

Congregation



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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat *Devarim*
8th Av 5781

Maqam Hijaz
Issue #946

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat *Hazon Yeshayahu*
July 17th 2021

*Candle Lighting 8:06pm * Shekiah 8:24pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 6:00pm * Shabbat Ends 9:06pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:36pm
Time for Talit 4:15am * Seasonal Hour 85:00 * Alot Hashahar 3:58am * Netz Hachama 5:40am
Weekday Minha 7:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 7:15pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 9:01pm * Chatzot 1:02
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:13am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:38am*

9th of Av:

***Recite 'Baruch Hamavdil Ben Kodesh Lehol' and drive to Shul after 9:06pm,
Motzei Shabbat Arbit 9:20pm, Sunday Shacharit Vatetpallel Chana 6:40am,
Hashem Melech 7:00am, Minha 7:45pm,
Fast Ends 8:53pm, and 9:00pm for the Strict***

Sponsored by: Mr. Mordechai Guindi HaCohen, his wife Linda, and their children.
Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for ***Nadia Chaya Bat Victoria***, Amen.

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

After forty years of wandering through the desert, Moshe stands before the nation, by the Jordan River, as they are preparing to enter the holy land of Israel, and he reminds them of all their sins during their time in the desert: the spies, the complaints against the Mon, the episode with Korah, the Golden Calf, and their overall unappreciative attitude and lack of gratitude to Hashem. Moshe uses the word "*Eichah*", hinting to the destruction of the first and second Temples. If we examine the sins that Moshe mentions, they are all hints to the sins that actually caused the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash. The sin of the spies was the source for the destruction, as they cried on the night of the 9th of Av, which labeled that night as a time for tears throughout future generations. With the date for destruction set, the sins that caused the destruction were: idolatry, adultery, murder, and baseless hatred, all derived from jealousy, desire, and vanity, the three characteristics that remove a person from this world. The episode with Korah was based on jealousy for Moshe and Aharon, which eventually led to death, similar to premeditated murder. Complaining about the Mon was a sin caused through desire. Desire also led them to the sin of adultery. The sin of the Golden

Calf was caused by vanity and arrogance, as our Sages teach us, one who is haughty is considered to have served idolatry. Moshe Rabbenu, their leader, their teacher, now is warning Bnei Yisrael, hoping they would heed his words, that although Hashem has graciously granted them forgiveness for these sins while committed in the desert, if they were to commit these sins in the holy land of Israel then the punishment will be severe, with the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash, and many long years of exile. The three sins of jealousy, desire, and vanity are what leads a man to baseless hatred, and such behavior between man and his fellow drives away the holy Shechinah and causes pain and suffering to come instead. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – I said to you at that time, saying, "I cannot carry you alone" Moshe Rabbenu was hinting to Bnei Yisrael that although he had prayed many times in order to be allowed to enter Israel, he was not able to accomplish this alone, and he reached out to Bnei Yisrael for help, as the prayers of many can accomplish much more than the prayers of just one, as the one imprisoned needs someone else to come

free him. Moshe had prayed for Bnei Yisrael, for forty days and nights in heaven until Hashem forgave Bnei Yisrael and did not destroy the nation as planned. But Bnei Yisrael did not get the hint, and they did not pray on Moshe's behalf to allow him to enter Israel. The prayers of the nation, many as one, has great power. What did Moshe do next? He asked for distinguished men who are wise and understanding, so that they would get the hint and pray on his behalf, but even they did not get the hint, as the Pasuk says that they took distinguished men who were wise, but the Pasuk does not say that they were understanding, therefore they did not get the hint and pray for Moshe. Not one person prayed for Moshe.

History in Brief

60 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 128AD. The Caesar Hadrian decreed that any Jew who would attempt to return from exile to Israel would be put to death. He placed a statue of a pig at the gates of Bet Lehem, and completely forbid any Jew to enter Jerusalem. He prohibited Shabbat, Brit Milah, and Family Purity, all things that separate us from the nations of the world. Those days were very hard for the Jews, as they secretly tried to observe Shabbat, give Brit Milah to the babies, and be able to go to the Mikveh. It was not enough that the Bet Hamikdash was destroyed, they were even prohibited from keeping the Mitzvot of the Torah. They sacrificed their lives for the Torah, and many decided not to get married to avoid complications. Any non-Jew that tried convert to Judaism was sentenced to immediate death. When the Romans forbid the Jews from reciting Shema Yisrael, the Jews decided to formed together behind Shimon Ben Koziba, who recruited many Jews from all corners of exile and began training for war. They attacked a few Roman military camps and overpowered them, taking their weapons and gear to further improve their army's strength. The leader of Suria, Tarnusrufus, then sent his army to help the Romans defeat these Jews, but Bar Koziba continued fighting to victory in every battle. With 200,000 soldiers, he prayed to Hashem that if they would not succeed, then he would rather that his army be defeated through natural causes than in battle at the hands of the Romans.

