



OH R YISRAEL

OF MARINE PARK

NEWSLETTER

פרשת בא

Vol. 1 Issue 12

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ויקחו להם איש שה לבית אבת ...

The Pasuk says "בעשר לחדש הזה ויקחו להם איש שה לבית אבת". "On the tenth of the month they shall take for themselves a lamb for each father's house." פסוק ו' continues by saying "You should keep it safe until the fourteenth day of the month..."

The Mechilta questions the need for acquiring and designating the lamb four days prior to its Shechitah. The Mechilta explains that the appointed time for Klal Yisrael's גאולה from מצרים had arrived. There was one problem however: the Yidden did not have a sufficient supply of מצוות in which they were engaged to render them worthy of any גאולה. Therefore, Hashem gave them the מצוות of מילה and קרבן פסח, which would occupy them until the גאולה. In order to receive שכר, one must act; he must carry out the מצוה. This is why Hashem instructed Klal Yisrael to set aside the שה four days prior to the appointed time for the גאולה.

We must endeavor to understand Chazal's statement. It is not as if Klal Yisrael had already accepted the Torah, thereby obligating them to keep the מצוות. They were a community of Jewish slaves living in מצרים. True, they were the descendants of Yaakov Avinu and the שבטים, but, without the Torah, they were not yet Klal Yisrael. How could they be held responsible for not performing מצוות?

This teaches us, says Horav Mordechai Ezrachi שליטא, that the Jewish nation is different. Even if they do not have מצוות to perform, even when they are neither obligated to carry out any מצוה עשה nor held responsible for committing a לא תעשה, they are still considered empty and bare without מצוות. Mitzvos are the Jew's 'covering' without which he is bare, exposed to the elements and open to humiliation.

Rav Ezrachi explains that גאולה, freedom, is not simply the antithesis of גלות. גאולה is a state of being. One who does not have the Torah as his guiding principle can be free theoretically, but is nonetheless considered to be a slave to himself. He may have been freed from one master, but he is still obligated to another. Freedom is a state in which one is liberated physically, spiritually and emotionally. He is in control of his destiny. His decisions are made - not compelled.

When Klal Yisroel was liberated from מצרים, redemption developed progressively. As they moved forward, coming closer to Hashem, establishing a greater distance between themselves and the culture of מצרים, they began achieving redemption. This process evolved until the very last moment when the ultimate liberation was to take place, but Klal Yisrael was not ready. They were missing their covering. They were bare. One cannot leave מצרים in such a dismal state. Their freedom would be short-lived. So Hashem granted them two מצוות, which would provide them with temporary covering until they received the Torah and become truly free. A Jew who cannot perform מצוות feels inadequate. Something integral is missing from his life. It goes even further than that. A true Ben Torah feels that he cannot survive without מצוות. He feels a gravitational pull toward מצוות and an overwhelming desire to fulfill them.

Zmaanim

הדלקת נרות	4:30pm
מנחה עש"ק	4:38pm
שקיעה	4:48pm
נביא שיעור	8:30am
שחרית	9:00am
סוף זמן ק"ש	9:05 / 9:41a
דף יומי	3:40pm
מנחה	4:24pm
שקיעה	4:49pm
מעריב	5:39pm
Learning Program	6:30pm
Sunday מנחה	4:40pm

All times subject to change

Parsha Stats for בא

Number Of Pesukim: 105
 Number Of Words: 1655
 Number Of Letters: 6149
 מצוות עשה: 9
 מצוות לא תעשה: 11

KID'S KORNER

Kid's Challenge Question # 1

From where do we see that we wear תפילין on the left (or weaker) arm? (2 possible answers)



Kid's Challenge Question # 2

Which is the only טמא animal whose כבוד has to be redeemed?

There is a famous incident that occurred concerning Horav Gershon Libman, Rosh Yeshivah of Novordak in France. At the time of the episode, Rav Gershon was being held in the notorious Bergen Belsen labor/death camp. Surviving on almost no food and subjected to harsh, brutal labor, it was difficult to maintain the spiritual energy for which he was well-known in the Novordoker Yeshivah. Yet, he did. He lived in Bergen Belsen, but his mind and soul were soaring in Novordak. Indeed, every challenge was a נסיון that brought him closer to Hashem, so that he triumphed over the adversity that had confronted him.

