

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Vayera

20th Heshvan 5784

Maqam Nawa

Issue #1047

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat VeIsha Ahat

November 4th 2023

*Candle Lighting 5:32pm * Shekiah 5:50pm * Shir Hashirim 5:25pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 5:15pm * Shabbat Ends 6:31pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:01pm
Time for Talit 6:30am * Seasonal Hour 60 * Alot Hashahar 6:18am * Netz Hachama 7:30am
Weekday Minha 4:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:11pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:26pm * Chatzot 12:39
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:18am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:18am*

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

To sponsor our weekly publication, please mail your donation to:

**Vaad Tehilim Torah c/o R' A. Farhi
2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235**

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

The reward of a Mitzvah is another Mitzvah – one leads to another. After Avraham Avinu fulfilled the Mitzvah of *Brit Milah*, he wished to fulfill the Mitzvah of *Hachnassat Orchim*, hospitality to strangers. Hashem sent three angels to Avraham, and Avraham cared for his guests. The three angels had been given missions: one would inform Sarah that she would have a son; the second would heal Avraham and save Lot; and the third would overturn *Sedom*. Why was it necessary for the third angel to visit Avraham – he could have just gone straight to *Sedom* to carry out his function? *Sedom* was a terribly impure place and the angel did not wish to visit that place and risk being harmed by the impurity without first visiting Avraham who had great purity and spiritual holiness. “*Inasmuch as you have passed*” – Avraham was hinting, only because you have passed my path of purity can you now continue on your mission without risking harm. What was the sin of *Sedom* that caused them to be destined for complete destruction, that caused Hashem to overturn the cities and rain sulfur and fire upon them from the heaven? The *Ramban* explains: they were wicked in many fashions, but their destruction was decided based on their

complete disregard for the needy, poverty stricken, and less fortunate. On the contrary, not only did they not assist, they actually inflicted the needy and anyone who tried to help them. All nations helped the less fortunate amongst their people – except *Sedom*. Our Sages teach us that the evil of *Sedom* was not found amongst the other nations – if an individual would act like a *Sedomite*, he would be labeled as one. The Pasuk says that *they were sinners* - with immorality and adultery; *they were against Hashem* – with idol worship; and *they were exceedingly evil* – for they were cold murderers. Their judgment was decided as well because of the holiness of the land of Israel, where *Sedom* was located. Such a holy land cannot host impurity and evil. They were despicable to heaven and earth and were destroyed without a chance for redemption. Our nation was destined to inherit the land, and their evil followed by their destruction would be a great lesson for us and everyone, a lesson that Moshe Rabbenu reiterated before leaving this world. Why were they so evil? Our Sages teach us that Hashem had blessed them with great wealth and prosperity. They became very haughty and stingy, and did not wish to

share. They must be used as an example of evil and we must distance ourselves from even slightly replicating their corrupt conduct. Our Sages teach us that if one believes, ‘*What’s mine is mine and what’s yours is yours*’, he is on his way to becoming a *Sedomite*. One must share with others and care about others. They had so much wealth and so vast a land. Yet, they hoarded everything Hashem blessed them with, and didn’t want any of their goodness to be shared with others. David Hamelech recites in the first chapter of *Tehillim* “*In the paths of the sinners do not stand*” this is a reference to the sinners of *Sedom*. Rather, David continues, we should toil in Torah and produce great fruits, for then Hashem will bless us with success. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – “*His wife peered behind him and she became a pillar of salt*” Because she did not offer salt to her guests, she was punished in this fashion. Why does it say that she peered behind *him*, it should have said she peered behind *her*? The answer is as follows: in her mind, she was peering behind her husband, meaning she was trying to visualize her situation after her husband died. They had fled and left behind everything they owned. She was worried about what she would be left with financially after her husband died. There was nothing left for her to collect her Ketubah. Even at that moment, when they were escaping destruction that was caused from selfishness and a lack of consideration for others, she was thinking about herself and worried only about her own future. (*Keli Yakar*)

History in Brief

130 years after the Hurban, 200AD. Rebi Meir’s colleague, R’ Yochanan Hasandelar, was one of the few students that R’ Akiva taught Torah in his older years, when the world was void of Torah and needed to be replenished through dedicated students. R’ Yochanan would not take from others, as

many Sages, and worked as a shoemaker, some say he would work with pearls. He was born in Alexandria Egypt, learned Torah in his youth, and grew until he became the student of R’ Akiva. Once, seven Hachamim were in Bik’at Rimon declaring a leap year: R’ Meir, R’ Yehuda, R’ Yochanan, and others, when they were done, they wanted to do something to commemorate their action, so they each took a nail and hammered it into a stone of marble. The nails went in very easily and smoothly, with little effort, and they took it as a sign that Hashem agreed with their actions. That stone today is called Kipat Hamasmerot. That day they grouped together to delve in the study of the hidden secrets of the Torah, to correct certain things in the worlds above for all generations, and at that time R’ Yochanan taught: Anything started for the sake of heaven will prevail, while what is not performed for the sake of heaven will eventually perish.

