

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Pekudei
2nd Adar Sheni 5782

Maqam Nawa
Issue #975

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Vayaas Hirom
March 5th 2022

*Candle Lighting 5:32pm * Shekiah 5:50pm * Shir Hashirim 5:20pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 5:15pm * Shabbat Ends 6:31pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:01pm
Time for Talit 5:17am * Seasonal Hour 67:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:04am * Netz Hachama 6:24am
Weekday Minha 5:40pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 5:02pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:26pm * Chatzot 12:07
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:25am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:32am*

Those who wish to contact Rabbi Aharon Farhi can call (646) 552-3412

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The Midrash tells us: Moshe was instructed to build the Mishkan when he returned from heaven for the third time. It was in fact the day of Yom Kippur, as it says that *on this day we are forgiven and purified before Hashem*. That day of Yom Kippur would be a day of atonement for our nation throughout all the generations to come. Immediately, Moshe gathered the people to build the Mishkan. With unity and joy, they set out to complete the task. The Midrash asks: How long did it take for the Mishkan to be created? Rabi Shemuel Bar Nachman says: it took them three months to complete - Tishre, Heshvan, and Kislev until the 25th. It then took three more months - Tevet, Shevat, and Adar until Nissan - to actually erect the Mishkan. Why did it take an additional 3 months just to erect it? The Midrash explains: Bnei Yisrael first attempted to erect the Mishkan on their own, but were unsuccessful until they passed the task over to Moshe. They were saddened over the fact that the holy Shechinah did not rest on the work of their hands as had been promised. They initially went over to the wise men of the nation for assistance with this, but the wise men were also unsuccessful. Each time they tried to put the Mishkan together, it would just come apart. So now all they had were the many completed part, but could not actually put it together successfully. The people started questioning the authority and instructions of Moshe Ben Amram, who had requested from them so much gold, silver, and other resources in order to produce this Mishkan, promising Hashem's Shechinah, but now they couldn't even put it together! What was the point of all their resources and hard work if the results would not come to fruition? Now, why did Hashem in fact

do this to them? Why weren't they successful until they handed the job of erecting the Mishkan over to Moshe to personally handle? Because Hashem saw that Moshe was hurt for not having been included in the job - not in donating the resources or in constructing the Mishkan. For the honor of Moshe and in considerations for his feelings, Hashem did not help the people reach their final goal successfully without asking Moshe for help. They brought everything to Moshe, told him that they had done everything he asked of them, and yet remained unsuccessful in the final product. Moshe prayed to Hashem: *Master of the world! Why have they not been successful?* Hashem answered that it was in fact out of consideration for the honor of Moshe! Then Moshe erected the Mishkan and the task was finally complete. This is why the Pasuk says that Moshe was the one that built the Mishkan. The Parasha starts off in the first Pasuk stating that these are the records and count of the Mishkan, but then the second and third Pasuk interrupts and says: *"Bezalel, son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, had made all that Hashem had commanded Moshe. With him was Oholiab, son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, a craftsman and master weaver, and an embroiderer in blue, purple, and crimson wool and in linen."* Why the sudden interruption? The cynics of the nation were accusatory of Moshe, saying that he surely became wealthy from handling all the donations. To counter such arguments, the Pasuk tells us that it was not Moshe who personally handled the donations, but rather he oversaw the whole process handled by Bezalel and Oholiab, as they were responsible to report everything back to Moshe,

showing that everything was done with clear oversight and transparent accountability. This effectively quelled any such possible accusatory remarks. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Hashem instructed Moshe to anoint and appoint Aharon's children as Cohanim, just as he had done to their father Aharon. Why was it necessary for the Pasuk to mention to do so just as he had done to Aharon their father? The reason this was said is because Hashem wanted Moshe to do this with the same amount of happiness. Why wouldn't he? When he anointed Aharon as Cohen Gadol, he was happy for his brother who deserved the honor and opportunity, and he had no reason to have feelings of jealousy, as he himself was the leader of the nation and greatest prophet of all time. However, when he anointed Aharon's sons as Cohanim, there was a concern that perhaps Moshe would be jealous that his own children were not given such an honor and opportunity in service of Hashem. Therefore, Hashem instructed Moshe to do this with just as much happiness as he had done for Aharon. (*Perah Shoshan*)

History in Brief

80 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 150AD. After the Roman Caesar's cold-blooded execution of the ten great Sages, for three days and three nights the spiritual beings in heaven cried to Hashem bitterly, "*Can this be the reward for learning Torah?! Can the enemy just go unpunished? Where is the vengeance and strength against evil?*" Hashem announced through a heavenly voice that if but one more cry is heard about this, then the entire world will return to water and all of creation will go back to void! This was a heavenly decree, case closed. But the day will come, when the blood of R' Akiva and his colleagues will be avenged against the enemies and against evil. Rebi Abahu says in the name of Rebi Elazar: every name of a righteous Sage Hashem wrote on a cloak, and when the murderer is asked why he had killed the Sage, then vengeance is exacted. If they were to be cleaned of their sins, the stains for murdering R' Akiva and his colleagues would never come off. From the birth of Rome, special consideration with miracles was assisted from heaven. The two brothers Romulus and Remus were left to die, but a female wolf nursed them to health and cared for them, enabling them to stay alive and grow. They grew up to become

