

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat *Tazria & HaHodesh*

1st Nissan 5782

Maqam Saba

Issue #979

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat *Ko Amar*

April 2nd 2022

*Candle Lighting 7:02pm * Shekiah 7:20pm * Shir Hashirim 6:55pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 6:45pm * Shabbat Ends 8:03pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:33pm
Time for Talit 5:24am * Seasonal Hour 7:40:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:09am * Netz Hachama 6:38am
Weekday Minha 7:10pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:26pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 7:58pm * Chatzot 12:59
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:57am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:11am*

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

“On the eighth day, the flesh of his foreskin will be circumcised.” Hashem commanded us to set a sign in our bodies, thereby distinguishing us from the rest of the nations. This is a sign, a true sign, that does not change either in life or after death, which is well sealed in our flesh. This instructs us that we are the servants of Hashem and are obligated to observe His commandments. It is known that the fulfillment of this commandment is very high and lofty. There are many reasons and secrets revealed in the Torah regarding this great Mitzvah. When the father brings his son into Brit Milah, the people say: “Just as he has entered the Brit Milah, so too he should enter Torah, Chupah, and good deeds.” The reason why we bless the newborn son during the commandment of circumcision, the Baal Shem Tov says, is because the Brit Milah is sealed on the flesh, thus completing the body and soul as a servant of Hashem, enabling us to serve Him as a Jew. This seal cannot be removed, nor can one erase it, which is not the case with the other commandments. When one fulfills the Mitzvah of Tefillin or one of the other commandments, one may at some point in time separate from that Mitzvah and decide that he does not want to fulfill it anymore,

heaven forbid. This commandment is very specific and unique in the sense that it is actually a very painful thing to do: to cut the baby's soft flesh, which causes him to cry and scream because it hurts him very much, while at the same time all the guests sit around the tables that are laid out and sing with joy and happiness. This is only because we know and believe that Hashem commanded us to perform this Mitzvah with joy. *Torah, Chupah, and good deeds* – why do we mention good deeds last? There is a lesson. When a baby is circumcised, it is not because he has a choice in the matter. He is unaware of what is happening. Had the baby known of the pain and blood, he would instinctively wish to avoid it. If so, what merit can the baby receive? Therefore, we bless the baby to first learn Torah, to learn about fulfilling the Mitzvot, and then to merit getting married so that he can have a son of his own, as the Parasha first speaks of a woman who gives birth to a son, so that they could perform the Mitzvah of Brit Milah. Circumcision is the good deeds mentioned before, as there is no greater deed than fulfilling this Mitzvah on your son. Why? Because now you are performing the Mitzvah with intention and understanding.

At that moment, when you bring your son to Brit Milah, you are retroactively agreeing to your own Brit Milah performed when you were a baby, that you were happy and willing all along, and through this you will receive the reward and merit for fulfilling that great Mitzvah many years ago as well. May Hashem watch over us always, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

This week our Parasha begins by teaching us about the laws concerning a woman who just gave birth, and the number of her days of impurity. What happened? Why is she impure after childbirth? The impurity is the result of the Divine Presence leaving, for when holiness is gone, impurity comes and takes its place, the same way as with the impurity of the dead, which stems from the departure of the soul. The key of birth is in the hand of Hashem, therefore it follows that when the Shechinah, which is present at the time of birth, during a complicated and dangerous time, immediately departs when the birth is over, the Divine Presence's departure immediately causes impurity to come in its place. This is the source of impurity after childbirth.

History in Brief

80 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 150AD. After the Romans sinned so terribly by preventing the Jewish people from learning Torah and fulfilling Mitzvot, and after they killed so many Torah scholars, it was then that death and punishment came to the world with force. Without Torah and without the Jews learning and fulfilling it, the world cannot be in peace. Terrible famines spread throughout the lands, taking many casualties in its wake. Antoninus then decided it was time to stop enforcing the terrible decrees against the Jewish people. As the Jews were relieved of the

mistreatments and allowed to once again learn Torah and perform Mitzvot, peace began to come to the world once again. The Torah scholars that remained came out of hiding and appointed Rabban Shimon Ben Gamliel as the Nasi. This was after Rebi Akiva and his colleagues and students were murdered. With him were some of the students of Rebi Akiva: R' Meir, R' Yehuda, R' Yossi, R' Shimon, R' Nechemiah, R' Eliezer Ben Yaakov, and R' Yochanan HaSandelar. The Torah scholars in this generation were very poor, without even enough clothing to wear. Nonetheless, they sacrificed everything else in order to restore Torah to its proper place after all the destruction.

The Road to Health and Recovery

One who is diabetic should include the following in his diet: asparagus, grapefruit, onion, red cabbage, cauliflower, turnip, cucumber, wheat bran, soya, vegetable (Israeli) salad, tomatoes, parsley, peppers, yogurt, avocado, garlic, beans, rye, kidney beans, spinach, whole rice (not peeled), and quinoa. Healthy people are advised to include these within their diets as well in order to prevent diabetes.

