



OH R YISRAEL

OF MARINE PARK

NEWSLETTER

פרשת וארא
שבת מנרכים
Vol. 1 Issue 11

Cong. Ohr Yisrael, 2899 Nostrand Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11229 718-382-8702 www.ohryisroel.org

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ואלה שמות בני לוי לתלדתם... Submitted by Aryeh Klein

At the beginning of this week's Parsha the Torah lists the genealogy of משה משה. The Pasuk begins by listing the sons of ראובן and שמעון, without listing any of their grandsons. Then the Torah lists לוי's sons, as well as grandsons, and even some of his great-grandsons (משה and אהרן). The Pasuk finishes off with אהרן's sons and grandsons (who were לוי's great-great-grandchildren).

The ספורנו asks, why in discussing the first two שבטים does the Torah only list the names of the children, but when it reaches לוי, the Torah lists the names of the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren as well.

The ספורנו answers that לוי's grandchildren were special individuals so they had the Zchus of having their names mentioned. However, ראובן's grandchildren and שמעון's grandchildren were not significant individuals so they did not merit having their names mentioned.

The ספורנו goes on to explain that the reason why לוי's grandchildren were special is because לוי lived longer than ראובן and שמעון did. Therefore לוי saw, and lived with, and taught his grandchildren. Since לוי had a personal connection with his grandchildren, the grandchildren became special.

This teaches us that there is something special about having a Zaidy around. A grandfather can impart something that a father cannot. Unfortunately, ראובן and שמעון died earlier and never had a chance to learn with and share with their own grandchildren. לוי's grandchildren on the other hand, had the benefit of having their Zaidy לוי in their house which made all the difference.

Part of the background to the ספורנו's explanation is that לוי was not just any grandfather. לוי was the son of יעקב אבינו. His grandchildren had a grandfather in their house that was from a different generation, a generation that saw יעקב אבינו and even יצחק אבינו. Therefore, לוי was a special person.

The Gemarah in ערובין relates that ר' יהודה הנשיא attributed his own greatness to the fact that he had seen "the back" of ר' מאיר. R' Yehudah HaNasi (Rabbeinu HaKadosh), the editor of the Mishna felt that the fact that he saw ר' מאיר from his back made him better in learning than all of his colleagues. ר' יהודה הנשיא added, "Had I seen ר' מאיר from his front,

Zmaanim

הדלקת נרות	4:23pm
מנחה עש"ק	4:31pm
שקיעה	4:41pm
נביא שיעור	8:30am
שחרית	9:00am
סוף זמן ק"ש	9:04 / 9:40a
דף יומי	3:30pm
מנחה	4:17pm
שקיעה	4:42pm
מעריב	5:32pm
Learning Program	6:45pm
All times subject to change	

Parsha Stats for וארא

Number Of Pesukim: 121
Number Of Words: 1748
Number Of Letters: 6701
Number of מצוות: 0

KID'S KORNER

Kid's Challenge Question # 1
How old was Levi when he died?



Kid's Challenge Question # 2
Why was אד chosen as the first plague?
 (2 possible answers)



Kid's Challenge Question # 3
In what month did Bnei Yisroel stop working?

See Rabbi Zucker after Davening if you have any correct answers.

I would have been even greater".

The Gemarah is perhaps metaphorical; however R' Berel Wein explains it as follows: The Gemarah is saying that ר' מאיר was from a different generation, the last of the Tanaim. But there was a whole generation of Tanaim that preceded R' Yehudah HaNasi, and ר' מאיר was the last of that generation. What Rabbi is saying is, "I at least saw the tail end of a different generation. I saw Gedolim! I saw ר' מאיר! I saw what it meant to really be a Tanna. Even if it was the tail-end, even if it was ר' מאיר towards the end of his life, that made an indelible impression upon me."

A Rebbe in Ner Yisrael once made the following observation: "I feel bad for my Talmidim, because I can say that at least 'I saw ר' מאיר from the back.' I was fortunate to have at least seen the Rosh Yeshiva, Rav Yaakov Ruderman, zt"l. I can at least say that I saw someone who knew the Chofetz Chaim. Those who learned in Yeshivas Ner Yisroel during Rav Ruderman's lifetime knew someone who talked to Reb Chaim Ozer, who sat at Reb Chaim's table. We at least saw the back of that generation. Therefore, we are different. And so are all those of my generation, who saw the giants of the past generation in whatever Yeshivas that they may have learnt in. But my Talmidim did not see that. They never got to see the "back of ר' מאיר".

That is what the grandchildren of לוי saw. They at least saw someone who saw יצחק אבינו and יעקב אבינו. They at least had a relationship to that generation. That made all the difference. Therefore לוי's grandchildren turned out different. They had a link to something irreplaceable, a connection to a more beautiful generation, something that was unfortunately lost from the grandchildren of שמעון and ראובן.

