

Congregation

★ ★ ★ "Beth Yosef" ★ ★ ★

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Vayera

20th Heshvan 5787

Maqam Nawah

Issue #1178

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Velsha Ahat

October 31st 2026

*Candle Lighting 5:36pm * Shekiah 5:54pm * Shir Hashirim 5:25pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 5:15pm * Shabbat Ends 6:35pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:05pm
Time for Talit 6:24am * Seasonal Hour 61 * Alot Hashahar 6:12am * Netz Hachama 7:25am
Weekday Minha 5:40pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 5:14pm * Tzet Hacocharim 6:30pm * Chatzot 12:39
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:15am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:17am*

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

The Pasuk says, "And the fugitive came and told *Abram Ha-Ibri*" This is the first time that *Abraham Abinu* is called by the name *Ha-Ibri*. The name *Ibri* is mentioned in several other places in the Torah as well. The wife of Potiphar said, "He brought us an *Ibri* (Hebrew) man." *Yosef* also said, "For I was indeed stolen away from the land of the *Ibrim*." The chief butler also said to Pharaoh, "And there with us was an *Ibri*." Regarding *Moshe*, the daughters of *Yitro* said, "An *Ibri* man saved us." *Moshe* also said to Pharaoh, "The Gd of the *Ibrim* has revealed Himself to us." Why were they called *Ibrim*? There are several reasons. The first reason is that they were descendants of *Eber*, who were devoted to the service of Hashem. The second reason is that *Abraham* came from *Eber HaNahar* (the other side of the river) to the land of *Kenaan*. The third reason is to teach us the Pasuk, "Behold, it is a nation that will dwell alone." The whole world is on one side, and the Jewish people are on the other side. The meaning of *Ibri* here is that we are on the other side. When were they first called *Yehudim* (Jews)? In the days of *Mordechai* and *Esther*, as it says, "There was an *Ish Yehudi* in *Shushan* the capital."

We can further explain the second reason of "from the other side of the river" as coming to teach us something. Even though *Abraham* was born and lived on the other side of the river, a place of idol worship, and even though he worked for his father *Terah*, who sold idols to people, even so *Abraham* left everything behind him, including the faith of his fathers. He searched for the true Leader of creation, until Hashem called to him and said, "I am the Owner of the palace, and I am the Leader." Then *Abraham Abinu* began teaching people to abandon idol worship, to cling to Hashem, and to serve Him with complete faith. May Hashem protect us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1- "Only there is no fear of *Elokim* in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife." In this pasuk *Abraham* was telling *Abimelech* that there is no fear of G-d in this place. *Rabbi Elchanan Wasserman* said this about Germany before the war. *Abraham Abinu* said "only there is no," which means that only one thing is missing. That one thing is the most important thing, and it is the fear of

Hashem. There are many beautiful things in Berlin, such as education, wisdom, and an advanced culture, but these are not the main thing. The main thing is the fear of Hashem. If there is no fear of Hashem, then "they will kill me." That is why the Nazis, who had no fear of Hashem, killed and slaughtered millions of people.

2- "And his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt." Why does the Pasuk say "from behind him" and not "from behind her"? Because she was concerned only with her own benefit. She said to herself, "If my husband *Lot* dies, where will my daughters and I get our livelihood?" She did not give her guests even salt, and that is why her punishment was that "she became a pillar of salt."

History in Brief

230 years after the destruction of the Temple, calendar year 300

Alexander was the emperor of Rome. He showed great honor to *Rabbenu HaKadosh*. After *Rabbenu HaKadosh* passed away, Rome was at war with Germany. The emperor's army officers asked him to join them in the war and help them, but he did not want to fight. He wanted to make peace with Germany. His soldiers became angry, and the head of his army, Maximinus, came to his house at night, cut off his head, and threw it into a river in Germany. He also killed the emperor's mother and all his relatives who were with him. Maximinus became king in his place against the will of the elders of Rome. He continued the war with Germany and killed everyone he saw in his path, from young to old, young men and young women alike. He also took revenge on the Christian sect and killed many of them. This was the eighth general persecution of the Christians at the hands of the Roman emperors. However, the elders of Rome accepted Gordianus as their ruler and began to fight against

Maximinus. They killed him and his son and threw their bodies into the river that runs through the city. In those days Europe suffered terrible and astonishing signs from the heavens. Many cities collapsed from the great earthquakes, and a very large number of people were killed. Powerful floods filled the streets of Europe, and people, many animals, and countless possessions were swept away and drowned. Even in Rome itself, five thousand people died in a single day. This happened in the year 247 of the secular calendar.

Health and Recovery

1- Everyone's digestive tract is different and functions differently. 2- Do not chase after good tasting food which is harmful for you. 3- Soft foods such as cereals and soups are able to be digested quickly, and their nutrients enter the blood easily. They are then quick to adapt to any part of the body where they can provide quality nourishment. 4- Cleaner blood generally services the organs on the right side of the body, while the less pure blood services the organs on the left side of the body. 5- Excessive sweating is a sign of weakness in the body. 6- Sweat is salty. When one is sick, the sweat becomes saltier, just as the taste of saliva in the mouth changes depending on the sickness. 7- The persistence of worrying melts the fat in the body and dries the skin. 8- Enjoying delicacies often decreases the quality of the body's blood. 9- The following activities cause weakness to the body and a plurality of diseases: the pursuit of women - pursuit of money without restraint - constant demand of power and authority - being envious of others - one who troubles his mind with thoughts of why others are getting rich while he isn't, why others are happy while he isn't; such thoughts are constantly causing restlessness to the mind, which weakens the body and begins causing a number of diseases.