Health and Recovery

1- One should first exercise, then shower, eat, drink, and then rest. **2-** One should eat with an appetite, only after having properly digested the last meal, preferably after an exercise. **3-** One should always

conduct himself properly with good character traits, as it will enhance his overall body performance and health. One should distance from harmful character traits, such as: anger, jealousy, depression, and curiosity for things that are none of your business. One who stays far away from such characteristics will be saving himself from sickness and headaches. One should schedule his meals, three meals throughout the day and not more. During any meal one should never eat more than about 400 grams to one pound. In between meals one should learn how to stop food from going into his mouth. One can drink a cup, or 250 grams, of water every half hour. Doctors advise people not to eat what they desire, but rather what they learn to be helpful and nutritious for their body, and stay away from whatever they learn to be harmful to their body.

Mussar: The 9th of Av

For thousands of generations, no matter where our nation may have been at that time in history, during our exile we have poured out our hearts with tears in many prayers before our Father in heaven during this month, asking Him to grant us solace and the final redemption, thus the month is properly named Menachem Av, referring to the beseeching of our conciliatory father in heaven. During the second Temple's existence as well we must understand that we have endured a great loss compared to the outstanding holiness and beauty that existed during the first Temple, and especially during the seventy years of exile we experienced in between the two, the words written in Tehillim were indeed fulfilled, ***There we sat and also wept when we remembered Zion.*** We all lack the presence of Hashem's Shechinah in our lives and we all have problems and suffer on our own levels. Some must work very hard and still don't make enough money. Some must search high and low for their marriage partner and have not yet been successful. Some have terrible pain from their children. Others have terrible health issues they must worry about. We are in exile and we all have problems. Hashem's presence is missing. The 9th of Av is approaching – the day of destruction, the day of pain and suffering, and the day when the spiritual and physical values of our lives were crushed. We suffer anew and forget the old – we suffer more and more each day. We must sit and ponder the day's purpose and meaning. Why have we experienced all this? Because we have sinned. Which sin should we work on improving? The sins committed with the tongue. Life and death can be

decided by the tongue. Terrible sins have been committed with the tongue and if we truly improve and filter our speech then we will surely gain atonement and deserve to greet Mashiach speedily in our days, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Chaim Nissim Abulefia 1776-1861

The new Sheikh of Tiberius reached out to the thousands of pious Jews living in Turkey and invited them to move to Tiberius. In his letters of invitation, he promised to build them houses, Shuls, Yeshivot, and to provide them with their needs for three years. When the letters arrived at Izmir, R' Abulefia, the Rabbi of the city, advised his people to take this opportunity and move to Tiberius. With his family, his students, and a Sefer Torah, they began traveling. As they passed the palace of the king in Kushta, the king peered out the window and saw the holy man with a shining face of purity and a pillar of fire above his head. He called them before him and asked where they were headed. R' Abulefia answered that they were on their way to Tiberius by invitation from the Sheikh. The king advised his noblemen to give presents to the holy man and his entourage, and they were soon back on their way, laden with wealth. The Sheikh received the Rabbi with open arms, with great joy and happiness. He remembered the great kindness the Rabbi had shown him many years ago when he was but a young man deserving of punishment, spared from embarrassment and suffering due to the Rabbi's clever mind, and he promised to do everything in his power to make sure they were provided with the best of everything they needed while settling in, with fields for harvest, and business for livelihood.

Story

R' Tzvi Hersh continues his story, about the time when he was young and didn't have enough money to travel to the Belz Rebbe: When he approached the fourth merchant's booth, he couldn't even talk and just began crying in despair. The compassionate merchant, who was a Jew, asked what was wrong, what was troubling his heart. He told him about everything he had been through so far. The merchant asked him how much the coach wagon driver was asking in payment. He told him a full Ruble. Without another word, the Jewish merchant reached under his counter, took out a box, and handed over a Ruble to the young boy. He could not believe his eyes! He ran to the wagon, heart filled with joy and hope, and paid his fare. Before long he was on his way, finally traveling to the holy Rebbe in Belz. From that day

onward, he made himself a promise, that whenever a Jew would come to him for help, he would help him completely, not just partially, and make sure that his troubles and worries were solved. Whatever was needed to alleviate the suffering entirely was never too much. He would never forget the kindness of the Jewish merchant who did not hesitate to not only help out his Jewish brethren, but to even completely resolve his problem by giving the full amount needed. Today, he too was following in the example and making sure that the man in need before him had enough to pay for his daughter's wedding in full.

