

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Devarim
9th Av 5782

Maqam Hijaz
Issue #994

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Hazon Yeshayahu
August 6th 2022

*Candle Lighting 7:48pm * Shekiah 8:06pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 6:15pm * Shabbat Ends 8:47pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:57pm
Time for Talit 4:36am * Seasonal Hour 82:00 * Alot Hashahar 4:20am * Netz Hachama 5:58am
Weekday Minha 7:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:59pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 8:42pm * Chatzot 1:01
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:26am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:48am*

The 9th of Av Fast Begins Motzei Shabbat 8:00pm

Arbit Motzei Shabbat 9:10pm

(To drive, after 8:47pm say 'Baruch Hamavdeel Ben Kodesh Lechol')

Sunday Shaharit 6:40am, Hashem Melech 7:00am, Minha 7:30pm

Fast Ends Sunday Night 8:34pm, 8:41pm for the Strict

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

With Hashem's help, we will begin reading this week from the fifth volume of the Torah, Sefer Devarim. The first four volumes were directly from Hashem. This volume can be classified as a book of harsh rebuke from Moshe Rabbenu to Bnei Yisrael, especially towards the end of the volume in Perashiot Ki Tavo, Nitzavim, Vayelech, and Ha'azinu. However, when Moshe Rabbenu began to rebuke the nation in Parashat Devarim, he did so with quiet hints and references, not straightforward, so as not to embarrass the nation. If a Hacham needs to rebuke his congregants, he should do so with wisdom so that it will be accepted. Before this, the Or HaChaim teaches, the only time Moshe Rabbenu rebuked Bnei Yisrael was by Mei Meriba. At the end of the volume, in Parashat Vezot Haberacha, Moshe ends off by blessing the Tribes, treating them with dignity and respect. When did Moshe begin rebuking the nation? The Pasuk explains that he did so at the end of the forty years. But why does Moshe rebuke Bnei Yisrael throughout most of this fifth volume of Torah, and only at the end of the volume, for the last two pages in the Torah, does

he bless them? Even the wicked Bilaam had blessed Bnei Yisrael more than that? Rebi Acha Bar Chinena explains: had Bilaam rebuked Bnei Yisrael it would not have been well received by the nation, and had Moshe blessed the nation more than rebuke, the other nations would consider the leadership style insincere. Therefore, Moshe rebuked, and Bilaam blessed. But, Moshe made sure to only speak reproachful to Bnei Yisrael directly, however when he spoke to Hashem he made sure not to speak negatively about Bnei Yisrael so as not to prosecute them in any way, and only spoke positively. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – As Moshe rebuked the nation for the sin of the *Meragelim*, *spies*, he explained that as a result he would not be entering Israel. What is the connection? We know that Moshe could not enter Israel because he hit the rock to bring forth water instead of just speaking to it and asking for water, which happened 38 years after the sin of the *Meragelim*? Why would he say that they were the cause? The explanation is: had the sin

of the spies not occurred, our nation would have entered Israel 38 years earlier, before Miriam passed away, thus not requiring Moshe to get water from a rock for the nation, and not placing him in a situation with room for error. Also, Moshe added more words of instruction to the Meragelim than necessary, telling them to scout the opposition and to bring back fruits. Also, before hitting the rock, Moshe had in fact erred on six other occasions while speaking with Hashem regarding his leadership of Bnei Yisrael, resulting in this final outcome.

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 each 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 to worry about their terrible health issues. 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.

Health and Recovery

Simple yet important diet pointers: 1- It is much better to lose some extra weight slowly and progressively, even over the course of a couple of months, than to lose more quickly, for then the simple changes in your lifestyle that have contributed to the weight loss will become permanent and meaningful, in contrast to extreme changes and immediate weight loss that do not stand the passing of time. 2- Never eat anything while standing. Always enjoy your meal while sitting. This habit of always sitting while eating will help you decline certain quick snacks that are usually eaten while standing and should really not be eaten at all. 3- Water! It is best to drink eight to ten cups of water a day. Sometimes people think they are hungry when in fact their body is thirsty. By keeping properly hydrated, one can reduce his excess intake of food.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Yaakov Shaul Elyashar 1817-1906

