voice rang out. "Fool! Are you not embarrassed to wash before all these great men in this room? You think just because you read the entire Tehillim every day that you are more special than everyone else? You simpleton!"

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

- 1 – It is best before praying to accept upon yourself the commandment to 'love another as yourself'. If others are in trouble and in need of help, pray for them, so that your prayers might help them and bear fruit.
- 2 – One is prohibited from asking heaven to judge another who has wronged him. One who cries out to heaven to pass judgment on another so that he should be punished will actually be judged and punished first.

#### **Laws:**

- 1 – If one is unsure if he already recited Birkat Hamazon, he should recite it again out of doubt if he is still feeling satiated, as it is a positive biblical commandment.
- 2 – However, if one is unsure whether he recited a blessing on food, whether before or after, he should not recite it out of doubt, since such blessings are only a rabbinical commandment, and when in doubt for

blessings we are lenient. He can even continue eating what is before him as well.

**3** – One who is eating from the seven species that Israel is praised for, which require a Beracha Acharona, such as: Mezonot made from wheat or barley flour, olives, grapes, dates, figs, pomegranates, and wine. For all these we recite Birkat Me'ein Shalosh if 30 grams were eaten, a Kezayit, or if one drank 86 grams of wine. If one is in doubt whether he recited Me'ein Shalosh afterwards, he does not recite it out of doubt. One can be strict and eat another Kezayit in order to once again be obligated to recite Me'ein Shalosh afterwards, and will be blessed, as some hold that Me'ein Shalosh is a biblical commandment.

#### *Sponsors*

\*\*\* **Mr. Elias Levy, his wife Bella, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, a special thank you to **Rabbi Yosef Asse** for helping impoverished families in need, May Hashem bless them, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Elias Levy, his wife Bella, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, a special thank you to **Mr. Morris Bawabe** for helping Vaad Tehillim, May Hashem bless them, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Victor Maleh, his wife Shirley, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of a grandson **Rachamim**, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* **Blessed siblings: Dibo, Mordechai, Sami, Touni, Ketty, Lina, and Nadia of the Kafif Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Olga Bat Zakie a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Shella Katash Swed and her son Victor.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Jack Swed Ben Badia a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Yosef Alkada, his wife Vicky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Rachel Bat Latifah a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Blessed siblings: Soly and Hillel Bawabe.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Shafika a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Arlett Guindi Bawabe, her husband Joey, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Rachel Bat Shafika a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **The Dana Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yosef Ben Simcha a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **The young woman Ruty (David) Farhi, and her parents.** Blessings and success for the

entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Stella Levy and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Avraham Levy Ben Janette a"h**, please join us for an Azkarah Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> in Beth Yosef 2108 Ocean Parkway, Tehillim at 3:30pm followed by Derush and Minha at 5:20pm, Tizku L'Mitzvot, 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. \*\*\* **Hacham Avraham Sardar HaLevi, his wife Nina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for the young boy **Rephael Ben Shulamit**, May Hashem give him health, Amen. \*\*\* **The blessed siblings: Eli, Nissim, Suzette, Yaffa, and Ariella of the Levy Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yosef Ben Sarah a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat **Rosalyn Bat Chava a"h** Amen.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1,250.*

*Weekly cost total is \$1,300*

*Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!*

Since we launched our newly designed website in April 2020, there has been **32,800** visits!

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