

Congregation



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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat *Pinehas*

23rd Tammuz 5781

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, *President*

Maqam Saba

Issue #944

Haftarat Divre Yirmeyahu

July 3rd 2021

***Candle Lighting 8:12pm * Shekiah 8:30pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 7:55pm * Shabbat Ends 9:12pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:42pm
Time for Talit 4:03am * Seasonal Hour 87:00 * Alot Hashahar 3:45am * Netz Hachama 5:30am
Weekday Minha 7:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 7:18pm * Tzet Hacochavim 9:07pm * Chatzot 1:00
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:06am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:33am***

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Portions of Parashat Pinehas are read during all holy days of celebration throughout the year. However, this Parasha is also always read during the three weeks. This is not a coincidence or a contradiction. This teaches us that although in nature the three weeks seem to be a period of unfortunate occurrences, in essence these days actually correspond to days of celebration. The days of celebration throughout the year are few and are therefore precious. When something is rare and uncommon, it is considered valuable. Truly righteous and holy people are a rare commodity in the world and therefore they are very special to Hashem. The holidays are very powerful and they produce influences of blessings and goodness for the regular days of the year. The three weeks, a period of historical unfortunate tragedies that our nation endured, is not just a painful time. The terrible darkness and horrible decrees that seem to be saturated in the days themselves had not occurred through judgment alone. The opposite is true. In essence, these days are actually very holy days and are therefore very powerful. Potentially, great mercy and kindness can and will be bestowed upon our nation during these weeks. Because these three weeks are so precious and powerful, in order to preserve its purity certain outstanding measures must be observed. The powerful hidden light is concealed within these three weeks and the days must therefore remain holy. When there are sins, it is these three weeks that are affected most, and therefore it is during this period that the cleansing process through punishment must take place. The

21 days within this period correspond to the 21 days of holiday celebrations that Hashem granted to us as a present: Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh, the 7 days of Pesach, Shavuot, the 2 days of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the 8 days of Sukkot. This is hinted in the Pasuk ***“Only (Ach) good for Yisrael”*** – the numerical value of the word *Ach* in Hebrew is 21, referring to the holidays of the year and referring to the three weeks as well. Unfortunately, we are currently not worthy to experience the awesome potential of the three weeks, and the holy powerful light remains hidden. We must draw closer to Hashem, for only then will we together be worthy. The Temple’s destruction occurred on the 9th of Av. The letter Tet (9) when written in the Torah has both of its heads facing inwards, teaching us that it contains hidden and secret potential. Very soon in the near future Mashiach will arrive and the 9th of Av will become a day of great celebration. We therefore do not say Tachanun (supplications) on the 9th of Av. It will soon be a holiday greater than all others. May Hashem merit us to join in the celebration of this holiday with the coming of Mashiach Ben David Bimhera Beyamenu, speedily in our days, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – May Hashem, Master of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the assembly – Moshe knew that Yehoshua would lead in his place, especially after the prophecy of Eldad and Medad. Why is Moshe asking Hashem here to appoint ‘someone’ and doesn’t mention Yehoshua? The answer is

because he didn't want a repeat issue that arose when Aharon was appointed as the Cohen Gadol. He wanted the next leader to be appointed completely and noticeably by Hashem. Why did Moshe deem this time as opportune for the appointment of a new leader, immediately following the episode of Zelophehad's daughters? When Moshe heard Hashem's instructions to allow the daughters of Zelophehad to inherit land in place of their father, he understood that this was the opportune time for his children to inherit his greatness and position as leader. Hashem informed him that it will not be so, for Yehoshua will be the one to inherit the greatness, in merit of his outstanding services towards his Rebbe Moshe, as Shlomo Hamelech teaches: *one who tends to the fig's growth will enjoy it when it is ripe*. It also says: *Who shall take them out and bring them in*. A true righteous leader should have enough merit, holiness, and be straight enough to be able to bring back every single person that he has sent forth to battle, without incurring even one casualty. This is the optimal choice for a leader, a successor for Moshe. *He leaned his hands upon him and commanded him* What was Moshe teaching us when he placed his hands upon his student Yehoshua? He was hinting that our strength and success is not from our physical achievements but from our spiritual achievements. During the battle with Amalek, as long as Moshe had his hands raised, Bnei Yisrael succeeded because they then looked upwards to their Father in heaven and directed their hearts towards Him. These hands Moshe had placed upon Yehoshua, teaching him that if Bnei Yisrael worries, just lift their hearts towards Hashem and everything will be good.

