

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
*Parashat **Ki Tisa***
15th Adar 5785

Maqam Hijaz
Issue #1111

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
*Haftarat **Vayishlah Ahab***
March 15th 2025

*Candle Lighting 6:43pm * Shekiah 7:01pm * Shir Hashirim 6:40pm followed by Mincha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Mincha Shabbat 6:25pm * Shabbat Ends 7:44pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:14pm
Time for Talit 5:57am * Seasonal Hour 70 * Alot Hashahar 5:43am * Netz Hachama 7:07am
Weekday Mincha 6:50pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:19pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 7:39pm * Chatzot 1:04
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:13am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:23am*

**Taanit Esther Fast Thursday March 13th, Begins 5:48am, Ends 7:25pm, Strictly 7:37pm
Thursday Night & Friday Morning, Purim: Mincha 6:30pm, Megillah Reading 7:00pm
Shaharit Purim 6:00am, Megillah Reading 6:40am, Megillah for Women 11:00am**

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

In this week's Parasha, the Pasuk explains Hashem's instructions concerning the *Half Shekel* contribution for the national census: ***The wealthy shall not increase and the destitute shall not decrease.*** When our nation occupied the holy land of Israel, as their kingdoms reigned and the Mikdash stood in glory, each year every member would give a half Shekel in the month of Adar. This amount was non-negotiable. The half Shekel was given exact in amount without any variation at all. The rich knew the limit, and the extremely destitute donated this necessary amount one way or another. Everyone was equal, everyone treated exactly the same, counted in the exact same way. Before Hashem, our Creator, we are all equal, as one. Nobody would deserve extra honor for doing more, and nobody would be embarrassed for not doing enough. Everyone gave the exact same amount, as we are all before Hashem. The half

Shekel would serve as an atonement for the sin of the Golden Calf, which was performed during the half point of the day. The sin transgressed the Ten Commandment, and the half Shekel is equal to ten Gerot. This also brought atonement for the sin of selling Yosef, which was transacted with twenty Dinarim, which translates to five Shekels, split amongst ten brothers will yield a half Shekel per brother in this sale. Now, man is created with four elements: Dirt, Water, Wind, and Fire. Fire is the warmth of the body. Dirt and Water are the composition of the body. The wind cannot be measured. When man dies, he has not reached half of his ambitions in this world, thus he gives a half measure of a Shekel. Also, since only the men sinned with the Golden Calf, a man without a woman is only half complete. Therefore, only a half Shekel is given. This Parasha connects with the Parasha of the Kiyor, the washbasin, which was

donated by the women, who did not sin with the Golden Calf and merited to donate the Kiyor. A final reason why only a half is given is because Hashem despises haughtiness and arrogance. The Shekel is given broken in half to teach us to be humble and level-headed, so as to find favor with Hashem and be protected from sin. May Hashem forgive us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – Rabbi Chanoch explains: Hashem made a Kal Vachomer, a logical deduction, to Moshe, as follows: If I have forgiven Bnei Yisrael for the sin of the Golden Calf, which is a serious form of idolatry and a most terrible sin, then when they sin later on in ways that do not include idolatry, sins that are surely less grievous in nature, then I will surely be able to forgive them once again.

History in Brief

190 years after the Hurban, calendar year 260. Rebi Levi BarSisi, a Tzaddik and Chassid known in the Gemara as Rebi Levi, was a student of Rabbenu Hakadosh and a great scholar in Torah. When rain did not fall in times of need, Rebi Levi decreed a fast and prayed, Master of the world, as You sit high up in honor in the heavenly abode, your children here on earth are in need of mercy! Immediately it began to rain. However, as a result he became lame for the rest of his life. A different time, soldiers were coming to attack his city. He took a Sefer Torah and ascended to the roof. He said, Master of the world, if I have forsaken even one word of the Torah, allow the soldiers to come, but if I have not, have them sent away. Immediately his prayers were answered and the army went away. When Rebbe passed away, Rebi Chanina Bar Chama was deserving of serving as Rosh Yeshiva, but he declined because his colleague Rebi Afas

was 30 months older than he. Rebi Afas was appointed, and Rebi Chanina sat outside alone, because he was greater than Rebi Afas. Rebi Levi came outside and sat with Rebi Chanina in his honor and learned with him. When Rebi Afas passed away and Rebi Chanina was appointed as Rosh Yeshiva, Rebi Levi then sat outside by himself, until he moved to Babel. The Sages of Babel were very happy to gain such a great Sage in their midst.

