

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Vayikra Zachor

13th Adar Sheni 5784

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Vayomer Shemuel

March 23rd 2024

Maqam Siga

Issue #1067

*Candle Lighting 6:52pm * Shekiah 7:10pm * Shir Hashirim 6:45pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 6:35pm * Shabbat Ends 7:53pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:23pm
Time for Talit 5:42am * Seasonal Hour 72 * Alot Hashahar 5:28am * Netz Hachama 6:54am
Weekday Minha 7:00pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:18pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 7:48pm * Chatzot 1:02
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:04am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:16am*

Taanit Esther Thursday March 21st Fast Begins 5:32am and Ends 7:35pm Strictly 7:42pm

Zecher for Machatzit HaShekel this year is \$8 USD

Motzei Shabbat Megillah Reading Purim Night after Arbit Amidah

Purim Sunday Morning Megillah Reading 7:40am

Megillah Reading for Women 11:00am Please be punctual

Sponsored generously by the good-hearted:

Mr. Morris Bawabe, his wife Dolly, and their children.

May Hashem bless them with spiritual and physical success, Amen.

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

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2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

The letter 'Alef' of the first word in the Parasha 'Vayikra' is small. There are quite a few explanations as to why it is small. Our Sages teach us: Hashem will reward the righteous with up to 310 worlds, each according to their level of accomplishments. A Tzaddik who limits worldly and physical pleasures in this world and instead focuses on spiritual and holy work is rewarded with worlds, to the point that one who completely abstains from this world will merit 310 worlds. The Alef is written small to symbolize that this world's pleasures were meaningless to Moshe, he didn't consider them anything of importance, as a tiny little Alef. His humility enabled him to reach this level. The more a person can achieve a level of humble understanding, the more he will realize how unnecessary it is to chase after the desires of this world. The Chatam Sofer,

born in Frankfurt Germany in 1762, lived and passed away in Hungary in 1839, established hundreds of students, who carried ninety of his handwritten Sefarim manuscripts as they escorted him to his burial. During his time, the Jews were not allowed to leave their ghettos and travel freely through the lands. They were heavily taxed, even for marriage, and times were restrictive. However, a new influence came from France which spread through Europe, and in the process, Jews were given much more freedom to do as they pleased, to travel farther and conduct business at greater distances. They were overjoyed, but the Chatam Sofer stood up in front of his Kehillah and gave a powerful speech with so much strength and energy that at the end he was left exhausted and spent. He said that our Prophets warned us never to be happy

with the opportunity to travel and move freely amongst the nations. If the nations are welcoming to us and show us favor, do not think that this is to our benefit, because this will only lead us deeper into this world and its pleasures. While in exile, amongst the nations, this is a serious test we face. Torah learning, prayer in Shul, hearing the Torah reading, studying Torah daily with a schedule and goal, this is how we merit our souls for protection from this world, this is how we distance from this world and its terrible tests of pleasures that only leads to suffering and trouble. True pleasure is in Hashem's Presence. Enjoy the Torah, push yourself to learn Torah, to connect with Hashem, and you will realize the real benefits available in this world, with happiness, peace, and health. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on Megillat Esther

1 – The Megillah begins with King Achashverosh sitting on his throne of sovereignty. He was now calm and at peace. He had been worried about a prophecy that seventy years after the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash it would be rebuilt and the Jews would return to their holy land Israel and rebuild it once again. King Belshazaar miscalculated and started counting from when the Bet Hamikdash was destroyed. He was punished for his miscalculations. Achashverosh was now calm and confident that he was counting correctly from Nebuchadnezzar's exiling of King Yechonia, and therefore he made a great feast using the vessels from the Bet Hamikdash and donned the special clothing of the Cohen Gadol to show all the nations that the Prophecy would not be fulfilled.

