

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
*Parashat **Balak***
17th Tammuz 5782

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Maqam Mahour *Haftarat **Vehaya She'erit***
Issue #991 July 16th 2022

*Candle Lighting 8:07pm * Shekiah 8:25pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 7:50pm * Shabbat Ends 9:06pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:36pm
Time for Talit 4:14am * Seasonal Hour 85:00 * Alot Hashahar 3:57am * Netz Hachama 5:39am
Weekday Minha 7:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 7:15pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 9:01pm * Chatzot 1:01
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:12am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:37am*

***The 17th of Tammuz Fast is postponed to Sunday July 17th
Fast begins 3:58am, and ends 8:54pm, & strictly 9:01pm***

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

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Just as we learned recently about Korah's miscalculation, thinking that he was deserving of more just because he had foreseen that the great Shemuel Hanavi was destined to be born in his family, so too this week Balak son of Sipor made a similar miscalculation, thinking that because Ruth the Moabite, daughter of the king of Eglon, from whom he had foreseen that David Hamelech would be born through, and likewise the king Mashiach for Bnei Yisrael, he therefore believed that he was destined for something more as well. He sent the elders of Moab and Midian with charms in their hands and a message of instructions to the prophet of the Goyim Bilam Ben Beor. Why did they need charms if he was a prophet with power? He was hinting to his future grandchild with the word 'Beyadam' (in their hands) which is spelled using the letters *Daled Bet Yod Mem, David Ben Yishai Mashiach*. He wanted to specifically tap into this connection, this spark that would come forth from him. Moab was very concerned because they now knew that true greatness was possible to descend from their nation and they did not want the Jewish nation to take it away. They wanted to hide away this secret treasure for themselves and deprive the Jews of their destiny. What did they do? They pushed away the Jews by not even offering them bread or water as they passed through their territory at the end of their forty-year journey to Israel through the desert. They were still not done. They then contracted the wicked services of Bilam son of Beor

to curse the Jewish nation. This was all done in accordance with the advisement of Bilam, who saw through sorcery that such actions – lacking in hospitality and proper etiquette – would earn Moab a forbiddance from ever marrying into the Jewish people. If they cannot be wed, then Ruth would not be able to marry Boaz, thereby preventing the Jewish people from taking their future power away from their people, and prevent Moshiach from ever arriving. Now, Bilam knew that only the men of Moab would earn the rejection from our nation through these actions – but what about the women? If they were still allowed to marry a Jew, then Ruth would still be able to produce David Hamelech! He therefore advised that the daughters of Moab must act with conniving craftiness in order to seduce the young Jewish men to sin. This will invalidate their modesty and ban them alongside their men. The plan did not work, however, because Hashem is in control. Their actions did not disqualify them, because albeit their actions were sinful, they did not define them or reveal a disqualifying quality in their character. Also, Rav Yehuda said in the name of Rav, Balak had in fact earned the reward that Ruth would descend from him because he had offered 42 sacrifices to Hashem with Bilam. It remains until this day a judgement, a deciding law, from the court of Shemuel Hanavi: Only a Moabite male is disqualified from ever entering our nation, not a Moabite female. David Hamelech was therefore able to come forth from Ruth, and from him one day very

soon Mashiach will arrive. This plan conspired by Bilam is one of ten things we must remember each and every day, to commemorate the everlasting kindness that Hashem shows us. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

Bilam had instructed the elders of Moab and Midian to spend the night. Hashem asked Bilam who these men were, and Bilam answered that Balak sent them to him, to curse the nation that left Egypt. Why did Hashem ask about the men, and why did Bilam mention Egypt? When Bilam told them to spend the night, the men from Midian left and returned home. When only Moab remained, Hashem asked Bilam who they were, why were they staying while Midian left, they should have also left. Bilam answered that Midian, unlike Moab who were sent by King Balak, were simple and therefore returned home. Moab had a special mission, to specifically curse the nation that left Egypt, and that differentiated them from Midian as well. Hashem therefore answered that the nation should not be cursed, as Bnei Yisrael is blessed.

History in Brief

100 years after the first Hurban Hamikdash, 190AD. Rebi Reuven had served his Rebbe, Rebi Yehuda Ben Baba, and the Romans killed his Rebbe as a result. Rebi Reuven had two sons who learned Torah from Rabbenu Hakadosh. One day Rabbenu Hakadosh saw the Angel of Death coming for the sons of Rebi Reuven, but he was gritting his teeth because he had not been given permission to take them from that location. Rabbenu Hakadosh instructed them to exile to the south, so that perhaps the exile would atone for whatever sin is causing the decree of death. However, the exile did not help them, and the Angel of Death took them from the south, as the decree in fact was that they should be taken to death from the south. We learn from this that a person is only able to be taken by death from the decreed location. A heretic once asked Rebi Reuven, who is hated in this world? He answered that a heretic who does not recognize his Creator is hated. But there are many heretics who recognize their Creator, why are they hated? Rebi Reuven answered, because they do not practice Mitzvot between man and his fellow, like respecting parents, or a murderer, or a thief, or any other infraction against another person. Such people are hated by heaven, even when they recognize their Creator, because it cannot be that they really recognize their

Creator if they can act in such terrible ways, and are considered to be denying the existence of their Creator altogether through their actions.