History in Brief

The Roman senator named Tornos Rufus continued time and again to try to outsmart Rebi Akiva with his questions against Hashem. He once asked him: Why is Shabbat better than any other day of the week? Rebi Akiva asked back: Why are you better than any other man? The Roman explained, because the Caesar chose to raise him above other men. Rebi Akiva then explained, so too Hashem, the Master of all, chose to raise Shabbat above all other days. The Roman then asked how we could know for certain that all this time since creation we kept perfect record of which

day is exactly Shabbat, maybe we erred and it is really Friday, or Sunday? Rebi Akiva answered that there are three proofs that Shabbat is the correct day of rest: First, the Sambatyon River rests on Shabbat. Second, the fact that one cannot call up the dead during Shabbat proves it is a day of rest. And third, the grave of Tornos Rufus' wicked father smoked the whole week, but ceased to smoke on Shabbat, as Gehinam rests as well. The Roman, outraged at Rebi Akiva's disregard for the honor of his father, immediately sentenced him to a strange and unusual death. Fifty years after the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash, all areas that Rome controlled were subjected to and influenced by idolatry worship. All except the Jewish areas, which opposed idolatry and upheld their observance of Torah and Mitzvot, as well as did not assimilate or intermarry.

Health and Recovery

At night, dinner should be finished as early as possible, no later than nine o'clock at night, so that gastric digestion can work properly and effectively. When the waste is separated from the food, the food becomes blood that passes to the liver. The liver serves a significant role in the metabolism, as it repels the waste and stores the good. It creates necessary heat and produces bile that digests the fats. It is known that the hours of liver activity are mostly performed between one and three after midnight, at which time the liver passes all the food through the blood vessels that is absorbed during the day into the blood. If we eat food late at night, then when we finish eating, our food is not yet properly digested, and instead of the liver getting digested food, it gets an order from the stomach to come back in and help, because it still has undigested food, and then instead of working on moving the blood and getting all that it needs, instead it has to help the stomach digest the food through various secretions. The liver is not meant for double work: to both function by removing from the blood what it needs, and also to help the stomach digest the food. When one eats food late in the evening, the liver must act, but also note that the body must sleep at the same time. If the body is not given rest, it causes the liver to lack proper functioning. Diabetes is a direct result of such behavior. If you find it difficult to stop eating after nine at night, try filling yourself with liquid,

and if that does not satisfy you, try to eat only things that have no fat at all, such as vegetables or fruits.

Mussar: Family Purity

When a couple decides to get married, they are like the preparation of a cup of tea. The water is boiled, the tea is added, and the drink is ready. However, a few minutes later the tea can lose its heat and become a lukewarm drink. How can one retain the heat of the tea and allow the drink to last longer in its most effective state? There are many preparations before marriage, but once they are completed and the marriage has been performed, the couple is seemingly at their best stage. How can one retain that greatness and not allow it to sizzle down to a lukewarm or cold state? Many advisors, psychologists, and marriage counselors have dealt greatly with this issue. Two Americans, Dr. Mister and Dr. Johnson, have conducted studies and experiments with married couples who were having difficulties with their marriage in order to find a solution to this issue. They separated the couples for two weeks and found the results to be astonishingly effective. However, after they returned home and life continued, the problems once again started anew. The holy Torah dictates what we need and has been passed down by millions of Jews from generation to generation for over 3,300 years! If marriage can be compared to the cup of tea that is hot but must be maintained to remain hot in order not to cool off, then we have the thermostat and the means to keep marriage from cooling off. The laws of Family Purity are essential, providing days of closeness and days of distance. The distance provides the closeness with a rejuvenated force unmatched by any other method. A Jewish home is filled with love and happiness when the laws are observed properly. About 2,000 years ago Rabi Meir Ba'al Hanes declared that the Torah commanded days of separation in order that the husband will appreciate his wife like the time they were first married. How memorable and beautiful is the wedding! Why should one only enjoy it once? When the laws are observed properly, the greatness of the wedding is no longer just a memory, but it becomes reality once again. Physiologists and marriage counselors work hard to figure out how man and woman can share a life without problems and fights. They often advise the two to take a short break from one

another in order to allow the time alone to refresh and reignite their marriage. However, this form of separation is not wise and their success rates vary as the advice is not performed according to the Torah, according to Hashem's word. The advice might be close to the truth, but only one who completely and properly observes the laws of Family Purity will see the best and most accurate results.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Chaim Nissim Abulefia 1776-1861