One day while he was working in the field, he was grabbed by the SS guards and taken to the commandant's office. They did this whenever they sought to "break" a prisoner's will. Just being removed from the misery of the "outside" world and brought into the office with its fancy trappings could shock an inmate. The stark contrast between what the inmates had to endure and what this office represented was more than simply unnerving. What Rav Gershon was about to confront, however, was something for which he had never been prepared. He entered a room that was outfitted with plush carpeting, beautiful paintings and, in the middle of the room, a richly carved, ornate mahogany table. On the table were exquisite china, elegant silver flatware, and the main course: a large, roasted pig!

While all of this repulsed Rav Gershon, the revulsion did not reach its climax until he noticed the table-cloth. There, spread across the table - beneath the repugnant roast pig- was a טלית! This Tallis, that was once probably used by a Tzaddik davening to Hashem with sincerity and feeling, was now a tablecloth for someone to eat a pig! This revulsion was unfathomable; the shock was too much to control. Rav Gershon forgot where he was and what the consequence of his actions would be. In one swift move, he yanked the טלית off the table. The china, crystal, silver and the pig went flying through the air, landing in a pile on the commandant's lap. Rav Gershon grabbed the טלית close to him, kissing it, caressing it and crying. "I am so sorry for the humiliation that you had to suffer," he said to the טלית. "I am so sorry for your shame."

Rav Gershon was prepared. He waited for the bullet that would end his agony, but he would die holding the טלית in his hands, giving it the כבוד it deserved. The commandant was furious. He staged this entire scenario in order to push the Jew over the edge. Let him cringe with revulsion and shame, as his religious article is humiliated in his presence. Rav Gershon, however, did not act according to the script. The טלית meant more to him than his life.

For some reason, the Nazi did not kill Rav Gershon, settling instead on beating him mercilessly for his rudeness. The blood flowed from his wounds, but Rav Gershon survived. He had preserved the כבוד of the טלית and the כבוד of Hashem.

Mitzvos were his life, without which his life was not worth living.

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.

Schedule of Shiurim throughout the week

Kid's Challenge Question # 3

From where in Perek נ' Pasuk ג do we see that there are 12 months in a year?

- Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:45pm - Shiur in Hilchos Shabbos given by Rabbi Braunstein, followed by Maariv.
- Tuesdays at 9:45pm - Gemara B'iyun - given by the Rav, following Maariv.
- Thursday at 8:45pm & 9:45pm - Parshas Hashavua given by the Rav, before and after Maariv.
- Maariv every night at 9:30pm.
- Friday night Jewish History Shiur at 7:30pm in the Rosh Yeshiva's home at 1372 East 31st St. between M & N.

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

HaRav Shmuel Berenbaum - Rosh Yeshivas Mir, yehi zichro baruch.

Thousands were on hand for the Levaya in Flatbush and Yerushalayim of HaRav Shmuel Berenbaum zt"l, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Mir in the US and one of the great Marbitzei Torah of the generation. Among the few remaining survivors of the pre-War generation of Lithuanian Torah Gedolim and foundation of today's Torah world in the US, HaRav Berenbaum taught thousands of Talmidim over the course of more than 50 years in Chinuch.

Rav Shmuel Berenbaum was born in 1920 to HaRav Aryeh Leib in the city of Kinishin near Bialystok (now a part of Poland). At the age of ten he began learning at Yeshivas Novardok, where he remained until his Bar Mitzvah. He then transferred to Yeshivas Ohel Torah in Baranovitch, where he developed a close Keshet with the Rosh Yeshiva, HaRav Elchonon Wassermann Hy"d. At the age of 15 went to Yeshivas Mir in Poland, learning B'Chavrusa with HaRav Nachum Partzovitz. He shared a bedroom with some of Mir's leading Talmidim, such as HaRav Leib Mallin, HaRav Chaim Visoker and HaRav Binyamin Tzeilberger.

