



OH YISRAEL

OF MARINE PARK

NEWSLETTER

פרשת מצורע
שבת הגדול

Vol. 1 Issue 21

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 פרשת השבוע
- 2 KID'S KORNER
- 3 הלכות פסח
- 4 Rabbi Berel Wein
- 5 Community News & Events
- 6 Answers to Challenge Q.'s

Zmaanim

הדלקת נרות	7:13pm
מנחה עש"ק	7:21pm
שקיעה	7:31pm
נביא שיעור	8:30am
שחרית	9:00am
סוף זמן ק"ש	9:02 / 9:38a
שבת הגדול (W)	5:00pm
שבת הגדול (M)	6:00pm
מנחה	7:05pm
שקיעה	7:32pm
מעריב	8:22pm
מנחה Sunday	7:20pm

All times subject to change

Parsha Stats for מצורע

Number Of Pesukim:	90
Number Of Words:	1274
Number Of Letters:	4697
מצוות עשה:	11
מצוות לא תעשה:	0

וכסתה הצרעת את כל עור הנגע מראשו ועד רגליו...

Submitted By Shloimie Weinreb

ואם פרוח תפרכ הצרעת בעור the Pasuk states וְכִסְתָּהּ הַצְרַעַת אֶת כָּל עוֹר הַנֶּגַע מֵרֹאשׁוֹ וְעַד רַגְלָיו לְכֹל מֵרָאֵה, עֵינֵי הַכֹּהֵן. וְרָאָה הַכֹּהֵן, וְהִגִּיהַ כְּסֻתָּהּ הַצְרַעַת אֶת כָּל בְּשָׂרוֹ וְטָהַר, אֶת-הַנֶּגַע כְּלוּ הַפֶּךְ לָבוֹ, טָהוֹר הוּא

The תורה tells us the הלכה that when a בהן is unsure at first whether a נגע on a person's body will render him a מצורע, he has the person put in isolation. If upon reexamination of the נגע, the בהן finds that it spread to the extent that there is צרעת over the entire body of the person, the הלכה is that the בהן declares the person מהור.

This הלכה, however, is difficult to understand. If a person with a small נגע is declared a מצורע, surely one would think that that a person with צרעת over his entire body would be a מצורע.

The חתם סופר explains that the reason a מצורע is banished and sent outside the מחנה (camp) is because he exhibited behavior that makes him a danger to society. He is a בעל לשון הרע who causes מחלוקת between people. The Torah tells us that this is the type of person you have to be wary of, therefore he is banished.

The חתם סופר says that the worst type of person is one who is two faced; אחד כפה ואחד בלב – he acts one way on the outside, but in his heart he is a different type of person. People whom we know are bad, are not necessarily a danger to us because everyone knows to stay away. However, if one has somewhat of a נגע, yet he gives the appearance of being good, we really know that the Torah gave him this ממה to warn us to stay away from him – he is ממה.

On the other hand, where the צרעת covers the entire body of the person, he is בולו רע. We as a society know the nature of such a person and therefore know how to deal with him, so the Torah does not require that he be sent away from the מחנה. It is not חס ושלום a the מעלה to be בולו רע, but in terms of how to act towards him, such a person is less of a danger to society. As a result, the תורה says that he is מהור.

to all those that committed to contribute
דברי תורה on the week of their Bar Mitzvah Parsha

KID'S KORNER

Rabbi Berel Wein on the מצורע

Kid's Challenge Question # 1

Which birds, trees, and wool must a מצורע bring for his purification process, and what does he do with them?



Kid's Challenge Question # 2

Why does a person who has צרעת on his house have to remove all the utensils?



Kid's Challenge Question # 3

Which קרבנות does the מצורע bring on the eighth day, and what does he do with them?

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

The entire subject of צרעת is shrouded in mystery and wonderment. The exact nature of the disease is not really known to our medical practitioners. The traditional translation of צרעת as leprosy is undoubtedly misleading and inaccurate. The Rabanim in the Gemarah treated this disease as mainly a spiritual one, albeit reflected in actual physical symptoms. Slander, narrowness of vision, jealousy of others and bad character traits were assigned by the Rabanim as being some of the potential causes of the onset of the disease.

