

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Parashat Vayakhel Shekalim

Maqam Husseni

Haftarat Vayichrot Yehoyada

29th Adar Rishon 5784

Issue #1065

March 9th 2024

*Candle Lighting 5:37pm * Shekiah 5:55pm * Shir Hashirim 5:35pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 5:20pm * Shabbat Ends 6:38pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:08pm
Time for Talit 5:09am * Seasonal Hour 68 * Alot Hashahar 4:55am * Netz Hachama 6:17am
Weekday Mincha 5:45pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 5:08pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:33pm * Chatzot 12:06
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:19am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:27am*

Sunday & Monday, March 10-11, will be Rosh Hodesh Adar Sheni

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

Contributions of materials for the Mishkan included: Techelet (turquoise wool), Argaman (purple wool), and Tolaat Shani (scarlet wool). The Pasuk says that they were used for Bigdei Serad (knit vestments) Lesharet Bakodesh (to serve in the sanctuary). The Pasuk also says they were Bigdei Kodesh (sacred vestments) for Aharon HaCohen. Why were the vestments called both Serad and Kodesh? The Ben Ish Hai explains with a valuable lesson in life: The Mishna states that a person must always remember where he came from, remember where he is going, and remember that he will one day stand in judgment before Hashem. This lesson is hinted in this Pasuk: Techelet is synonymous with Tachlit, purpose and goals, referring to the future judgment. Argaman is synonymous with Gavon Haadom, the red shade, referring to the blood from which man is conceived and born, to remember where he came from. Tolaat Shani is synonymous with Tolea, worms, referring to the worms and maggots that eat away the flesh during decomposition after burial, to remember where we are going, into the ground. If a person

successfully remembers these three things, then he will reach the level of Serad, which can be read as Sar D, 'Daled', to be master of the four elements, earth, fire, wind, and water, to use all four in service to Hashem. Then his entire being will be considered Bigdei Kodesh, a sacred vestment, for his soul to be completely clothes in holiness and purity. The actions of the righteous do not just provide effective results for himself, but rather all others as a result benefit from his holiness and purity, and the people gain atonement and closeness to Hashem as a result, as the Pasuk explains that the Bigdei Kodesh were for Aharon, meaning to say, just as Aharon HaCohen's service brought atonement for all of Bnei Yisrael, so too all who are righteous and attain Bigdei Kodesh personally will effectively bring atonement for our holy nation as well. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Pasuk says: *On six days, work may be done, but the seventh day shall be holy to you, a day of complete rest for Hashem.* When Bnei Yisrael entered the land of Israel,

and began to work, Hashem told them, I have given you Shabbat so that you can spend the time learning Torah, and if you do this, then your livelihood throughout the week will come easily, as the Pasuk says *On six days work may be done*, which can be understood as the work will be done by others for you, so that you do not have to work hard yourself, all because you have made the seventh day, Shabbat, a day of complete rest for Hashem, spending the time learning Torah. (*R' Shalom HaCohen*)

Parashat Shekalim

Shekalim are collected from Rosh Hodesh Adar (Sheni) in order to have new funds for Korbanot starting from Rosh Hodesh Nissan. Why a half Shekel? Because Hashem and our nation are one, connected and together, through the Torah and Mitzvot, and our holy souls are connected to Hashem's Kisei Hakavod, the Throne of Glory. The Pasuk states that Hashem told Moshe *This shall be given*, R' Meir explains, Hashem actually showed him a fiery image of a coin from under the Throne of Glory, showing as if, with humility, Hashem is also a member of our nation and included in the collection. Without Hashem, we can never be whole, but through the contribution of the half-Shekel, we are elevated and connect with Hashem as one, as it says *Ki Tisa Et Rosh Bnei Yisrael, counting Bnei Yisrael*, which can also be translated as *lifting up Bnei Yisrael*, in holiness, through the counting. The price this year is eight dollars, ten grams of silver.

History in Brief

130 years after the Hurban, calendar year 200. Rebi Yehuda Hanasi, *Rabbenu Hakadosh*, received a Brit Milah on the eighth day, despite the Roman decree against circumcision, and was saved with the help of baby Antoninus and his mother, who declared that the two children should therefore forever be bound in friendship. Both were destined for greatness, Rebbe became Rosh Yeshiva, and

Antoninus became Caesar of Rome. There was a deep love shared between the two. A secret underground tunnel connected their living quarters. Antoninus asked Rebbe to pray for him, requested his advice on all matters for the success of Rome, and everything was conducted with the utmost secrecy. Antoninus once sent a secret message to Rebbe asking how he could bolster the Roman treasury which was lacking. Rebbe took the messenger out to his garden, uprooted big onions, and planted smaller ones instead. He then instructed the messenger to tell the Caesar what he had witnessed. The messenger asked Rebbe to write down a clear explanation, but Rebbe told him that would not be necessary. When he returned and the Caesar asked for the message, the messenger told him that there was no message, only an action. He described what Rebbe had done in the garden and the Caesar understood what to do. He confiscated all the wealth of the high ministers, who were all crooks who took bribes from the people instead of taxes, dismissed them, and appointed in their place new younger ministers who would be honest and perform their duties for Rome without corruption. Within a short time the treasury was once again full and the people were happy.