Laws: *The 9th of Av*

1 – During *Shabbat Chazon* we eat meat and drink wine, even during the *Seudah Hamafseket*. We are not allowed to be strict in this area, unless one usually refrains because of his health.

2 – *Yehi Shem* is recited during Mincha Shabbat Erev 9th of Av. Some are strict to only learn after midday what is permitted on the 9th of Av, i.e. *Eichah*, the laws of the 9th of Av, etc.

3 – One should not take a leisure walk for enjoyment during this Shabbat. The following are exempt from the fast: a boy under 13, a girl under 12, a woman who gave birth within 30 days, a sick person, a sick person who healed but hasn't gained his strength yet, and an old person who is weak. Those who must eat have to do so privately and only eat what is necessary. *Nachem* is recited in Birkat Hamazon, and *Havdallah* must be recited this year before eating.

4 – Smoking is not allowed during the 9th of Av. One who is addicted and is in great pain may smoke after Hatzot, privately.

5 – Saturday night at 9:06pm, say '*Baruch Hamavdeel Ben Kodesh Lechol*', remove your leather shoes and replace them with non-leather footwear, wear weekday clothing, and go to Shul to pray Arbit. In Shul we hear '*Boreh Me'oreh Ha'esh*' before reciting *Eichah*. '*Atah Chonantanu*' is said in Arbit, and if one forgot he should say '*Baruch Hamavdeel Ben Kodesh Lechol*' before doing work.

6 – We sit on the floor Saturday night and Sunday morning. One must rise for an elder and a Rabbi even when sitting on the floor. Women are obligated to hear '*Boreh Me'oreh Ha'esh*' as well Saturday night.

7 – If one forgot *Nachem* in Amidah, after Boneh Yerushalayim he says it in Shema Kolenu after Anenu. If he still forgot, he says it in Retzeh in the place of Ya'aleh Veyavo. If he still forgot, he says it after Elokai Netzor before the second Yihyou Leratzon. If he forgot still, he has lost the chance.

8 – Saturday night, start from *Ve'attah Kaddosh* after the Amidah.

9 – Talking is prohibited during *Eichah* and *Kinnot*. In the morning one washes his fingers until the knuckles, as washing is prohibited. "*Sheasa Li Kol Tzorki*" is not recited in the morning. If it's said accidentally, it's not a wasted blessing.

10 – During Shacharit one puts on his Talit and Tefillin at home, recites "*Kadesh Li*" and Shema, and then goes to Shul. Haazinu is recited instead of "Vayosha" and Vayosha is said after the Amidah. Cohanim is performed during Shacharit. Some have the custom not to perform Cohanim. The Maftir says half Kaddish after the Haftarah.

11 – Motzei 9th of Av Havdallah is recited on a cup of wine, without Ha'esh and without Besamim.

12 – This year, since the fast is pushed off until Sunday, the specific laws that usually apply during the week of the 9th of Av will not apply this year. Therefore, one may get a haircut and shave all week, however he should not do so this Erev Shabbat Parashat Devarim.

13 – One may likewise all week shower with hot water, even Erev Shabbat, and wear freshly laundered clothing, as well as do the laundry.

14 – Meat and poultry is not eaten from Rosh Chodesh Av until after the 10th of Av (this year Monday). One may eat meat and poultry on Rosh Chodesh and Shabbat. This prohibition does not apply to fish.

15 – A dish that has been cooked with meat may not be eaten, even if the meat has been removed. One may use a meat pot, that was even used that day for meat, in order to cook a meal or dish that doesn't include meat.

16 – Food cooked for Shabbat Chazon, even with meat, may be tasted on Friday, as it is a Mitzvah in honor of Shabbat to taste the food. The strict will be blessed. It is also best just to taste and remove from your mouth instead of swallowing.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. David Aharon Farhi, his wife Suzi, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the Sandak **Mr. Charlie Hefes and his wife Esther** on the birth of a grandson **Shaul Charlie**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Mark David Hefes, his wife Esty, their parents, and their**


children. Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of a baby boy **Shaul Charlie**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Avraham Aharon Farhi, and Mr. Morris David Ishay.** Blessings and success for their entire families, blessings of health, success, and longevity for **Mr. Yosef Ishay and his wife Suzette**, Amen. *** Askani Tzibur **Mr. Moshe Zalta, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of a grandson, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Sarah, Linda, and Yosef of the Halabie Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Kasem Ben Esther a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat their mother **Mary Bat Salha a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Eva Dahab and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father the trusted Shochet **Hacham Eliyahu Dahab Ben Esther a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Dina Hamra Antabi, her husband Farah, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Toufic Baruch Ben Mazal a"h**, 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. *** 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. *** **The Janani Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Jack Yaakov Chaim Ben Sara a"h**, Amen.

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