

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ "Beth Yosef" ◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Shoftim
2nd Elul 5783

Maqam Ajam
Issue #1041

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Anochi Anochi
August 19th 2023

*Candle Lighting 7:31pm * Shekiah 7:49pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 7:10pm * Shabbat Ends 8:30pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:00pm
Time for Talit 4:52am * Seasonal Hour 79 * Alot Hashahar 4:36am * Netz Hachama 6:11am
Weekday Mincha 7:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:49pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 8:25pm * Chatzot 12:59
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:33am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:52am*

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The Pasuk commands Bnei Yisrael to place a king to rule and judge over them. This is one of the 613 Mitzvot in the Torah. If so, why was Shemuel Hanavi opposed to their request for a first-time king during his days? If the Torah specifically commands it, isn't that a positive request? The answer is, the Torah commands for a king in order to that the Goyim do not rule over and judge us, so that we remain separate and safe from their influence and corrupt court systems. During the times of Shemuel, they were not asking to have a king to be *separate* from the Goyim, rather they said they wanted a king to be *similar* to the Goyim. They wanted a king as their judge, to judge them like the Goyim, not like the ways of the Torah, and this was terrible in the eyes of Shemuel, because he was in fact the judge at that time, and he judged accordingly to the laws of the Torah. Also, their request was wrong because it was not yet time for a king to start ruling over Bnei Yisrael, it was still the time of the judges, like Shemuel Hanavi, and it was not yet time for the rise of the Davidic Dynasty. In fact, because Shaul was chosen and anointed as king, when it came time for

David to rule as king, two kingdoms cannot reign simultaneously, and therefore this caused the death of Shaul because he had been appointed as the king. Even the name Shaul has the same root as the word She'elah, borrow, something temporary, not permanent. They were punished for causing the demise of Shaul when it was time for the Davidic Dynasty to begin. In the days of Tzidkiyahu, after witnessing what happened to them under a king's reign, they asked for the removal of sovereignty and wished only for Hashem to judge them, but that time had passed, that could no longer be the case, and they were told that one day, in the future, during the times of the Final Redemption, with the coming of Mashiach, we will once again only have Hashem as our King, His name One throughout the world. Be'ezrat Hashem speedily in our days. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Cohanim were gifted the foreleg, cheeks, and maw of all non-sanctified, ritually slaughtered domestic animals. When Gaon the Malbim first accepted the

holy position as Rabbi in Bucharest, Romania, he told his people in his opening words that he expected them to give him the priestly gifts as follows: the “foreleg” – they must wear Tefillin on their arm every morning, the “cheeks” – they shouldn’t destroy the beard with a razor blade, and the “maw” – they shouldn’t indulge in forbidden foods.

History in Brief

130 years after the Hurban, 200AD. Beruria, the wife of Rebi Meir, the daughter of R’ Chanania Ben Teradyon one of the ten martyrs of the establishment, after they burned her father alive with a Sefer Torah and they put her sister in a house of harlotry, she told her husband: *it is a disgrace to me what they are doing with my sister.* R’ Meir took money and went to redeem her. He said, *if she remained pure from sin, then a miracle will occur and I will be able to save her, but if not, then I won’t be able to save her.* When he arrived, he wore common clothing, covered his face, approached her, and asked if she was available for him. She told him that she was experiencing the ways of a woman. He asked her if he could wait, and she told him to just go find another woman, surely there were prettier ones available. R’ Meir then understood that she was able to remain pure until this point. He went to the guard and offered to bribe him in exchange for the woman, but the guard said he was afraid of the owner. He told him that all he had to say was *Elaka D’Meir Aneni* and he would be saved from harm. The guard wanted proof that this would work, so R’ Meir threw rocks at dangerous dogs nearby, and when they charged to attack, he said *Elaka D’Meir*

Aneni and they suddenly lost interest in attacking him. The guard accepted the money and returned his sister-in-law.

Health and Recovery

1- The best exercises cause the fats that had been stored in the body to burn and decrease from the body. **2-** It is best to bathe only after properly digesting food. Bathing after eating is not healthy, harms the digestive process, and diminishes strength. **3-** When choosing what to eat, focus on nutritional values; what will fill you up in a healthy way and be easy to digest. **4-** Knowledge of nutrition and proper execution of a balanced diet is very important and beneficial for your overall health **5-** Fasting helps rid the body of unhealthy fats and body mass. Daily exercise also decreases toxins from the body. **6-** When you are hungry, do not just continue eating until your stomach is full. The same is true with drinking. One should not drink a full cup of cold liquid in one shot, and one should not eat quickly. Most importantly, don’t just eat sweets and pastries haphazardly when at a party or celebration. **7-** Don’t drink too much after eating, as it can harm digestion. **8-** Bathing with clean warm water prevents the development of hemorrhoids.