Mussar: Derech Eretz

Proper behavior and Derech Eretz are beloved to Hashem, for the world simply could not continue without these Midot. One who acts without Derech Eretz is worth less than wild animals, while one who acts properly is respected and exalted by all. Even the Torah is glorified by such a righteous person before Hashem. One who acts without proper behavior cannot dwell amongst people. He is not accepted and is not given attention or an ear to talk to, since people distance themselves from such a person. What exactly is Derech Eretz? The

lifestyle and perspective that contains fear of Heaven, humility, a soft-spoken tongue, and respect for others. Your form of speech, eating etiquette, fashion of clothing, the way you conduct your business ventures, and the way you carry yourself while you walk and sit are all important aspects of Derech Eretz. Recognizing Hashem and acting according to His wishes is the greatest form of Derech Eretz. Hashem created you from nothing, granted you everything good that you have ever received, and each day takes care of you with specific attention. Commit yourself to the Torah and His commandments with love and happiness. Concerning this our sages teach us: *“Derech Eretz is a prerequisite of Torah”*. Every book has an introduction. The introduction to the Torah is Derech Eretz. Respect your parents who worked and toiled unconditionally to raise you, to the best of their ability, with love and care. Accord Derech Eretz to both the rich and poor, alive and deceased, young and old, for the world continues to exist in the merit of unselfishness and charity. Be very careful to pray in shul Shema and Amidah with a Minyan, for they are also included in the category of Derech Eretz. Try to perfect every aspect of your conduct and Hashem will watch over us, Amen.

Rishon LeSion: R' Rephael Meir 1801-1893

In 1881, three days before Pesah, a group of Englishmen came to visit. Noticing all the activity leading up to Pesah, they asked what was the reason for such preparations. They were told about the Jewish holiday of Pesah and were then invited to the home of R' Rephael Meir, the leader and Rishon LeSion. He greeted them with warmth and friendship and invited them to his Seder on Pesah night. The guests waited anxiously to see what all the excitement was about. The table was set up beautifully for the Seder, also very

appropriate for the guests. R' Rephael did his best to explain the Haggadah and also appointed someone to assist with spreading the explanations through the crowd. They could not keep their eyes off of the Rishon LeSion, whose words were penetrating their minds and hearts, spreading an awesome feeling through their bodies. R' Rephael always cared for the people in Israel, so when he heard that an area did not have a Mohel or Shochet, or a Yeshiva for children, he would appoint someone to that area to be the Mohel or Shochet, and establish a Yeshiva where children can learn Torah. During his tenure as Rishon LeSion, a book was published in Egypt that accused the Jewish leaders of killing young Christian boys in order to use the blood for Matzot to celebrate Pesah. Unfortunately, this terrible book of lies began spreading fast throughout the towns and cities.

Story

Shimon was a flour merchant who leased a wheat grinding mill along the waterfront from the governor to produce flour. One month, as they met briefly so that Shimon could pay the monthly rent, the governor sadly told him that unfortunately he could not continue leasing the mill to him, as he was offered a much larger amount for it. Shimon knew that this man did not need the money, as he was very wealthy already, and yet he was willing to kick him out and cause him so much suffering and loss of a livelihood just to make a few more dollars. He began to plead and reason with him, reminding him of the facts: he never missed a payment and was always on time, he had eight children and a wife, he was employing and supporting so many locals, and feeding them as well with the flour he produced, and so many people would be terribly affected from this decision. But all his words of

pleading were not making any difference. The bottom line: it was all about money.

Laws: Pesah

1 – After performing the Bedikat Hametz on the night of the 14th of Nissan, any Hametz leftover to eat the following morning should be secured in a designated place, out of the reach of children, so that it should not get lost and require additional searching and cleaning. The next morning, after eating, whatever remains is burned at the time that Hametz becomes forbidden.

2 – Women as well are obligated to fulfill the commandment to destroy their Hametz. Therefore, if a man is not destroying it for her, a woman must destroy her Hametz herself and recite in the day of the 14th the Kal Hamira three times only after burning the Hametz.

3 – In the day, after burning the Hametz, one recites the Kal Hamira paragraph that includes his proclamation that any Hametz, whether he saw it or not and whether he burnt it or not, should be considered insignificant to him like the dirt of the earth. The night before however, he only proclaimed insignificant what he did not see or burn.

4 – After breakfast on the 14th of Nissan, you should brush, floss, and rinse your teeth very thoroughly. Dentures should be cleaned well in warm water.

5 – Hametz that was rendered undistinguishable before Pesah when it was mixed within a ratio of 1/60 may be eaten during Pesah, since it is not considered Hametz to be prohibited on Pesah when even the smallest amount of Hametz is forbidden to consume. However, this applies only when the Hametz had become mixed inadvertently, and only after mixed can the law be so. However, one may not mix the Hametz within a ratio of 1/60 with intention.

6 – Pain relief pills may be used during Pesah, but not if they are flavored.

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Chaim Kanievsky zt"l, may his merits protect us, Amen. *** **Mrs. Vicky Kada, her husband Yosef, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Shlomo Ben Badia a"h**, Amen. *** Askani Tzibur **Mr. Isaac Esses, his wife, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Minyan Minha Kahal Bet Aharon.** Blessings and success for all families, Amen. *** **Mrs. Rina Jajati, her husband David, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Moshe Ben Husni Salame HaCohen a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Lysett Marashli, her husband Jack, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Leah Bat Subhie a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Berta Malbasati, her husband Elyahu 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. *** Askani Tzibur **Mr. Isaac Jade and his family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Jamila Bat Bahie a"h**, Amen.

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