Health and Recovery

Vitamin D is a nutrient your body needs for building and maintaining healthy bones. That's because your body can only absorb calcium, the primary component of bone, when vitamin D is present. Vitamin D also regulates many other cellular functions in your body. Its anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and neuroprotective properties support immune health, muscle function and brain cell activity. Vitamin D isn't naturally found in many foods, but you can get it from fortified milk, fortified cereal, and fatty fish. Your body also makes vitamin D when direct sunlight converts a chemical in your skin into an active form of the vitamin (calciferol). The amount of vitamin D your skin makes depends on many factors, including the time of day, season, latitude and your skin pigmentation. Depending on where you live and your lifestyle, vitamin D production might decrease or be completely absent during the winter months. Sunscreen also can decrease vitamin D production in the summer months. It is best to go outdoors, under the sun, during the hours of 10:00am-3:00pm. Nowadays, people remain indoors for most of the day, without enough windows, skylights, and access to sunlight. We have become accustomed to temperature-controlled environments, heating and cooling, and don't even open the

windows to allow fresh air into our living spaces. Electricity has taken the place of sunlight. We sometimes barely even open the shades to allow the sunlight in. Neighboring buildings are tall and block much of the direct sunlight as well. All these factors greatly decrease our chances of receiving vitamin D through sunlight, especially during the winter months when the day is much shorter and the hours of sunlight are significantly decreased.

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:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013

One time, as Hacham Ovadia sat and learned Torah with great concentration in the hallowed walls of Yeshivat Porat Yosef, he completely lost track of time, and when he returned home, he found the door locked for the night. Instead of waking up his parents, he sat on the front steps, took out a Sefer, and learned by the light of the moon. When his father R' Yaakov woke up to pray Netz, he opened the front door and found his young son sitting and learning on the steps. He didn't want to wake up his parents, and he didn't want to waste time either. After morning prayers, he would learn a Daf of Gemara with his close friend from his youth, Gaon Hacham BenSion Abba Shaul. As they walked together to Yeshiva, they would take turns reviewing the Daf by heart, word by word. Hacham Ovadia would remember every name of the Tanaim and Amoraim, and quote them accurately with perfect memory. The Yeshiva would end earlier so that those who had to walk home can do so safely without danger, but Maran would not stop learning. He would go to Yeshivat Hebron with R' Abba Shaul and would learn five more pages of Gemara while they walked. When they arrived, they would continue learning there until midnight.

The Miracles of Purim and Chanukah

The miracle of Chanukah was clearly understood by all that the Jewish people

were saved directly by Hashem. The light burned for eight days straight instead of just one day. The many were defeated by the few. The mighty were defeated by the weak. The wicked fell to the mercy of those who learned Torah and were not warriors at all. The miracle of Purim, however, was not so obvious as being directly from Hashem. Hashem performs miracles alone, not to say that nobody else performs with him, which is of course true, but that Hashem performs miracles alone in the sense that nobody is even aware of all the great miracles performed by Hashem. People think nature is just taking its course. This is why Hashem's name is not written in the Megillah. The stories in the Megillah were not just political theatre, how some rose to power, some were persecuted, terrible decrees were passed, and then through political advancements everything worked itself out. We must recognize that Hashem orchestrated the entire story, that is the Avodah, to see Hashem throughout the Megillah even when Hashem is never mentioned. Our Sages therefore instructed that all must even stop learning Torah in order to go read and hear the Megillah during Purim. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Laws

1 – While praying, learning, and eating, one must be careful not to touch a part of his body that is usually covered so as not to be required to wash Netillat Yadayim again.

2 – If you do not have water, you can wipe your hands on a towel, a cloth, a rock, wood, or even a wall, as long as they are clean. Wiping your hands once is enough, but you must wipe both sides of each hand.

If you only wipe your fingers that is not enough.

3 – If you are thirsty in middle of the night, you can recite a blessing without washing, but should at least wipe your hands first. You can also answer Amen to a blessing, and recite a blessing on thunder and lightning in middle of the night.

Sponsors

*** Mashgiach Baal Koreh **Moshe Kredi HaCohen, his wife Evon, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Mayer Wahba, his wife Poline, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Edmon Mordechai Guindi HaCohen, his wife Margo, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Bella Hazan and her husband.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** The family and friends of the righteous woman Tzadeket Eshet Hayil **Sibhie Bat Rozin, may her soul be bound up in the bonds of eternal life,** Amen. *** **Mrs. Adele Hudeidi and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband and their father **Chaim Ben Farha a"h,** Amen. *** **Mr. Edmon Nahum, his wife Lina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat the pure soul of the young child **Yosef Chaim Ben Olga a"h,** Amen.

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