Mussar: Selihot

Everyone should arise early for Selihot, starting from Rosh Hodesh Elul. How fortunate are we to have the opportunity to break our desires and wake early during the night while the love for sleep is strong. We who rub sleep from our eyes please our Master greatly and quicken the coming of the redemption. However, after arising we must do the proper actions, for if not, we

will be held accountable for two misdeeds: for unnecessarily depriving our bodies of sleep in this world, and for not preparing for the next world. Our actions must be as follows: Rise quickly and efficiently, wash hands and eyes, understand that you will be serving Hashem from head to toe, and advance to Shul. Recite Selihot slowly and concentrate on the meaning of the words. Think: *“We will check our ways, change them, and return to Hashem”*, as well as *“We will return full heartedly, accept our prayers”*. Review the actions you have done the entire year and repent for this lifetime and any previous lifetimes. Our sins destroyed the Temples and cancelled the Tamid offering, as well as caused suffering to Heaven. We must arise early to request and beg forgiveness from the Ultimate Master. May Hashem grant us forgiveness and atonement for all of our sins, Amen.

**Rishon LeSion: R' Chaim Moshe, the
eldest son of Rishon LeSion R' Yaakov
Shaul Elyashar 1845-1924**

In Shevat of 1845, R' Chaim Elyashar was born in Jerusalem. He learned Torah from R' Yosef Borla, and married the daughter of Rishon LeSion R' Rephael Meir Panigel, at the age of fourteen. He would work hard during the day to earn money, and learned Torah during the night as if it was in middle of the day. Many sages and scholars would ask him questions. When his father was appointed as Rishon LeSion, R' Chaim was his father's right-hand man, working diligently for the people's best interests with great self-sacrifice. He would speak with the king of Turkey. He administered the Shaare Tzedek hospital and the Misgav Ladach hospital. In 1906,

when his father passed away, he was supposed to take his place as Rishon LeSion, but for a number of reasons this could not happen, so instead he spent his time learning Torah diligently. He wrote many Chiddushim on the Torah. In 1915 he was appointed as Rishon LeSion and served for two years. He passed away in 1924, may his merits protect us, Amen. World War I had ended and Israel was under the British control. The Turkish four-hundred-year rule had come to an end, and it was a new time under the British Mandate.

Laws: Shabbat

1 – We have a very special custom to recite Shir Hashirim on Erev Shabbat, as Rabi Akiva explains that the day Shir Hashirim was given to our nation was a very special and unique day, as all other written works are holy, but Shir Hashirim is holy of holies, greater than all other Shirim.

2 – Through divine revelation Shlomo Hamelech composed Shir Hashirim, portraying a troubled woman who is craving her husband, remembering their unique love, and glorifying her actions as she awaits his return. During our exile we remember Hashem's love for us and await His return with the Final Redemption.

3 – As one cleanses himself Erev Shabbat, wears his nice clothing, and comes to Shul to pray, the special holiness of Shabbat enters him and he is fit to recite the holy Shir Hashirim. Not every day is fit for its recitation.

4 – Therefore, one should not speak or interrupt while reciting Shir Hashirim, and allow the holiness of its recitation as well as the holiness of Shabbat to enter our body and soul, simultaneously allowing blessings to be showered upon us.

5 – Regarding a dangerously ill person, if a doctor needs to drive to administer treatment, someone else is allowed to accompany him in his vehicle during Shabbat to show him directions to the sick, or to help him get there quickly, or if he is needed in any other similar capacity for the sick person.

6 – If there is no doctor available to evaluate whether or not a person is in fact dangerously ill during Shabbat, then anyone who has any familiarity with sicknesses can make an assumption regarding the sick person's condition and decide if it is necessary to desecrate Shabbat on his behalf, because we are lenient when it comes to saving a life.

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their trip to Israel, in peace and goodness, Amen. *** **Mrs. Tania Antabi and her son Soly Shaalo, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Linda Bat Tera Esther a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Eva Khafif Antabi, her husband Shlomo, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Linda Bat Tera Esther a”h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Azar, David, Charlie, Estella, and Arlit of the Halabi Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their sister **Sonia Bat Rachel a”h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Sammy, Seymour, and Renee of the Esses Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Ovadia Ben Rina a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Toby Cohen, his wife Shella, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Avraham Ben Badia a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Nissim Kassab HaCohen, his wife Maggie, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Odette Bat Sofia a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Leah Bareket and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband **Yehuda Ben Rima a”h**, Amen. *** *** **Mr. Edmon Nahum, his wife Lina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Yehuda Ben Rima a”h**, Amen.

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