At the onset of World War II, he traveled with the rest of the Mir Yeshiva to Wilno, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania) where they remained for three weeks, awaiting visas to travel abroad. After receiving destination visas to Curacao, a Dutch protectorate in the Caribbean, they were given travel visas by the Japanese Consul in Kaunas, Chiune Sugihara. The Yeshiva traveled across the Trans-Siberian Railway to Vladivostok in a trip that took over two months. From there they traveled to Kobe, Japan, where they remained for 7 months before being settled by the Japanese Government in Shanghai, China. Even during the war he continued learning with tremendous Hasmodoh, learning from the beginning of the second Seder until 3:00 am, with just a short break in the evening.

After the war he joined other Talmidim of the Yeshiva who sailed to the US, where he married the daughter of HaRav Avrohom Kalmanovitz, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Mir in the US. His father-in-law called HaRav Berenbaum "the greatest Masmid in the United States." He began teaching at the Yeshiva, and when his father-in-law passed away, HaRav Berenbaum was made one of the Roshei Yeshiva (along with his brother-in-law Reb Shraga Moshe Kalmanovitz), a post he held for the next 50 years. He eventually headed an entire community consisting of a Cheder, Yeshiva K'tanah, Yeshiva G'dolah, Kollel Yungerleit and a Kehillah of Yirei Hashem.

For decades he was an active member of the board of US Roshei Yeshivos working to promote Chinuch Atzmai in Eretz Yisroel. After harsh decrees were imposed on the Torah world in Eretz Yisroel a few years ago, he initiated extraordinary efforts to raise funds in the US. He had a pacemaker implanted 30 years ago, but was able to continue his many efforts for the sake of Klal Yisroel until his situation worsened about a year ago. Until he became completely incapacitated a few weeks ago, he would spend most of the day bound to his sickbed, but when the time came to give his Shiur, he would revive himself to deliver the Shiur with Mesiras Nefesh. Afterwards he would often say he felt no pain or discomfort during the Shiur.

On Sunday evening, the 29th of Shvat his Neshama returned to Shomayim. The streets adjacent to Yeshivas Mir in Flatbush turned black as thousands arrived on chartered buses from various parts of the country on Sunday night. The Levaya began at 8:45am with a Hespedit given by his son-in-law, HaRav Reuven Shepansky. He was followed by HaRav Berenbaum's brother-in-law, HaRav Yaakov Nelkenbaum, also a Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshivas Mir; his son-in-law, HaRav Hershel Kaminetsky, a Rebbe at Yeshivas Mir; his son-in-law, HaRav Eliyahu Meir Sorotzkin, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Springfield; HaRav Chaim Epstein; HaRav Dovid Shustal, one of the Roshei Yeshiva of Yeshivas Lakewood; HaRav Yosef Rafal, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Ateres Torah; his Talmud, HaRav Yisroel Ganenberg; HaRav Simcha Shustal, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Stamford; and his sons, HaRav Osher, HaRav Yisroel, HaRav Avrohom, HaRav Elchonon and HaRav Meir.

The Levaya procession went down the main streets of Flatbush before the Aron was flown to Eretz Yisroel, where HaRav Aharon Leib Shteinman was on hand to accompany the Niftar. The Levaya resumed at Yeshivas Mir in Yeushalayim's Beis Yisroel neighborhood on Monday morning, where Hespedit were delivery by HaRav Nosson Tzvi Finkel, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Mir; HaRav Shmuel Auerbach; HaRav Aryeh Finkel, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Mir-Brachfeld; HaRav Boruch Dov Povarsky, one of the Roshei Yeshiva of Yeshivas Ponovezh; HaRav Baruch Shimon Salomon, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Nachalas Dovid; HaRav Yitzchok Sheiner, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Kaminetz; HaMashgiach HaRav Don Segal; HaRav Shmuel Yaakov Bournstein, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Kiryas Melech; HaRav Dovid Yitzchok Shapira, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Be'er Yaakov; the Niftar's grandson, HaRav Eliyohu Nesanel Salomon; his brother-in-law, HaRav Yisroel Yitzchok Kalmanovitz; and his son, HaRav Osher Dov.