Caesars of Rome. But Rome did not remember its humble beginnings and the miracles from Hashem. Instead, Rome murdered Jewish Sages. One time the Roman Caesar decreed that R' Yehuda Hanachtom should be killed. Ben Kufiya the Goy risked his life when serving as the judge in this case he sentenced R' Yehuda Hanachtom to death, but then switched him out with someone else before the execution, burning a non-Jew in his place during the execution. Someone realized the switch and reported Ben Kufiya the Goy to the Caesar, who then made sure to not only execute R' Yehuda Hanachtom, but also Ben Kufiya the Goy as well. Their blood was later avenged along with the blood of R' Akiva and his colleagues.

Health and Recovery

Vitamin D is a nutrient that your body needs in order to properly build and maintain healthy bones. That's because your body can only absorb calcium, the primary component of bone, when vitamin D is present. Vitamin D also regulates many other cellular functions in your body. Its anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and neuroprotective properties support immune health, muscle function and brain cell activity. Vitamin D isn't naturally found in many foods, but you can get it from fortified milk, fortified cereal, and fatty fish. Your body also makes vitamin D when direct sunlight converts a chemical in your skin into an active form of the vitamin (calciferol). The amount of vitamin D that your skin can produce actually depends on many factors, including the time of day, season, latitude, and your skin pigmentation. Depending on where you live in the world and your type of lifestyle, vitamin D production might either decrease significantly or it can be completely absent during the winter months. Sunscreen also can decrease vitamin D production in the summer months. It is best to go outdoors, under the sun, during the hours of 10:00am-3:00pm. Nowadays, people remain indoors for most of the day, without enough windows, skylights, and access to sunlight. We have become accustomed to temperature-controlled environments, heating and cooling, and don't even open the windows to allow fresh air into our living spaces. Electricity has taken the place of sunlight. We sometimes barely even open the shades to allow the sunlight in. Neighboring buildings are tall and block much of the direct sunlight as well. All these factors greatly decrease our chances of receiving vitamin D through sunlight, especially during the winter months when the day is much

shorter and the hours of sunlight significantly decreased.

Mussar: Imperfection

Nobody is perfect. Everyone makes mistakes and has their package of flaws and sins that they need to work on correcting. Only Hashem is complete and perfect. Unfortunately, man has the custom to see the flaws of others, and often does not see his own imperfections. Perhaps his flaw may even be greater than that of his friend. Seek out the truth and develop yourself properly. Go to the Rabbanim and ask for constructive criticism. Fear heaven and always do the right thing, even if you may not fully understand. Change for the better a little bit each day and declare, *'When will my actions reach the level of my forefathers Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov?'* Pray for success and truth. One time, a Jewish man in Bagdad came before the great *Rav Yosef Chaim (Ben Ish Hai)* and explained that his neighbor was a sinner. He asked if he must sell his house and move, as the Mishnah states *'Distance from a neighbor that is bad'*. The Rav explained that he must actually read the Mishnah in this situation as *'Distance a neighbor from bad'* – meaning, he must pray and work with wisdom to show his neighbor the truth. One mustn't always abandon his neighbor just because he is at fault, rather he must sometimes find a way to rid his neighbor of the fault, thereby eliminating the need to move altogether. This man listened to the Rav and was successful in helping his neighbor repent.

Rishon LeSion: R' Rephael Meir 1801-1893

During R' Rephael's walk with the Rabbi of Tunisia, speaking together in Torah learning, without realizing exactly where they were going, they reached the king's beautiful garden, and didn't see the sign that warned trespassers against entering. R' Rephael continued walking into the garden, where there were two watchdogs, fierce and bloodthirsty, ready to attack any intruders. The Rabbi he was walking with realized the danger and feared for the safety of R' Rephael who was now walking straight towards the vicious dogs. But the dogs did not attack R' Rephael. They remained still and silent, allowing R' Rephael to continue walking as he pleased. R' Rephael then took hold of their leashes from around their necks and began leading them away. He continued walking through the garden for some time, the vicious dogs merely following behind him as if they were tame and friendly. The guards of the royal garden could not believe their eyes! Never before

had they witnessed such a miracle, and they respected the obvious holiness of the spiritual Rabbi. When he finally left the garden, the Rabbi of Tunisia who had not entered asked him how he was able to perform this miracle, was it through Kabballah? R' Rephael answered that it was a Pasuk in the Torah, that all wild animals of the land will fear you. R' Rephael was on the spiritual level to be feared by the wild animals, and he did not fear any being in the world. The congregation of Tunisia recognized his greatness and donated generously for the poor people of Jerusalem for whom he was collecting with successful results.