Health and Recovery

Sugar is not as innocent and as clean as it seems, and there is no significant difference between white sugar and brown sugar. If you cannot quit consuming white sugar, you should at the very least reduce its existence in your food and drink significantly. When the angel ordered Shimshon’s mother to keep her son from drinking wine because he would be a Nazir, he also ordered her to refrain from drinking wine. The author of “Or KeShelomo” asks: why did he command her to refrain from drinking wine? Only her son would be a Nazir, not her, for which he answers: We have learned from here a great rule for every matter: one cannot demand that the son should be cautious in his behavior and not demand the same level of behavior from the parents. Because she had to raise her son to be a Nazir, it is unthinkable that she must make sure that no wine comes into his mouth but at the same time allow herself to drink wine, for she will never be able to raise her son to be a Nazir if she would continue to drink wine herself. So

is it with everything. We have also learned that if parents behave according to their instructions and then explain to their children the reasons for their behavior, experience usually shows that the children will absorb and implement the lessons and then sometimes even exceed the level of the adults. Children are willing and determined to accept boundaries, but it is very hard for them to accept decrees. The child wants and needs an explanation! If the child accepts it along with a personal example, the results will surprise you. Therefore, the population must be educated, in particular the young parents, regarding sweeteners - our enemy. Sugar is not an essential food, and all foods containing sugar are a tangible danger to our health, especially in regards to obesity and the health of our children's teeth. If we as adults are more careful, we can set a good example for the children as well.

Mussar: *Visiting the Sick*

It is a great Mitzvah to visit the sick. Our Sages of blessed memory teach us: When you visit the sick, you reduce their sickness by one sixtieth. Many ask: Is it also a Mitzvah to visit someone sick who will not even know that he is being visited? There are three reasons to visit the sick: 1- To help him with his needs. 2- To pray for mercy on behalf of the sick. 3- The Shechinah of Hashem is resting on the head of his bed, and your prayer on his behalf can be answered. One who visits without praying for mercy has not fulfilled the Mitzvah to its fullest. One who doesn't visit the sick is compared to a murderer. When you visit, you give much needed strength to the sick. Even if he does not understand, and even if he is sleeping, you are still fulfilling the Mitzvah. The visitor should not cause any problems through visiting. If he walks to visit, every step will bring him merit. Rav Aryeh Levine ztl was strict to especially visit those who were not able to understand that he was visiting, for then the Mitzvah is completely for the sake of

heaven. He would pray by the bedside, with the Shechinah, for the sake of the sick person's body and soul. Visiting a poor man is greater than visiting a wealthy man. It is great to also assist with Talit and Tefillin. Give some charity on his behalf, as charity saves from death.

Rishon LeSion: *R' Yaakov Meir 1850-1939*

The Jews of Turkey searched and decided that there was no other more fitting to serve as their Hacham Bashi than the Rabbi in Greece, R' Yaakov. They sent a delegation to R' Yaakov with the invitation to serve as Hacham Bashi and he was happy to agree. When the people of Greece heard the news, they did not want to lose their great Rabbi from their midst. They declared a day of prayers, fasting, and all business must be closed, in order to cry over such a loss. They formed a large group in order to speak to R' Yaakov and try to convince him to change his mind and stay with them. He promised that he would continue to pray for them from Turkey and look out for them, but they were not consoled by this reassurance. Realizing that they were relentless in their conviction to keep their Rabbi with them, he changed his mind and decided to stay with them. The people rejoiced tremendously with this great news. That day became a holiday for the people. But, in 1911, R' Yaakov was called to Jerusalem at the age of 61, he was needed to assist as a leading rabbinical authority. The people feared once again that they were losing their esteemed Rabbi, but R' Yaakov assured them that he would return as soon as possible.

Laws

1 – Olives are harvested in three ways: 1 – pulling the olives off by hand while climbing atop the tree. 2 – Shaking the tree while the olives fall to the ground beneath the tree. A machine can be used to pound the ground under the tree to shake it. 3 – Pounding the branches with a long stick, causing a downpour of olives.

2 – Do not remove an Avocado pit from water during Shabbat when it has already taken root as this is considered harvesting.

3 – One cannot remove a fish from water during Shabbat as this is considered harvesting.

4 – A fruit that became detached during Shabbat due to wind or other natural force may not even be moved during Shabbat.

5 – A fruit attached to the tree during Shabbat may not be smelled, out of concern that one will then remove it from the tree.

6 – Herbs and flowers that are attached may be smelled since it is normal to smell them without removing them. A fruit, however, cannot be smelled during Shabbat while it is attached.

7 – One cannot make use of a tree, out of concern that he will then remove a branch. However, if there's a rope attached to the tree, he may use the rope, or other peripherals attached to the tree, but not the actual tree itself.

8 – One cannot lean heavily on a tree, but can only lean lightly if the tree will not budge from the weight.

9 – One cannot hang something on the branches, i.e. clothes to dry.

10 – Clothing hung on a tree from before Shabbat cannot be removed during Shabbat.

Sponsors

*** *R' Eliyahu Guindi HaCohen, his wife Simcha, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, with the merit of teaching Torah to the people, Amen. *** *Mr. Meir Wahba, his wife Pauline, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Joe Yazdi, his wife, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Simon Ajmi, his wife, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Rephael Aslan Maleh, his wife, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Soli Araman, his wife Vicky,*

and their children. Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mr. Joe Araman, his wife Julie, their parents, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mrs. Suzi Farhi Aboudi, her husband David, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her brother *Avraham Ben Linda a"h,* 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. Toby Cohen, his wife Shella, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to *Elliot and Rene on the birth of a daughter,* and Mazal Tov to *Joe and Miri on the birth of a son,* Mabrouk, Amen.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1200
171,600 Website visits!*

* * * * *

www.BethYosef.com