Since צרעת could occur not only on one's body but on one's clothing and in the walls of one's house, it made everyone vulnerable - stripped bare of the veneer of possessions and false appearances that characterize human life. They are exposed publicly as being people of poor character, greedy, self-centered and even malicious towards others. In the Haftorah we read of the four Metzoraim - Gehazy and his three sons - who were cursed by Elisha for their greed and for the desecration of Hashem's name when Gehazy pursued Naaman, the Aramean general, and asked for the wealth that Elisha had refused to accept. Even in the moment of triumph when they discovered the encampment of their enemy to be deserted and abandoned, they could not restrain their impulse of greed and proceeded to loot the camp before reporting their discovery to the king of Israel.

Apparently it is easier to cure צרעת itself than it is to remove the character flaws that brought about the צרעת in the first instance. Since צרעת was a disease of character traits and flaws, it is natural that the Torah placed the responsibility of diagnosing and curing the disease, not upon doctors or healers, but rather on the כהן. The כהן was to be the spiritual mentor and guide for Yidden. The Navi proclaimed: "For the lips of the כהן shall guard knowledge and wisdom and people shall seek to learn Torah from him for he is likened unto an angel of Hashem."

The כהן was the sole healer of these hidden character weaknesses that lay deep within a person's soul and personality. Apparently with the decline of the spiritual strength of the כהנים in the times of the Second Beis Hamikdash, the disease of צרעת also disappeared. We have no record of its actual appearance in Second Beis Hamikdash times, though the rules of purification enumerated in this week's Parsha continued to be studied and appear as a separate Mesechta in the Mishna.

The Rabanim always spoke of צרעת as something that required study and analysis - Drosch (to search and analyze.) If one actually did that and underwent the searing self-analysis that is required to uproot the possibility of צרעת in one's person then in the words of the Rabanim "V'Kabel Schar - one will be rewarded and receive payment."

That lesson remains valid for all times and under all circumstances. We no longer have any כהן capable of discerning צרעת nor do we actually have צרעת itself in our midst. But, the root causes of צרעת still exist abundantly within us and our society. Before the coming of the great Yom Tov of Pesach let us attempt to purify ourselves from those negative causes and traits.

Don't forget to make a Birchah Ha'ilonos - The Chida writes that one should especially concentrate when saying this Bracha because it is Misakain (it repairs) the Neshamos that have been sent back to this world in the trees and plants, and one has the opportunity to ask for Rachamim on these Neshamos at this time.

הלכות פסח

שלחן ערוך & משנה ברורה

On the night preceding the 14th day of Nissan (Erev Pesach) one must search the home for all Chometz items (Bedikas Chometz). However, since this year Erev Pesach falls on Shabbos the Bedikah is moved up to Thursday night, April 17th. The Bedikas Chometz should ideally begin immediately after Tzeis Hakochavim, and not be delayed until later on at night. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 431:1, 444:1

Before beginning the Bedikah some have the Minhag to wash their hands, (without a Bracha). The head of the household should make the Bracha for the Bedikas Chometz before beginning the search. This Bracha is sufficient for all members of the household to join the search. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 432:1,2

The Bedikah should be done by the light of a candle. One should also keep on the regular lights in the room(s), and use a flashlight if necessary, but not instead of the candle. In areas where it may be dangerous to search by candlelight (ie. under a bed, in a car) one should rather use a flashlight and search well. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 431:1, Moadim U'zmanim 1, Orchos Rabbeinu Pesach:6 citing The Steipler Gaon, Shearim Hamitzuyanim Behalacha 110:4

One may not do any work, or eat, beginning a half hour before the time of Bedikas Chometz (Tzeis Hakochavim) until after completing the Bedikah. However, one may eat small amounts of food (the size of an egg), or fruit (even a larger amount) in the half hour before the time of Bedikah. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 431:2, Piskei Tshuvos 431:6