Health and Recovery

It should be noted that exposure to any noise over 100 decibels, even for a short time, causes hearing impairment, accelerates the heart rate, increases the blood pressure, disrupts the kidney function directly connected to the heart rate, and more. Optimally one should never be exposed to more than 80 decibels. It is common for some to experience an occupational hazard that affects hearing, i.e. noise generated through carpentry, a gardener using noisy equipment, or even dentists while using their instruments. Powerful music at high volumes in various auditoriums during events impairs the hearing and causes irreversible damage. The damage from hearing from heavy musical noise, especially when heard through amplifiers, is incrementally damaging, meaning the longer the exposure to the noise, the more severe the injury will be. Teenagers and young people who regularly expose themselves to noise may pay for it in the future in hearing loss. Studies show that one out of ten suffer from hearing impairment. Anyone who can work on reducing the noise levels in celebratory halls will be appreciated for benefiting the public's health. All should avoid loud noises when infants and young children are concerned, and if you must bring small ones to such noisy places, they should stay as far as possible from the speaker systems. Everyone should stay away from loud noises in order to mitigate the damage, and if possible, use earplugs that protect the ears from loud noises during such events.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Yaakov Shaul Elyashar 1817-1906

After R' Eliezer escaped to Damascus, and they searched all over for him but could not find him, the leader Ahmed Aljazar became very angry over the escaped prisoner, and ordered his men to widen their search to other cities, but this too proved unfruitful. It was as if the ground had swallowed him up. For 4 months R' Eliezer stayed with his relative hiding away in Damascus. But he longed so deeply to reunite with his family and wanted to do something about it. All that time his wife did not even know whether or not he was still alive. One day she received a letter delivered by a Jewish traveler coming from Damascus. She quickly opened it with excitement and recognized her husbands

handwriting. She forgot everything around her and completely focused on the precious writing before her eyes. It said that he could not return home to Tzefat for fear that the leader will capture him and put him to death this time. It was likewise unsafe for his wife to stay in Tzefat any longer, perhaps the leader might take out his anger on the family. He therefore advised his wife to take their son Yaakov and her mother and travel to Jerusalem. She should not tell anyone of her plans.

Mussar: Modesty

Modesty is one of three character traits that Hashem requests of our nation, as is stated in the Pasuk. Such a trait can protect a person from the Evil Eye, and save one from terrible sins, as we find by Yosef HaTzaddik who was careful with his modesty and did not look at his master's wife. He was saved from sin because of his diligence and care. Rabi Yossi was once asked by a certain woman: how could it be true that Yosef at the age of 17 had been so successful with his resolve not to sin? In response, he pulled out a Sefer Beresheet and began reading about the incidents with Reuven and Bilhah, Yehuda and Tamar, and then explained: these were greater men and were still living near their father, yet the Torah does not cover up the truth – do you really believe that the Torah would cover up the truth by Yosef? Certainly not! The Torah begins with the ideas of modesty, as we see by Adam and Chava. Anyone who is careful with modesty is protected from death, as we find by Shaul who was spared by David because of his modesty that David witnessed and decided not to kill him at that moment. Modesty includes that one must dress in lengthened and adequate amounts of clothing that are clean and orderly. If modesty is important for a man, surely it is important for a woman, who must always be very careful with her appearance and character, to always act and present herself in a refined and modest manner. A woman is a princess of Hashem. A woman must make sure to avoid having others look at her, especially if she is married. Because Dina the daughter of Yaakov went out and sampled the styles of the other inhabitants she caused trouble to come upon herself. A woman was actually created from a hidden and modest source, as she was taken from a side bone from man that is usually covered. With every limb that was formed, the intention was that woman should be modest. A bride who makes sure to be careful with her modesty will be blessed with children of regal and royal standing, wise men and prophets. We learn this from Tamar and Ruth the Moabite. A woman who is careful with her modesty even at home is fit to marry the Cohen Gadol. A modest woman brings atonement for her husband and her family. Therefore, women must be especially careful to always exercise as much

modesty as possible, even at home and especially outside, whether walking, sitting, standing, eating, and with her form and style of clothing. One is forbidden to go near a place that women bathe or swim. Our Sages teach us that a woman who exposes herself or dresses immodestly will not be grouped with her family in the World to Come. She will be placed outside of her family's group and cry in painful regret over what she had done to deserve this. Therefore, women, please have mercy on yourselves and on the livelihood of your husbands, and be careful with the laws of the Torah concerning modesty. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Story