Story

R' Naftali was telling his grandson Zalman a story from his youth, when he would learn Torah by the gravesite of the holy Tanna Rebi Shimon Bar Yochai together with his friends. One night, they saw two men in the distance approaching who looked like they wanted to cause trouble. The boys quickly remembered that they were still wearing their Tefillin, and were concerned that these dangerous men would take the holy Tefillin and desecrate them. They quickly removed their Tefillin and hid them. When the two dangerous men were within reach and they stretched out their arms to grab them, suddenly as if transported through the air they found themselves standing somewhere else, far from the gravesite of Rashbi, to a place they recognize and had been before. The area was the gravesite of the holy Tana Shamai and his students. What happened? Wonder gripped their hearts. Were those men really going to cause trouble? How did they suddenly transport to this distant area? They thought about it for a few minutes and decided it was absolutely a miracle. They began walking but realized that they should not yet return to the gravesite of Rashbi. Instead, they walked to the nearby Arab village, went straight to the leader of the village, and told him the story of what had just happened to them. What should he do for them now? He asked. They wanted him to appoint someone to return with them to the gravesite of Rashbi, to ensure that they were no longer in danger.

Laws: Purim

1 – The Taanit Esther fast will begin Wednesday March 16th starting from Alot Hashahar which is one and a fifth seasonal hours before Netz, at 5:44am, as $70+14=84$ seasonal minutes before Netz Hachama, as the seasonal hour is 70:00 and a fifth is 14

minutes, therefore Alot Hashachar is 84 minutes before Netz. The fast will conclude at 7:30pm, or to be strict wait until 7:40pm.

2 – Pregnant or nursing ladies, ladies who miscarried, or ladies who recently gave birth, are exempt from this fast. A sick person, even if he is not in a serious situation, is also exempt. An old person who doesn't have adequate strength is exempt as well. A Hatan (Groom) and the three people who are directly involved in a Brit Milah (Sandak, father, Mohel) are likewise exempt.

3 – One who missed the Megillah reading at night for whatever reason cannot fulfill that obligation during the day by reading it twice.

4 – One who has a Kosher Megillah and is reading along with the Shaliah Tzibur may also quietly recite the blessings himself before and after the reading along with the Shaliah Tzibur.

5 – Before beginning, the Shaliah Tzibur should announce that he is having in mind to fulfill the obligation of the people through his Megillah reading, and they should likewise have in mind to fulfill their obligation by listening to his reading, and the people should make sure not to answer Baruch Hu UBaruch Shemo to the blessing.

6 – One should answer Amen to Kaddish, Kedusha, and even Berachot during the reading as long as he has a kosher Megillah to catch up the words he missed. If he doesn't, then he can't answer Amen as *One who is busy with a Mitzvah is absolved from other Mitzvot.*

7 – One may work on the night of Purim, but while one may technically work on the day of Purim as well, it is best to be strict and not work during Purim, for such work will not produce blessings. A non-Jew may perform the work for you. One can get a haircut from a non-Jew during Purim, and one may cut his nails during Purim.

8 – A mourner within seven days, during Purim is like a mourner on Shabbat. He goes to Shul to hear the Megillah and dresses up for Purim. He does not wear Tefillin with a blessing on the first day of mourning (provided that was not the day of passing), and he keeps the four Mitzvot of Purim.

9 – A mourner within 30 days, or within 12 months for his parents, cannot send Mishloach Manot but may receive. Some hold he may send to one person just to fulfill the Mitzvah.

10 – Man and women are obligated to enjoy a beautiful Seudah with Pizmonim and Divrei Torah to celebrate Purim. If Arbit was not yet recited and the

Seudah extended into the night, then Al Hanissim is recited in Birkat Hamazon.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. David Aharon Farhi, his wife Suzy, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, they wish blessings for an easy pregnancy and childbirth for their daughter **Mrs. Linda Guindi**, with health and strength, Amen. *** **Mr. Meyer Wahba, his wife Pauline, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, may Hashem bless all young men and young women to find a marriage partner that is best suited for them, Amen. *** **Mr. Jack Hacham Avraham Sardar HaLevi, his wife Frieda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for his father **Hacham Avraham**, Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Berta Malbasati, her husband Eliyahu Elias, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Avraham Ben Sabrie a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Victor Guindi HaCohen and his children Henry, Freddy, and Bella.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Nadia Chaya Bat Victoria a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Leon Farhi, his wife Eva, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Rachel Sithon Bat Bahia a"h**, Amen. *** **Askan Tzibur Mr. Isaac Jrade and his family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Jamila Bat Bahie 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.

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