After Tzeis Hakochavim (prior to doing the Bedikah) one should not eat all, but drinking is permitted. One should also not learn Torah until after completing the Bedikah. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 431:2, See Shaar Hatziyun 7

If one will not be home on time to do the Bedikah one should appoint his wife or adult sons to do the Bedikah. One may designate one room to be left for him, in order to be able to do the Bedikah himself with a Bracha later that evening. Piskei Tshuvos 431:5, Tshuvos V'Hanhagos 2:214, Aruch Hashulchan 437:7, Sdei Chemed 5:1

L'chatchilah one should not delay the Bedikas Chometz until later at night. Rather, one should begin the Bedikah as soon as possible after Tzeis Hakochavim. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 431:2 see Bi'ur Halacha

Ta'anis Bechorim (fast of the firstborn - in commemoration of the Jewish firstborn being spared from the Plague of the Firstborn) is observed this year on Thursday 12/Nissan - April 17th, because Erev Pesach falls on Shabbos. All male firstborn to either parent must fast, as well as a firstborn following a miscarriage. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 470:1

The accepted Minhag for many centuries is that Bechorim break the fast in the morning by celebrating a Siyum (completion) of a Mesechta (Talmudic tractate). One may join the Seudas Mitzvah of someone else's Siyum. A Bris or a Pidyon Haben also cancel the fast. A Siyum made by a boy under Bar Mitzvah also qualifies as a Seudas mitzvah for adult Bechorim. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 470:2, Piskei Tshuvos 470:5

The father of a firstborn boy who is too young to attend a Siyum on his own should attend a Siyum (or fast) on his behalf. This year, because the fast is not on its correct day, if one is unable to fast or attend a Siyum for a minor son, one may possibly be lenient and fulfill this obligation by giving Tzedakah. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 470:2, Kaf Hachaim 470, Laws of Pesach R' A. Blumenkrantz citing R' Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld

If one is traveling for Pesach and will not be home on Thursday evening to do the Bedikah, one should do the Bedikah the night before traveling without a Bracha, followed by the Bittul (nullification) of Chometz that normally follows the Bedikah (as printed in the Siddur). Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 436:1

If one will not be at home for Pesach (and will not be able to make a Bedikas Chometz on Thursday night) one should preferably ask their Rav to sell their Chometz and rent their home/apartment to the non-Jew on Thursday during the day. {There are however lenient opinions that do not require this early transfer}. Laws of Pesach R' A. Blumenkrantz

If one is in a hotel for Pesach; if one arrives before Thursday night (or anytime during the night) one searches the room with a Bracha. If one arrives Friday morning, one searches without a Bracha. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 437:1,2, Laws of Pesach R' A. Blumenkrantz

If one owns, or rents an office, or a second home, one should L'chatchilah do a Bedikah at that location on Thursday evening. However, if it will be a great difficulty to do the Bedikah one may rent the home/office to a non-Jew for Pesach along with a sale of any Chometz in that location. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 433:5MB23, 436:MB32

According to some opinions if a 2nd home has not been transferred to a non-Jew before Thursday night the obligation of a Bedikah falls upon the Jew. Therefore, it is preferable that one should arrange with his Rav to have the transaction completed with the non-Jew before Thursday evening. Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 436:MB32

Nevertheless, if one did not arrange for the sale to the non-Jew before the time of Bedikah, Thursday night, one may rely on the opinions of those that do not require the early transfer (including the Chasam Sofer). Shulchan Aruch w/Mishnah Brurah 436:MB32

Community News and Events

Rabbi Zucker will be saying a שבת הגדול דרשה for the women at 5:00PM. A שבת הגדול דרשה for men will follow at 6:00PM. Mincha will follow at approximately 7:05PM.