The Goy, the new renter of the flour mill business, made his first lap through the dangerous waters, miraculously without damage, to the roaring approval of his audience, all those in attendance of his celebration festivities. They praised him for his unmatched athleticism, something the likes of which they had never seen before. He made another lap, this time deeper. He thought to himself: Ha! What would that man Shimon and his Rebbe say about me now, if they could witness such a great swimming performance! As he continued his laps in great display, the crowd waited for him to emerge from the other side, but he was not coming up for air. The young men tried to dive in and perhaps save him from drowning, but they were not skilled enough to swim through those dangerous waters. It took them half an hour to just retrieve his corpse from the waters so that they could return the body to his family. When the owner of the mill heard about what had happened, he immediately went to Shimon, afraid of his Rebbe and what would happen to him as punishment for his misdeeds against them. He promised to lease the mill to Shimon once again for a much cheaper price than ever before, and asked Shimon if his Rebbe could pray for him, as well as for the family of the deceased man. The family then gifted to Shimon all the new equipment that had been bought for the mill by the deceased. We learn from here the importance of never encroaching the boundary of another.

Laws: 17th of Tammuz

1 – The fast of the 17th of Tammuz this year is pushed off and will take place on Sunday the 17th of July. All are still obligated to fast. It begins 3:58am and ends 8:54pm. Those who are strict wait until 9:01pm. The fast begins Alot Hashahar which is one and a fifth seasonal hours before Netz – the seasonal hour on the fast day is 85:00, plus a fifth, 85+17=102 minutes before Netz, making Alot Hashahar 3:58am.

2 – If one wishes to eat before Alot Hashahar (3:58am), he must make sure to sleep on condition to wake up and eat, otherwise he may not eat even if he wakes up before Alot Hashahar.

3 – A pregnant or nursing mother within 24 months of childbirth, a lady who miscarried within 24 months, a person who is sick, even if not sick dangerously, a sick person who recovered but is still weak, and an older weak person, are all exempt from this fast. However, they should still eat only what is necessary and not indulge in desires.

4 – A bride and groom within the first seven days, a father after his son's Brit Milah, the Sandak, and the Mohel, are all obligated to fast.

5 – One who cannot last without rinsing out his mouth or brushing his teeth (a sensitive person) may brush, provided that he face downwards and not swallow.

6 – A healthy person who has a headache or is in pain and needs relief may take Tylenol or other such pain relievers without water. If he cannot swallow without water, he may use just enough water necessary to swallow.

7 – One who forgot that it was a fast day and ate must continue the fast nonetheless. If he ate a Kezayit, even though he is continuing the fast, he may not say Anenu in Tefillat Minha.

8 – One who made a Beracha on a drink or food forgetting about the fast, must taste it in order to have the smallest amount of pleasure so as not to have made a Beracha in vain.

9 – After Anenu, only the Sheliah Tzibur ends off with a separate Beracha of "Ha'oneh..." during Chazarah between the 'Goel' and 'Rofeh' Berachot. Everyone else, however, just ends off with "Shomeah Tefillah", the regular Beracha of "Shema Kolenu" in which they say Anenu.

10 – If one forgot Anenu, just continue and say it after 'Elokai Netzor' without a Beracha.

11 – Smoking is permitted during a fast.

12 – A boy under the age of 13 and a girl under the age of 12 are exempt from fasting.

13 – Cohanim is recited and performed during Minha of a fast only if it is after Pelag HaMinha (7:15pm). If a Minyan is praying Minha Gedola or any time before Pelag HaMinha (7:15pm), then Cohanim is completely skipped.

Sponsors

*** **Dr. Mayer Ballas, his wife Rachel, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov for the bride and groom **Eli and Adina**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Joe Emil Kamo, his wife Frieda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their son **Sonny**, on his

first haircut at the age of three, may Hashem bless them with health and longevity, Mabrouk, Amen. ***

Blessed siblings: Soly, Hillel, Arlet, and Sophie of the Bawabe Family. Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Zaki Yitzchak Bawabe Ben Simcha a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat their uncle **Jack Yaakov Bawabe Ben Simcha a"h**, Amen.

*** **Mr. Shay Kassab HaCohen, his wife Raizy, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Rosalyn Levy Bat Chava a"h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Jack, Joey, Raizy, Vera, and Lina of the Sardar Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Alvira a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Shlomo Shalouh HaCohen, his mother Selly, his wife Lillian, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Yosef Shalouh Ben Amilia a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Isaac Shakalo and his sisters: Gracie, Shella, Violet, Stella, and Claudi.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Bella Bat Kahila 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 Jrade and his family.** Blessings & success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Jamila Bat Bahie a"h**, Amen.

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