2 – Achashverosh had a number of close advisors listed in the Megillah, whose names were a remembrance of the different sacrifices that were no longer taking place in the Bet Hamikdash: *Karshena* – hinting to a lamb within its first year, *Shetar* – hinting to two

turtledoves, *Admatah* – hinting to the altar of earth, *Tarshish* – hinting to one of the stones on the Choshen worn by the Cohen Gadol, *Meres* – hinting to the stirring of the blood during a sacrifice offering, *Marsena* – hinting to the mixing of the flour and oil for a Mincha offering, and *Memuchan* – hinting to the prepared Showbreads displayed upon the Shulhan from week to week.

3 – As they drank and intensified their intoxication, they began speaking about women's beauty, arguing whose nationality produced the finest of appearance. Achashverosh in his drunken stupor told all those who were arguing that his wife Vashti was the most magnificent in terms of beauty and appearance, and that he would prove it to them by bringing her out to appear only in her royal crown.

4 – Regarding the lavish party that Achashverosh hosted, the Pasuk says that it was conducted according to the wishes of "Ish Va'Ish" – two men that the Gemara identifies as Mordechai and Haman: both men were called Ish, as Haman was called *Ish Sar VeOyev*, a wicked man, and Mordechai was called an *Ish Yehudi*, a Jewish man. Hashem is above everything and His will is the ultimate plan. The entire banquet of Achashverosh was intended to fulfill the wishes of these two men, Mordechai and Haman. Haman wanted to kill Vashti, since she often would embarrass him, and she didn't even invite his wife to the ladies' party in order to cause him pain. He therefore succeeded in having her killed at this party. Mordechai's wishes were also fulfilled during this banquet, as events were set in motion for a member of his family, Esther, to serve as the focal point for the salvation of the Jewish people, from the inevitable rise of the wicked Haman.

5 – On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine. He was already drinking wine for seven days, his heart happy and content all along, but the Pasuk here is telling us the significance of the fact that it was

the seventh day, the day of Shabbat, because Hashem punishes measure for measure with exactness. Vashti forced Jewish women to work for her, especially on their holy resting day of Shabbat, therefore her own death sentence would be decreed on the day of Shabbat as well.

6 – Haman made a lottery and was happy with the results, as the seventh day of Adar was a known day in Jewish history, the day that Moshe Rabbenu passed away, and since Moshe is compared to all of the nation, here too he hoped to remove the whole nation from this world on that same day.

7 – *Esther summoned... to learn what 'this' was, and about what 'this' was.* She was asking Mordechai, perhaps Bnei Yisrael have rejected the Torah, hinted here as it says concerning the Lihot “*They were inscribed on 'this' side and 'this' side*”.

8 – Why was it called Megillat Esther and not Megillat Mordechai? Esther wished for these events to be recorded for all future generations, so they should know of the great miracle Hashem performed on their behalf and save them from total annihilation, but the Sages were unable to write the story in detail without incriminating Achashverosh and his advisors who were conspiring along with Haman, and such details will surely infuriate the king and cause his wrath to come down upon them as a result. Also, he then acted as if he did not know what was happening, as if clueless of Haman’s plan, when he responded to Esther, *who wishes to cause your people suffering?* The events happened recently, all very fresh in the king’s mind. Esther therefore told them to call it Megillat Esther, and everyone will reveal what is hidden, under her name, through the miracle of Purim. Therefore, it was called Megillat Esther.

9 – The Pasuk in Megillat Esther teaches us that the holiday of Purim is named after the word ‘Pur’. The Targum translates the word ‘Pur’ as ‘*Puria*’ which is the same as ‘*Mita*’, translated as ‘*bed*’. This teaches us that the

main element of the miracle occurred when Haman fell upon the bed of Esther and was caught by Achashverosh, which led to his destruction.