B"H the circulation of this newsletter (and the list of sponsors) grows each week as it is sent out via e-mail, fax, and printed hard copy. We would like to continue to provide an interesting and informative newsletter to the reader each and every week.

To help us achieve this goal, Mispalelim of the Shul, alumni of the Yeshiva and members of the greater community (young & old) are encouraged to get involved in some way to enhance the newsletter. Contributions of Divrei Torah on Parshas Hashavuah, the Daf Yomi of the week, upcoming Yomim Tovim, topics of practical Halacha, stories, Jewish History etc are all welcome, and all ideas will be given proper consideration.

If anyone can help out with the weekly production of the newsletter in any way please see Hillel Rokowsky or e-mail newsletter@ohryisroel.org.

Schedule of Shiurim throughout the week

- Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:45pm - Shiur in Hilchos Shabbos given by Rabbi Braunstein, followed by Maariv at 9:30pm.
- Tuesdays at 9:45pm - Gemara B'iyun - given by the Rav, following Maariv at 9:30pm.
- Thursday at 8:45pm & 9:45pm - Parshas Hashavua given by the Rav, before and after Maariv at 9:30pm.
- Dav Yomi - Sunday & weekdays 7:15AM; Shabbos day - 45 minutes before Mincha
- Friday night Jewish History Shiur at 7:30pm in the Rosh Yeshiva's home at 1372 East 31st St. between M & N.
- Shabbos morning Navi Shiur at 8:30am

Yahrzeits that fall during this week

(Disclaimer: This list should have no effect on anyone's obligation to say Tachanun)

Tuesday, January 1st - 23rd Teves

The Telzer Rosh Yeshiva Reb Mordechai Gifter (1915-1991). Born in Richmond, Virginia, he moved to Baltimore with his family, when his father noted the difficulty in teaching his son in a city not noted for its strong Torah resources. As a youth, he studied in Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchak Elchanan of New York City under his Rav, Reb Moshe Halevi Soloveitchik. Rav Gifter studied together with Reb Nosson Wachtfogel, zt"l (former Mashgiach of Lakewood) and Reb Avigdor Miller of Flatbush in the Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchak Elchanan. On the advice of his uncle, Reb Yehudah Leib Zer, one of the directors of the Yeshivas Rabbeinu Yitzchak Elchanan, Reb Gifter went to study in the Telz yeshiva of Lithuania in the winter of 1932. He became very close to the Rosh Yeshiva, Reb Avraham Yitzchak Bloch. In the summer of 1939, Rav Gifter became engaged to the daughter of Reb Zalman Bloch. The Chasunah date was set for a year later. With the expansion of the Ner Yisroel Yeshiva in Baltimore by Reb Yaakov Yitzchak Ruderman, Rav Gifter was asked to deliver Chaburahs to the Talmidim. In 1943, Reb Gifter became Rov of the Chareidi community in Connecticut, and one year later, his uncle, Reb Elyahu Meir Bloch and Reb Chaim Mordechai Katz founded the Telz yeshiva in Cleveland. They asked him to join them as the Mashgiach. He moved to Eretz Yisroel in 1976, founding the Telz yeshiva in Kiryat Telz-Stone near Yerushalayim. However, three years later, the Rosh Yeshiva of Telz in Cleveland, Reb Boruch Sorotzkin, was Niftar, and Rav Gifter returned to Cleveland to succeed him. And there he remained until his own Petirah in 1991.

Thursday January 3rd - 25th Teves - Reb Moshe Tikochinsky, Mashgiach of Slabodka

Reb Elyahu Eliezer Dessler, author of Michtav M'Eliyahu, Gateshead, England; Bnai Brak (Ponevezh Yeshiva) (1892-1954)

Friday January 4th - 26th Teves - Rabeinu Avraham bar Dovid miPosquires (Ra'avad), author of Hasagos on Rambam & Rif

Shabbos January 5th - 27th Teves - Rabbi Shmshon Raphael Hirsch, Frankfurt-am-Maine, Germany (1808-1888)

Sunday January 6th - 28th Teves - Reb Meir Halevi Chodosh, Reb Meir was a Talmid Muvhak of the Alter of Slabodka, Reb Nosson Tzvi Finkel.

Monday January 7th - 29th Teves

Reb Yehoshua Leib Diskin, the Rav of Brisk; Son of Reb Binyamin Diskin, Rav of Volkovisk. He was born in Horodno. Reb Yehoshua Leib was engaged before his Bar Mitzvah and at the age of fourteen he married the daughter of Reb Brode and lived with his father-in-law in Wolkowitz. He became Rav in various cities such as Lomza, Mezritch, Kovno, Shklov, and finally in Brisk. He moved to Eretz Yisroel in 1876 and was Niftar in 1898.