Health and Recovery

It is important to know that cardiovascular diseases are the number one cause of death in the developed countries of the world. This fact cannot be separate from the fact that food in modern countries contains a lot of saturated fat. It turns out that this fat is the main reason for this severe figure. Therefore, it is recommended to eat products that contain unsaturated fat, such as: low-fat milk, fat-free meat, fat-free chicken, olive oil, non-fat sea fish, avocado, nuts, almonds soaked in water, pumpkin seeds, and sunflower seed butter. You have to stay away from margarine. What is margarine? It originates from vegetable fat, artificially transformed into solidity by

hydrogenation, that is, a chemical modification of its molecular structure by adding hydrogen. In the process of margarine formation, trans-acids are also formed. This change poses a health hazard, raises the level of cholesterol in the blood, and is also suspected to be a risk factor for cancer when consumed in large amounts. In addition, margarine contains synthetic vitamins, food coloring, and preservatives. It is used in many commercial items, such as waffles, cakes, cookies, burekas, snacks, and chips. "Burekas is the worst, a dangerous cause for diseases, because it is made up of solid oils and the worst forms of fat that can be," says Professor Raphael Carasso.

Mussar: Recognize Hashem's Greatness

A person is considered a miniature world. Therefore, just as contemplating the awesome wonders of the world will help a person develop deeper faith in Hashem, so too shall contemplating the amazing details of the human body. We must constantly grace and thank Hashem for the countless blessings He bestows upon us every day throughout our entire life. He gives us even though we haven't earned it. He has created us from nothing. He has given us a body which is composed with countless wonders and outstanding wisdom. We were given a powerful and holy soul. We have intelligence in order to decipher between good and bad, right and wrong, and the ability to think and observe in order to recognize our Creator and Master. Hashem feeds us and gives us our necessities – even extras as well as some luxuries. He does not forsake us and cares for us every moment. The least we could do is recognize His greatness and bless His holy name in this world. Do not slumber and be ungrateful. Sing His praises to others and spread His presence throughout the world. He has created us in the form of His image, and blew a living soul within us, a soul of superiority and sovereignty; a soul with wisdom and great power, with the ability to

understand and develop, greater than any other creation. The body is so complex and the mind is the control center. We must realize the awesome gift of life and praise Hashem with great devotion and emotion. Those who praise Hashem in this lifetime will praise him after a long life in the next world – where the true praises are spoken. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

R' Ben-Zion Uziel 1880-1953

As World War I began, the ruling party of Jaffa decreed that all foreign nationals should be expelled from the city. With callous actions, thousands of men, women, and children were sent away to Alexandria. R' Uziel worked hard to seek the assistance of the Turkish government, and as a result many Jews in Jaffa were able to remain. The Turkish Army routinely demanded wood, wheat, rice, and grain from the people of Jaffa. One Friday night, during Shabbat, the beating footsteps of marching soldiers were heard in the streets, and an army officer banged hard on the door of a Jewish mill owner. He showed him a letter signed by a high-ranking officer that he was to immediately produce flour for the soldier's needs. The Jewish man tried to explain that he was unable to work during their holy day of Shabbat, but that he would be very willing to do so on the following night, unless he was able to receive special permission from the Rabbi of the city. The soldiers immediately went to the home of R' Uziel and commanded him to allow permission for the Jewish mill owner to produce flour for the Turkish army right away. R' Uziel denied their request. When the high-ranking officer heard what had happened, he became very angry and summoned R' Uziel to come immediately to his home.

Story

Hearing about a boy similar to his son who had miraculously been cured from not being able to speak his whole life, Yeshaya traveled to the

nearby city to hear the full story from the boy, Mordechai, and his parents. When he arrived at their home, Mordechai began his story: All his young life, despite his greatest efforts, he was unable to speak a word from his mouth. Only weird sounds came forth, never anything intentional. He knew how to read and write, he was intelligent, he just couldn't speak. Nobody was able to help him. At the age of eight, he was learning Gemara, understanding everything, and communicating in ways other than speech. He learned through Masechtot, accomplished a lot of learning, but he cried over the fact that he couldn't communicate properly. They never gave up. They prayed every day for salvation, for a cure, for a miracle, so that he could live a normal life. They were confident that one day Hashem would answer their prayers and they would hear him speak like all other boys his age.

Laws

1 – Yehuda Ben Tema teaches: A person must be as bold as a leopard, light as an eagle, fast as a deer, and strong as a lion, to do the Mitzvot of Hashem. As strong as a lion, a person must wake up in the morning in order to perform the Mitzvot of the day, to serve Hashem with power and energy. No matter the season or weather, no matter the feeling that the body needs more sleep, a person must push through and rise up with strength like a lion to beat his evil inclination. He should pray with a Minyan in Shul, and recite Shema and Amidah before the time ends.

2 – Upon waking up, recite Modeh Ani immediately, even before washing.

3 – If a person wakes up before Alot Hashahar, he must recite Tikkun Hatzot, as the Mekubalim teach us that this is very great and distinguished.

4 – Tikkun Hatzot is not recited after Alot Hashahar, but Tikkun Leah can be recited, the Ktah Sheni.

5 – Tikkun Rachel is not recited in the home of a bride and groom or the home of a mourner,

and not by the father, Mohel, and Sandak on the night before a Milah.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Toby Cohen, his wife Shella, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **The young woman Joyce Albert Farhi, her parents, her grandparents, and her siblings.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Yaakov Abraham HaCohen, his wife Simcha, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his grandmother **Sabrie Bat Galia a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Soli Araman, his wife Vicky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Avraham, Morris, Edward, Rimon, Esther, Berta, and Norma, of the Cohen Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Joul Bat Bahie a”h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Suzi Farhi, 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. *** **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. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen.

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