The Levaya procession went on foot to the Sanhedria cemetery, where two of HaRav Berenbaum's sons, HaRav Aryeh Leib, and HaBochur R' Chaim Shlomoh, lay buried. He is survived by his wife, Rebbetzin Reichel Berenbaum, as well as his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

דברי הלכה – הלכות תפילת הדרך

(ק"י & Piskei Tshuvos ק"י Shulchan Aruch)

215. Although the language of Tefillas Haderech refers to dangers relating to "bandits and wild animals" (generally irrelevant dangers in our time) the conclusion of the Chazon Ish as well as the overwhelming majority of Poskim is that the modern dangers (such as accidents, being stranded etc.) may be even greater than those of earlier times and one should therefore say the Tefillah.

216. Although some argue that the recitation of Tefillas Haderech in modern times is a Sofek Chiyuv, we rely upon the Psak of the Pnei Yehoshua that it is permitted to say the Bracha of Tefillas Haderech even M'sofek, because it is simply a Bakoshas Rachamim, (a prayer for mercy).

217. Following the Bracha of Tefillas Haderech many have the Minhag to add the Pasuk of "V'Yaakov Holach Ledarkoi..." (3 times) and "Shir Lama'alos...", as is printed in many Siddurim.

218. Many also add the following four (or five) additions which are known by the acronym "Levoyah" (accompaniment), made up of the first letter of each Pasuk; "lamed", "vov", "yud", and "hey", representing: "Leshuascha Kivisi Hashem", "Vi'hi Noam", "Yoshev Besaiser" and/or "Yevorechicho Hashem V'yishmirecha", and "Hamalach Hagoel Osi".

219. If one is required Chas V'Shalom to travel on Shabbos for a matter of Pikuach Nefesh one should say Tefillas Haderech (and we do not say that it is in the category of a "personal request", which we generally refrain from on Shabbos).

220. When traveling on Tish'ah B'Av one should say Tefillas Haderech, but one does not say any of the additional Psukim or Tehillim that normally follow the Bracha.

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

Answers to פרשת בא challenge questions

Q1. How long did לוי live for?

A1. לוי was 137 years old when he was Niftar

Q2. Why was דם chosen as the first מכה? (2 possible answers)

A2. Either because the Nile was like a g-d to the מצרים, or because an invading army first attacks the enemy's water supply, so Hashem did the same.

Q3. In what month did the Bnei Yisroel stop working?

A3. The Medrash says that this was in the month of תשרי.

Kashrus Korner

Shoprite Yogurt (Assorted Flavors)

Brands: Shoprite

Products: Fat Free Non Fat / Light Fat Free Yogurt

Company: Wakefern Food Corp. - Elizabeth, NJ

Issue: A limited number of these yogurts have been erroneously distributed with foil lids that bear an unauthorized OU-D symbol. Affected flavors include: Blueberry, Cherry, Lemon Chiffon, Peach, Raspberry, Strawberry, and Vanilla.

These products are being withdrawn from the market.



Yeshiva Gedolah Ohr Yisrael

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Community News and Events

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

Yossi Kress

Join us this מוצאי שבת at 6:30pm 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, *Yumi Gross*

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

Mazel Tov to Mr. & Mrs. Menachem Fischer upon their being honored as

Parents of the Year

at Masores Bais Yaakov's 20th Annual Dinner this past Tuesday night.

Sponsorships

This weeks issue is being sponsored **anonymously**.

Tizku L'Mitzvos

We are looking for sponsors for future issues of the newsletter. Sponsorships can be in honor of a Simcha, a Yahrtzeit, L'zchus Refuah Shleimah etc... Corporate sponsorships are also welcome (business cards, logos etc).

Most weeks the issue is 4 pages long and the cost to sponsor a color issue is \$75. B&W copies are only \$25.

Copies of the newsletter are printed and distributed in the Shul on Erev Shabbos, are faxed to those that request to receive it by fax, and are e-mailed to the Ohr Yisroel alumni list as well as many others in the NY area.

Please e-mail newsletter@ohryisroel.org if you'd like to sponsor a future newsletter.