Reb Yerachmiel Yisroel Yitzchak of Alexander, the Yismach Yisroel . At an early age, his father, Reb Yechiel of Alexander, took him to Reb Menachem Mendel of Vorke, then Reb Beirush of Biala. After the latter's Petirah, he became a Chasid of his father. After his father's passing on 14 Shevat 1894, he became the Alexander Rebbe. (1853-1910)

Reb Chaim Shmshon Swiatycki, nephew of the Chazon Ish and scion of the Karelitz dynasty, whose patriarch and matriarch - Reb Shemaryahu Yosef and Rasha Leah, had 15 children. Her third child, Henya Chaya, married Reb Abba Swiatycki, who became Rav of Kosova, after the petira of Reb Shemaryahu Yosef during WW I. Their only child was Reb Chaim. Reb Chaim's mentor was his uncle, Reb Yitzchak Zundel Karelitz, brother of the Chazon Ish. At the age of 14, he left for Mir, then learned with Reb Baruch Ber Lebovitz in Kaminetz, where he stayed for six years. In 1934, he followed his uncle to Eretz Yisroel to escape conscription. He learned at Yeshiva Chevron in Yerushalayim and Yeshivas Volozhin in Tel Aviv. He then moved to America in 1938 where he joined the faculty at Mesivta Tiferes Yerushalayim. (1914-2004)

Rabbi Daniel Levy, he learned at Gateshead Yeshiva and Kollel and was very close with the Biala Rebbe of Lugano Switzerland since they met in Gateshead Kollel . He then became Rav of the Khal Adass Yeshurun of Zurich, Switzerland . (2004)

דברי הלכה - הלכות תפילת הדרך

(Shulchan Aruch ק"י ד-ה with Mishna Brurah)

209. It is preferable to say Tefillas Haderech while standing, therefore if one is able to safely stand, (ie. on a bus, or train), one should do so.
210. However, it is not necessary to stop a car to stand for Tefillas Haderech. {The Chazon Ish and the Steipler routinely said Tefillas Haderech while sitting as passengers in a moving car.}
211. For the driver, it is best to pull over to the side of the road to say Tefillas Haderech with Kavannah, but again, this is not Me'akeiv, one is not obligated to do so, and certainly one should not delay saying Tefillas Haderech for this purpose.
212. Furthermore, one should not burden his passengers (if any) with an unscheduled stop simply to be able to stand for Tefillas Haderech. {If the driver is unable to concentrate on the road while saying Tefillas Haderech, he may be Yoitze with someone else's Bracha.}
213. One need only say Tefillas Haderech once each day, even if one makes stops along the way. Therefore, if one said the Tefillah on the car ride to the airport it is not necessary to repeat the Tefillah on the airplane.
214. However, if one stops at a place with the intention of staying overnight, and then changes his mind and begins traveling again, he would be required to repeat the Tefillah.

To receive two Halachos by e-mail each day, please send an email request to dailyhalacha@aol.com

Please submit articles, ideas, Divrei Torah, stories etc... to newsletter@ohryisroel.org

Answers to פרשת וזרה Challenge questions

Q1. Why did יוסף send a message to פרעה that he wanted to bury יעקב in ארץ ישראל?
Why didn't he just tell פרעה himself?

A1. יוסף was an עונן at the time since his father יעקב had just died. (An עונן is not allowed to do Mitzvos or take care of any personal needs, such as washing etc until the Niftar is buried.) If יוסף had spoken to פרעה himself he would have had to wash himself and dress in nice clothing to approach the king which would not have been appropriate at that time. That's why he sent a message instead.

Q2. What praise of יוסף can be found in the last Pasuk of the Parsha?

A2. Although יוסף was known as Tzafnas Pane'ach while he ruled in מצרים, the Pauk says that he died as יוסף – he retained his Jewish name despite it not being used. This inspired later generations and was ultimately one of the Zchusim that helped bring about the Geulah from מצרים.

Q3. How many towns in America have the name Goshen?

A3. Twenty six states in the U.S. have a "populated place" (i.e. a village, town, or city) called Goshen.

This week's Father and Son מוצאי שבת learning program is being sponsored by

Yumi Gross

Join us this מוצאי שבת at 6:45pm for learning, prizes and pizza!

Members of the shul and friends from the neighborhood are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Thank you to last week's sponsor, *Mordy Weiss*.

If anyone would like to sponsor a week (\$150) please contact Chaim Szanzer at chaimszanzer@gmail.com

Community News and Events

Mazel Tov to Yumi & Chedva Gross upon the birth of a baby girl, Tzipora Aliza.

Mazel Tov to Shimmy & Shevy Hersko upon the birth of a baby girl, Fagie.

May the Gross and Hersko families be Zocheh to be Migadel their daughters L'Torah L'Ben Torah L'Chupah U'Lmaasim Tovim.

Mazel Tov to Dani Sabo upon his engagement to Debbie Freund.

May the Sabo and Freund families see much Nachas from Dani & Debbie.

Mazel Tov to Mr. and Mrs. Dani Rosenthal upon the birth of a baby boy.

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