R' Chaim, being honored in the palace of the Sheikh, understood that the Sheikh would need to keep his promise and punish his son for throwing stones at the assistant of the holy rabbi. While the son stood nearby awaiting his punishment of lashing by 100 sticks, R' Chaim asked the Sheikh if he could see the sticks before he began the whipping. R' Chaim then took the 100 sticks, tied them into one bundle, and gave them to the Sheikh. Now, if he so pleased, he could fulfill his promise and save his son from terrible pain and embarrassment by just hitting his son one time with the bundle, as it was the rabbi's idea and therefore would not be disrespectful to the rabbi. The Sheikh was ever so grateful to the rabbi for his understanding, and the son vowed in his heart never to forget the kindness. R' Chaim returned to Izmir, and the Sheikh remained in Tiberius until his passing many years later, at which point his son became the Sheikh in his place. The young Sheikh had great plans for the land, and he would fulfill his wishes with great energy. R' Chaim's kindness all those years before will one day be a source of protection for the Jewish people.

Story

R' Tzvi Hersh is telling over a personal story to the once wealthy man and his Gabbai attendant: As he boarded a wagon that would take him to visit the great Rav Sar Shalom, the Rebbe from Belz, he noticed that, even though it was a shared ride with many passengers, he still did not have enough money to pay his share of the journey to the wagon driver. The wagon driver had pity on him, but he could not just forgive the balance. Instead he advised the young R' Hersh to make his way to the nearby market, where there were many Jewish merchants, and tell them of his predicament, hopefully they would have mercy and be willing

to donate to his cause so he could have enough money to pay his fare. The wagon driver promised he would wait and would not leave without him before he returned. He then went to the nearby merchants and began telling them of his plans to go visit the great Rebbe of Belz, how he could only afford to go with a ride share wagon, but even that he was lacking in the full funds needed for the fare. Perhaps they could find it in their hearts to help him out with some change to make up the difference.

Laws: The Three Weeks

1 – There are many customs of mourning observed during the three weeks between the 17th of Tammuz until after the 9th of Av. One may not listen to live music, or music played on tapes, CDs, and radio.

2 – Dancing is prohibited even without music during this time frame.

3 – Items that require the blessing of Shehechianu (for example: new fruit or new clothing) should be avoided. However, Shehechianu is recited for a Brit Milah and Pidyon HaBen. A new fruit may be used during those times with the blessing of Shehechianu, and afterwards the fruit is eaten with its proper blessing.

4 – During Shabbat one may recite Shehechianu on new fruit or new clothing. It is better to be strict.

5 – During the 9 days, from Rosh Chodesh Av until after the Ta'anit, joyous forms of business or transactions are decreased, for example: purchasing items for a wedding or for the house of newlyweds, as well as jewelry, new clothing, or new shoes.

6 – Some allow the purchase of furniture or electrical appliances (not for newlyweds). Those that are strict will be blessed.

7 – One may purchase jewelry, clothing, and furniture for a wedding only if it's possible that they will go up in price and he will end up paying more money if he waits.

8 – One may not paint his house during the nine days. If he began painting before Rosh Chodesh and will lose money on workers if he waits, he may finish the job.

9 – Sewing/tailoring new clothing during the nine days is forbidden.

Sponsors

*** The young man **Yosef Leon Farhi, his parents, and his siblings**. Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Edmon Saade, his wife Hayat, and their children**. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Hacham Yom Tov Yedid HaLevi Ben Zakie a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Im Mousa Evon Hudre and her children**. Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband **Marco Ballas Ben Kahile a"h**, Mishmara for his Neshama will be July 10th, Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen. *** **Mr. Victor Guindi HaCohen, his wife Nadia Chaya, and their children**. Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Nadia Chaya Bat Victoria**, 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. *** 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. *** **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 \$800.

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