

Congregation



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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

*Parashat **Shelah Lecha***

25th Sivan 5781

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

*Maqam Nawand Haftarat **Vayishlah Yehoshua***

Issue #940

June 5th 2021

*Candle Lighting 8:04pm * Shekiah 8:22pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 7:45pm * Shabbat Ends 9:05pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:35pm
Time for Talit 4:00am * Seasonal Hour 87:00 * Alot Hashahar 3:42am * Netz Hachama 5:26am
Weekday Minha 7:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 7:11pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 9:00pm * Chatzot 12:54
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:02am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:29am*

Thursday June 10th & Friday June 11th will be Rosh Hodesh Tammuz

Those who wish to contact R' Farhi can call (646) 552-3412

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Parashat Shelah Lecha opens with the sending out of spies, the Meragelim, using the word 'Veyaturu', let them spy out. The Parasha ends off with the Mitzvah of Tzitzit, including the words 'Velo Taturu', and you shall not explore after your heart and after your eyes. What is the connection? When the Meragelim sinned, they were completely removing the yoke of Hashem, rebelling thoroughly. The Mitzvah of Tzitzit is equal to all other Mitzvot, as the Pasuk says 'and perform all My commandments'. The Meragelim spied out the land and viewed only the physical, the mundane, and did not see the spiritual. How could this be? When they entered the land and witnessed funeral processions taking place, many burying their dead, they reacted with negativity, judging that this was a land that eats its inhabitants. However, they did not think deeper than the surface, they took what they saw at face value. Hashem was performing a miracle for them, causing a distraction while they went about their business of spying out the land, so that the inhabitants would be too busy mourning to notice the strangers. Here they followed their eyes and their hearts, as David Hamelech calls them a nation that errs with their heart. The Mitzvah of Tzitzit comes at the end of the Parasha to correct the sin of the Meragelim, instructing us not to explore after our heart and eyes. We must be able to see past the simplistic

physical and mundane, past the nature and basic, and see instead the hand of Hashem. Tzitzit have knots, tying us with Hashem, like a rope thrown to someone drowning in the water, we cling onto these strings to save us from danger and give us life. As we wear the Tzitzit, we fulfill the commandment to cling and connect to Hashem, as fulfilling the Mitzvot gives us life and saves us from our enemies and all forms of danger. We must grab hold of the rope, and pull ourselves to safety. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Caleb Ben Yefuneh did not join the terrible conspiracy of the Meragelim, instead he turned away from their plot, and was thereby called Ben Yefuneh. If Yehoshua also did not join the Meragelim, why wasn't he called Ben Yefuneh as well? The answer is: Caleb did not have help, he had to succeed on his own. Yehoshua on the other hand was blessed by Moshe and therefore had special protection and did not need to succeed on his own.

2 – The Pasuk first instructs us to place Tzitzit on the four corners of our garments 'throughout the generations', however regarding the instruction to include Techelet the Pasuk does not instruct using the word Ledorotam, 'for generations to come'. This is because, as we know, Techelet has not been used in Tzitzit

throughout the generations, while the Mitzvah of Tzitzit, with regular white strings, has indeed been fulfilled throughout all generations. (*Hatam Sofer*)

History in Brief

80 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 148AD. After Hadrian became the Caesar, he decreed that the Bet Hamikdash should be rebuilt. When many Jews began the rebuilding, the enemies of the Jews went before the Caesar and complained that allowing the Jews a Temple will result in their rebellion. Because the Caesar had already decreed permission, he decided to instruct the Jews with a requirement to either relocate the Temple, or to expand it in some ways, or decrease it in some ways, understanding that such conditions would cause the Jews themselves to halt the project and abandon the initiative. Two righteous brothers, Pappus and Lulianus, donated great amounts of gold and silver towards this project, and as a result, the enemies spread terrible false rumors about them. They not only sacrificed their money, but they also risked their lives to rebuild the Bet Hamikdash. At that time, the princess was found murdered, and the enemies were claiming that the Jews had done it. Before anything could escalate out of control, these two brothers redeemed the rest of the Jewish people by claiming that they had done it themselves, without any help from anyone else. The king immediately had them killed, and the name of Hashem was sanctified in public. Before executing them, the king asked them if they were descendants of Chanania, Mishael, and Azaria, because if they were related then surely Hashem would save them from certain death just as they had been saved from the fiery inferno of Nebuchadnezzar. But they explained that while those three were righteous and worthy of a miracle, they were simple brothers who were not worthy of such a miraculous rescue from death. Nonetheless, Hashem will one day avenge their blood. Also, they were confident to exclaim that one who is killed while honoring the great name of Hashem merits a special place in Gan Eden that no others can enter.

The Road to Health and Recovery

Simple yet important diet pointers: 1- It is much better to lose some extra weight slowly and progressively, even over the course of a couple of months, for then the simple changes in your lifestyle that have contributed to the weight loss will become permanent and meaningful, in contrast to extreme changes and immediate weight loss that do not stand the passing of time. 2- Never eat anything while standing. Always enjoy your meal while sitting. This habit of always sitting while eating will help you decline certain quick snacks that are usually eaten while standing and should really not be eaten at all. 3- Water! It is best to drink eight to ten cups of water a day. Sometimes people think they are hungry when in fact their body is thirsty. By keeping properly hydrated, one can reduce his excess intake of food.