R' Eliezer lived the rest of his life in Jerusalem, working as a Sofer. Many purchased his work, because besides for being a great scholar, he also had very nice handwriting. Unfortunately, he didn't live too long in Jerusalem, as his stomach sickness which ailed him from Damascus continued to increase in strength until on Tisha B'Av in 1824 he returned to the Yeshiva in heaven. His young son Yaakov was only seven years old at the time. All the great Sages of Jerusalem came to pay respects to the mourners, who were broken and bitter over the great loss. During the week of mourning, a non-Jew came to the home looking for R' Eliezer. They did not recognize him. He explained that when R' Eliezer had been imprisoned, he had taken care of him, fed him, and R' Eliezer had promised to pay him back with money. He was now looking for him in order to collect. The Rabbanit explained through choked sobs that her husband had passed away that week. The man's face turned white with pain and he sat down on the floor to cry. After much time, he finally wiped his face, got up, and told them that R' Eliezer was not a person, he was an angel, and

then he left out the door. Throughout the week of mourning, he came back, sat with the mourners and cried, tears streaming from his eyes. On the seventh day, the non-Jew turned to the Rabbanit and said that he was forgiving half of the amount he was to collect, and the other half she can repay whenever she can. The Rabbanit thanked him and he went on his way.

Mussar: Serving Hashem

1 – We must believe that Hashem created everything from nothing and is always watching over everything. **2** – Hashem has no partners and needs no helpers. We must fear His judgment and His supremacy. **3** – Saying Hashem's Name any time besides during prayers or learning, and in any language, is forbidden. **4** – We must pray and learn with love and affection, and sing Hashem's praises. **5** – One may enjoy pleasure from this world only in order to continue serving Hashem, and in order to help others serve Hashem as well. **6** – Always keep in mind that your actions are in order to serve Hashem, whether you are eating, sleeping, playing, or working. **7** – Honor and love those who learn Torah properly. **8** – Recite Shema at the correct times – during Shaharit, Arbit, and before falling asleep. **9** – Concentrate during prayers and know what you are saying. **10** – Emulate Hashem's ways: be merciful like Him. **11** – Honor and respect the Shul and Midrash. Don't chat or act disrespectful while there, and sit properly with awe and Midot Tovot (proper conduct). **12** – Distance yourself from a possible transgression, and definitely from a known transgression. **13** – Trust only Hashem. Do not consult psychics, soothsayers, or star-gazers. **14** – Remember Hashem's kindness every moment, and constantly thank Him for everything. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Story

Nissan and Bella, who lived in a large inherited house in Ukraine, were poor and had three girls to marry off. People would recommend that they visit the holy Maggid R' Mordechai for advice and a blessing. While Nissan did not have faith in Hachamim, his wife Bella had very strong faith and wanted to travel to the Maggid. She knew in her heart the Rebbe wouldn't send her away empty handed. But how can she convince her husband?

One day, a young man named Nachum shared the news that the Rebbe was going to be passing by their town in Ukraine on his way to a neighboring town. He was scheduled to pass by the border of their town by the gates and spend just one night in the home of Shimon the businessman. Nobody knew where Nachum got his information, but everyone knew that it was usually very accurate. On that day, her neighbor invited Bella to her home. This surely must be a sign from heaven! Instead of having to leave her family for many days to embark on a hard journey to visit the Rebbe, Hashem made it that the Rebbe was coming straight to her in order to give her a blessing and advice. Surely this would bring salvation, so that her precious daughters would not remain as hidden treasures alone in their poor home.

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. Since the fast is pushed off to Sunday this year, some can be lenient with fasting if necessary, i.e. a pregnant or nursing woman. 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 *Havdalah* 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 midday, privately.

5 – Saturday night at 8:47pm, say '*Baruch Hamavdeil 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 Havdalah is recited on a cup of wine, without Ha'esh and without Besamim.

Sponsors

*** *Mrs. Nina Alwaya Nawama, her husband Gavriel, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother *Paulette Bolisa Bat Mazal a"h*, Amen. *** *Blessed siblings: Sarah, Linda, and Yosef of the Halabie Family.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father *Nissim Ben Esther a"h*, and Leilui Nishmat their mother *Mary Bat Salha 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. ***

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