10 – *Mordechai... sought the welfare of his people, and was the spokesman for the peace of descendants.* What is the difference between his ‘people’ and ‘descendants’? Unfortunately, during those times while in exile, Jewish men took non-Jewish wives and had children who were not Jewish. Mordechai distinguished between which children were part of Jewish families and therefore were his ‘people’. To them he sought their welfare and included them in our nation, while the other descendants who were born from non-Jewish mothers, he wished them peace and sent them away.

Health and Recovery

The following are ten types of foods that should be on your preferred list of choice: **1-** Fish, specifically sardines, lowers the level of lipids in the blood and increases the level of good cholesterol in blood vessels. **2-** Lentils are a good source of potassium and helps prevent cholesterol accumulation in the blood. **3-** Almonds soaked in water protects against heart disease and helps get rid of bad cholesterol. **4-** Pomegranates protect against stroke, heart disease, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and dementia. **5-** Beetroot eliminates oxidants, protects against cancer growth and strengthens the heart. **6-** Turmeric prevents heart enlargement and is beneficial for high blood pressure and overall blood vessel health. **7-** Avocado provides the body with antioxidants that help with lowering the cholesterol levels in the blood, and removes toxins from the liver. **8-** Lemons are rich in all kinds of vitamins and fiber, and helps cleanse the liver of harmful toxins. **9-** Green tea improves liver activity and reduces toxins. **10-** Cabbage: contains sulfur, it also removes toxins from the liver, and increases immunity against diseases.

Laws: Purim

1 – If Arbit was not yet recited and the Purim Seudah extended into the night, then Al Hanissim is still recited in Birkat Hamazon.

2 – One may not talk during the Megillah reading until after the last Beracha is recited. If he did speak, he must go back to the spot that he spoke and continue from there.

3 – One should answer Amen to Kaddish, Kedusha, and even Berachot during the reading as long as he has a kosher Megillah to catch up the words he missed. If he doesn't, then he can't answer Amen as *One who is busy with a Mitzvah is absolved from other Mitzvot*.

4 – It is a good custom to complete the Mitzvot of Mishloach Manot and Matanot LaEvyonim before the Purim meal.

5 – We do not mention Purim in the Beracha Me'ein Shalosh.

6 – One who reads the Megillah in his house should recite all the Berachot beforehand, but should only recite the Berachot afterwards in the presence of ten people, even if they are women.

7 – Mishloach Manot and Matanot LaEvyonim must be given during the day and not at night. Matanot LaEvyonim could be given anonymously, but not Mishloach Manot.

8 – After the reading, and only after rolling up the entire Megillah, recite the appropriate blessings.

9 – One who missed Al Hanissim in Amidah or Birkat Hamazon, and already recited Hashem's name, cannot go back, but should include it in Elokai Netzor or the Harachamans. If he did not, he does not go back.

10 – One should dress nicely on Purim.

11 – It's best to be strict and not work during Purim, for it will not produce blessing.

12 – Shaving, haircuts, and cutting nails are prohibited during Purim. Cutting nails by a Goy is allowed.

13 – A mourner within seven days during Purim is like a mourner on Shabbat. He goes to Shul to hear the Megillah and dresses up for Purim. He does not wear Tefillin on the first day of mourning, and he keeps the four Mitzvot of Purim.

14 – A mourner within 30 days, or within 12 months for his parents, cannot send Mishloach Manot but may receive. Some hold he may send to one person to fulfill the Mitzvah.

15 – According to Kabbalah, make a beautiful Seudah for Purim with Pizmonim and Divrei Torah, with meat and wine.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Rivka, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Latifah Bat Esther a"h**, all friends and family please recite some chapters of Tehillim on Monday March 25th Leilui Nishmat **Latifah Bat Esther a"h**, because it is the annual date of her passing, *Tizku LeMitzvot*, Amen. *** **Mr. Ezra Shasho HaLevi and his daughters: Lydi, Silva, Noura, and Tova.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his wife and their mother **Nina Sarah Bat Silva Sabour a"h**, 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.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$2950
187,500 Website visits!*

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