Mussar: Serving Hashem

1 – We must believe that Hashem created everything from nothing and is always watching over everything. **2** – Hashem has no partners and needs no helpers. We must fear His judgment and His supremacy. **3** – Saying Hashem's Name any time besides during prayers or learning, and in any language, is forbidden. **4** – We must pray and learn with love and affection, and sing Hashem's praises. **5** – One may enjoy pleasure from this world only in order to continue serving Hashem, and in order to help others serve Hashem as well. **6** – Always keep in mind that your actions are in order to serve Hashem, whether you are eating, sleeping, playing, or working. **7** – Honor and love those who learn Torah properly. **8** – Recite Shema at the correct times – during Shacharit, Arbit, and before falling asleep. **9** – Concentrate during prayers and know what you are saying. **10** – Emulate Hashem's ways: be merciful like Him. **11** – Honor and respect the Shul and Midrash. Don't chat or act disrespectful while there, and sit properly with awe and Midot Tovot (proper conduct). **12** – Distance yourself from a possible transgression, and definitely from a known transgression. **13** – Trust only Hashem. Do not consult psychics, soothsayers, or star-gazers. **14**

– Remember Hashem’s kindness every moment, and constantly thank Him for everything. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

R’ Chaim Nissim Abulefia 1776-1861

After the passing of R’ Avraham, the Sages of Jerusalem looked to Rabbi Yitzhak Kovo to fill the position, at the age of eighty. He accepted the challenge, and despite his advanced age, he succeeded in leading the people to spiritual growth. However, when he reached the age of 83, the debt of the inhabitants of Jerusalem reached a high that he could not help sustain. R’ Yitzhak reached out to the wealthy businessmen in London, and upon hearing and understanding their situation, they agreed to collectively settle the financial obligations of the Jerusalem people. Even though R’ Yitzhak was very old, he himself continued to visit London to maintain their relationship with their supporters. The people of London looked forward to his visits. When he was traveling on his way, stopping off in Yafo while facing Jerusalem, his student R’ Yaakov Shaul Elyashar heard him exclaim, “Who knows if I shall ever again return”. As he boarded the boat and continued on his journey, his first sickness hit while stopping off in Alexandria, Egypt. There he experienced his last sickness, and there he returned his holy soul to his father in heaven. May his merits protect us, Amen. In the following weeks we will speak about R’ Chaim Nissim Abulefia.

Story

When R’ Tzvi Hersch advised the once wealthy, now poor, man to take all the donated money from his table and use it to marry off his daughter, the Gabbai attendant protested, stating that surely the many poor people they would help using all that money was a greater purpose than just the needs of but one man in need?! The Rebbe just smiled and explained that this was in the best interest of the Gabbai as well. The Gabbai did not understand, and when the poor man couldn’t be settled without an explanation, the Rebbe began to tell them a story: Decades earlier, when the Rebbe was but a young man,

thirsty for Torah, he would leave his father’s house to learn from the great Torah Scholars. He heard that there was a great Gaon, the Rebbe Shalom of Belz, and his soul deeply wished to spend time in his presence, weekdays and especially for a Shabbat. Alas, Belz was very far, a hard and expensive journey, and the opportunity seemed impossible. Nonetheless he did not give up hope. Once, he met a few Belz Chassidim, who described to him their Rebbe of Belz, how just being in his presence lifts up your Yirat Shamayim. He was determined to reach his goal, with heaven’s help.

Laws: Blessings

- 1** – When a person recites a blessing, he must say it with his lips and hear it with his ears, however if he does not hear it, as long as he says it with his lips, then he has fulfilled the basic obligation after the fact.
- 2** – If he recites it only with his heart, but without his lips, then he should say ‘Baruch Shem Kevod...’ and then must recite the blessing again with his lips and hear the words.
- 3** – A person can technically recite a blessing in any language that he understands.
- 4** – A person cannot recite a blessing while unclothed, even if he is covered, as he must separate the top and bottom parts of his body, therefore if a person is only wearing a long robe, then he mustn’t recite a blessing until he has separated the top and bottom halves of his body.
- 5** – A person’s head cannot be uncovered while reciting a blessing. A person should take the item in his right hand while reciting the blessing, unless it is bread, as bread should be held with both hands and ten fingers while reciting Hamotzi. If someone hands you a Sefer, accept it with your right hand.

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and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Rachel Bat Badrie a"h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Dibo, Mark, Sammy, Touni, Kety, Lina, and Nadia of the Khafif Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Olga Bat Zakie a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Isaac Anbi and his children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Eva Aysha Bat Liza a"h**, Amen. *** Askani 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. *** **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. *** **Blessed siblings: Soly and Hillel Bawabe.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Shafika a"h**, Amen. *** **The Janani Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Jack Yaakov Chaim Ben Sara a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Nissim Levy and his children Joey, David, and Karen.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his wife **Rosline Bat Chava a"h**, Amen.

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Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

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