A Shiur on the הגדה will be given by Rabbi Zucker this Sunday morning (April 13th) after davening. Last year's Shiur is available online at <http://www.ohryisroel.org/shiurim.html>

Rabbi Zucker will be giving a Shiur this Sunday night (April 13th) at 8:30 pm for the Women on הלכות פסח in the shul. If anyone wants to submit questions and/or topics in advance, please send an e-mail to sylasker@ohryisroel.org with your questions and suggestions. Last years Women's Shiur on Hilcos Pesach is available online at <http://www.ohryisroel.org/shiurim.html>.

Rabbi Zucker will be available throughout the week for מבירת חמץ either in the morning or evening in the Yeshiva. To reach Rabbi Zucker during the day, please call his home at 718-338-3389. Please print and fill out this form in advance: <http://www.ohryisroel.org/Chometz.doc>

Please bring in your checks for the Maos Chittim appeal as soon as possible, Rabbi Zucker would like to distribute the money to the needy as soon as possible. Checks can be made payable to Yeshiva Ohr Yisroel and can be given to Rabbi Zucker, one of the Gaboyim, or left in the mailbox at 2899 Nostrand Ave.



Yeshiva Gedolah Ohr Yisrael
Under the leadership of R' Avrohom N. Zucker
2899 Nostrand Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11229

Phone:
718-382-8702

Website:
www.ohryisroel.org
newsletter@ohryisroel.org

Answers to פרשת שמיני challenge Q's

Q1. What is unique about the חזיר from among all the Non-Kosher animals?

A1. The אור החיים says that in the next world the חזיר will chew it's cud and therefore the Isur preventing us from eating it will no longer apply.

Q2. Who carried out the bodies of נדב and אביהוא from the Mishkan?

A2. Mishael and Eltzafan.

Q3. Which bird shares its food with its "friends"?

A3. The bird known as 'Chasidah' shares it's food.

N'Shei Corner

Parve Flourless Chocolate Torte

Ingredients:

2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips (12 oz.)
½ cup margarine, plus extra for coating
¼ cup sugar
¼ cup water
1 tsp Instant Coffee granules
3 eggs
Whipped Cream for topping
Chocolate-flavored macaroons

Directions: Preheat the oven to 425 F. Butter the bottom and sides of a 9 inch pie plate.

In a medium-sized saucepan, combine the chocolate chips, ½ cup margarine, sugar, water and coffee granules. Heat over a medium fire for 2-3 minutes until the chocolate and margarine are melted, stirring constantly.

Remove from the heat and stir in the eggs until the mixture is smooth. Pour into the pie plate. Bake for 10 minutes; the cake will not be completely set in the middle. Cool the cake, cover it loosely, and then chill for 6-8 hours or overnight.

When ready to serve, remove the cake from the refrigerator and allow to sit for 10 minutes. Invert the cake onto a large flat serving dish and top with whipped cream.

Chop chocolate-flavored macaroons in a food processor until course crumbs are formed. Sprinkle over the whip.

The Jewish Children's Museum
Presents:

Live Performers!
Sound & Light Animation!
Special Effects!

All NEW show!
The Miracles
of Rabbi Chanina Ben Dosa

"...The entire world receives
it's sustenance in the merit
of Chanina, my son."
-Taanis, 24b

Museum Activities: Hands-on Exhibits, Game Shows, Miniature Golf, Craft Workshops & Computer Rooms.

General Admission: \$10, Show Admission: \$3
To purchase tickets call **718.467.0600**
Or log onto: **www.JCM.museum**

Jewish Children's Museum
792 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY
Take the 3 train to Kingston Ave Station
No Strollers on Museum exhibit floors.

CHOL HAMOED Time Slots:

	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2
April 22:	10:00 - 2:00	2:30 - 6:30
April 23:	10:00 - 2:00	2:30 - 6:30
April 24:	10:00 - 2:00	2:30 - 6:30
April 25:	10:00 - 2:00	

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: Order tickets for SHIFT 1 before Pesach and receive \$1 off each Museum admission!

CHOL HAMOED: ADVANCED TICKET PURCHASE ONLY

**** EARLY BIRD SPECIAL ****

Order your Chol Hamoed tickets for SHIFT 1 (see time slots above) before Pesach (April 19) and get \$1 off each Museum admission.