Mussar: Seclusion with Hashem

Seclusion with Hashem is a very important trait that is greater than the rest. Seclusion means to devote and dedicate a special time to privately speak with Hashem and ask from Hashem what you need. Speaking with Hashem should be done privately where nobody sees and one should ask Hashem to help him come closer to Him and serve Him better, in the best and most optimal way. This conversation with Hashem could be conducted in any language and should express whatever is in your heart, whether it is regret or repentance for the past, or the intentions to be closer to Hashem from that point on. Every person should come closer to Hashem using the tools Hashem has given him, each on his own level. The key is consistency – every day one should make an effort to draw closer, as this will also make the day into a happier one. Even if a person can only speak about one thing with Hashem, that is also a great thing. He should be strong and steadfast, and if possible, he should try to do this a few times during each day. The added result: you will see success and salvation in your kids. These conversations with Hashem help void evil decrees without even knowing about their possibilities. A person must know: a Jewish man's sword is his prayer, as this is the connection between Hashem and man. If you see a change in your daily life, don't say it's a coincidence; rather be a believer that it's all from Hashem. Ask from Hashem that you shouldn't be put to test, that you should not experience disgrace due to the Yetzer Hara's strong and sharp strategies against man, Who can withstand them? Pray to Hashem so that He will help and save you from the Yetzer Hara. May Hashem watch over us, Amen

Rishon LeTzion -Maran Chacham Ovadia Yosef (1921–2013)

A great spiritual revolution took place through Maran's satellite broadcasts on *Mosa'e Shabbat*. Here are some stories connected to this shiur. An Iranian Jew

came to Israel and wanted to meet with Maran to tell him that in the merit of his shiur, his life was saved. This is what he said. He used to live in Iran, and his work was installing televisions. He told Maran, "I was called in secret to many homes of Iranian Jews to install satellite dishes so they could receive the broadcasts of the Rav's shiurim." Up to that time he had installed 250 satellite dishes in Jewish homes so that they could listen to the shiur in their homes. One week, on *Mosa'e Shabbat*, his good friend came and asked him to travel with him to a faraway city in Iran. He refused, because he was busy with the Jewish homes and their satellite broadcasts. He was responsible for them, and if any one of them had a problem, he would go right away to fix it. So he did not travel with his friend, because he was busy with the broadcast of Torah. He continued and told Maran that his friend traveled alone to that city and had a terrible car accident in which he lost his life. If he had traveled with him, *Has VeShalom* (Heaven forbid), he would have been in that same accident and lost his life as well. But in the merit of installing the satellite dishes in Jewish homes, and in the merit of Maran's shiur, which brings merit to the many, his life was saved.

Halab (Aleppo) - Syria

In 1929 there was a massacre of the Jews of *Halab* following the Jewish-Arab conflict in Palestine. The Jews locked themselves in their homes out of great fear of the incited mob, and they were not able to leave their houses. This harsh atmosphere against the Jews grew worse in the 1930s. The situation was extremely grim and on the edge of a final explosion. The peaceful coexistence between the Jews and their neighbors in Syria, living side by side for about 1,500 years, now felt as if it was coming to an end. A few years later, the Second World War broke out. This bitter news struck the Jews of Syria with shock and fear, especially the

quiet Jewish community of *Halab*. The first reports arrived from Europe. They told of the power and strength of the Nazi German conqueror, who had defeated great world powers. They told of the terrible slaughter spreading through the occupied countries, which cast terror of the cruel Nazi monster far and wide. They also told of the horrific plans that Hitler had against the Jews. All the citizens of Syria remembered the terrible tragedies left behind by the First World War, such as the hunger, the poverty, the loss of loved ones, and the many deaths. The Rabbis of *Halab* immediately declared a day of *Tefillah* and a *Ta'anit Sibur* (public fast), as we have always been taught that three things cancel a harsh decree: *Tefillah*, *Tzedakah*, and *Ta'anit*.

Laws: Berachot

1- If a person is eating in one room and wants to continue eating in a second room, he must have in mind from the start, while eating in the first room, that he plans to eat in the second room. Then moving to the second room will not count as an interruption. If he did not have this in mind from the start, it is good for him to take some of the food or fruit with him to the second room, so that his mind does not turn away from the food while he walks to the other room. Then he will not need to make a new *Beracha* in the second room.

2- Someone who is eating while walking on the road should preferably not set aside a specific place for eating, and he should have in mind to include all the places he will reach while walking or traveling. He should also be careful not to enter a different domain while eating, meaning he should not walk into a restaurant or any store if he did not have it in mind from the start.

3- Someone who is in a garden and eating fruit from the trees should have in mind to include the entire area of the garden where he will walk, and he should not leave the garden until he finishes eating.

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