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Shabbat P. Pinchas,

שבת פ' פינחס

Sat. 14 - 15 Jul. 2017 - 21st of Tamuz, 5777 -

כא תמוז תשע"ז

Issue Number 802

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|--------------------|---|
| Baal Koreh | Rabbi Asher Sebbag & Mr Joseph Baruch (Page-876). |
| Mufteer & Haftarah | Mr Moshe Nahari (Page -1190). |

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & Arbit. 19:00

Shabbat Candles. 20:57

Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 8:31). 08:30

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. 19:30

Mincha Shabbat Followed by Seuda Shlishit. (Sunset - 21:11). 20:30

Arbit Motzei Shabbat followed by Havdalah. 22:21

Shahrit Weekday - Sunday - Shahrit (07:30). (Mon & Thu 06:40) 06:45

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. 18:15

Mincha & Arbit 19:15

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & Arbit. 19:00

Shabbat Candles. **P. Mattot-Masei.** 20:49

Pinchas (Numbers 25:10-30:1)

Pinchas 5777

GOOD MORNING! I was brought up in Reform Judaism in Portland, Oregon. Though I saw very few Orthodox Jews, I grew up with certain perceptions and perhaps even misconceptions. As I went off to college (University of Washington) and later travelled, I found that many people shared my perceptions of Orthodox Judaism. (I later found out that the term "Orthodox Judaism" is a relatively recently coined term to distinguish it from "Reform Judaism" which arose during the late 18th Century, one of a number of break aways over the past 3,300 years of our heritage. I also found out that

"Orthodox Jews" prefer the term of "Torah observant" or "Torah-true Jews" -- true to the belief that God gave the Torah to the whole Jewish people at Mt. Sinai, what is written in the Torah is true and it is incumbent upon us to fulfill all of His *mitzvot*, commandments.)

While I and others carried these beliefs about Orthodox Judaism, there was also a certain fascination about them -- the closeness of family life, low divorce rate, happy kids, integrated lifestyle. When I was 22 I started learning about my heritage while visiting Jerusalem. I found it fascinating to finally find someone Orthodox to discuss my understanding (or misunderstanding) about the

Orthodox and the Torah way of life. I thought it might possibly be of interest to share with you what I found out.

4 MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ORTHODOX JEWS

1) "The Orthodox judge me. They look down upon me. They don't consider me to be Jewish."

What I found out: God is the One Who judges, not us. Ultimately, at the end of one's life, it is between the individual and his Maker to determine how he led his life. This is what Orthodox Jews believe. There is widespread confusion that Orthodox Jews look upon anyone who is not Orthodox as not being Jewish. Untrue! If one is born of a Jewish mother or converted according to the Shulchan Aruch, Code of Jewish Law, one is Jewish -- even if he espouses Hinduism, Atheism, Christianity or any other 'ism'." They may whole-heartedly disagree with the "ism" a Jew professes, but they don't negate the fact that the person is a Jew. Of course, there are always individuals who will write off others who don't believe what they believe -- whether they identify as Reform Jews, Conservative Jews, Orthodox Jews, Atheists (or Republican or Democrat)!

2) "It's all or nothing. I either have to do all the commandments or none."

What I found out: No one, no matter how observant, is able to fulfill all of the *mitzvot*. Fulfilling all of the commandments is a goal and a means to perfecting oneself and this world. If one finds a diamond mine, he may want

every last diamond in it, but he won't refuse to dig because he cannot have them all. The mandate of every Jew is to do the best that he or she can to fulfill the commandments and to grow in understanding, knowledge, belief and observance.

3) "Orthodoxy takes away all joy in life. One's life is restricted as to what he can do, eat and enjoy."

What I found out: Just like parents want us to have everything that is good, the Almighty, our Father in Heaven, wants the same for us -- to get as much pleasure as possible. It takes wisdom to know true pleasure and to understand the value of restrictions. The Torah is the instruction book for life. It teaches how to obtain real pleasure from life! From the outside it may look like a prison. With understanding, from the inside it looks like boundaries and limitations within which to grow. Loving and caring parents place limits on their children to keep them safe and out of trouble. Society places boundaries to keep us safe from others (and sometimes ourselves).

4) "Being Orthodox is an escape from the real world. You don't have to think anymore."

What I found out: It is interesting that one can make that statement -- and in the same breath lambaste the Orthodox for their "Talmudic point of view" ... turning over a point 100 different ways. The Almighty made us personally responsible to seek truth and know truth. That is why a Jew is always

answering a question with a question. We are taught not to blindly accept assumptions. (To answer a question in the manner it is asked, means that you accept the assumptions it is predicated upon.) The Almighty also commands us in the Torah to take responsibility for the whole world -- *Tikun Olom* -- to take care of it, improve it and to care for our fellow human beings. This is what the Torah teaches, the Orthodox believe and what they have given to the world.

Orthodoxy is the wellspring of our 3,300 year tradition. It is worth knowing our roots and the wisdom of our heritage. After all, so many other religions have drawn from it to form their own, it must have something of value to add to our own lives! (I recommend [The Non-Orthodox Jew's Guide to Orthodox Jews](#) by David Baum.)



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

Pinchas, Numbers 25:10 - 30:1

In last week's Torah portion, Pinchas acted to stop a public display of immorality. He thus stemmed the plague of retribution which was killing the multitudes. He is rewarded by being made a Cohen -- by Divine decree.

The Almighty commands Moshe to attack the Midianites in retribution for the licentious plot the Midianites perpetrated upon the Israelites. A new census is taken of the Jewish people revealing that there are 601,730 men available for army duty. God directs the division of the Land of Israel amongst

the tribes. The Levites are tallied. The daughters of Tzelafchad come forward to petition Moshe regarding their right of inheritance. Moshe inquires of the Almighty Who answers in their favor.

Moshe asks the Almighty to appoint a successor and the Almighty directs Moshe to designate Yehoshua (Joshua). The Torah portion concludes with the various offerings -- daily, Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh and holidays.

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Dvar Torah

based on [Growth Through Torah](#) by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin

The Torah states:

"And the Almighty spoke to Moshe saying: Pinchas the son of Eliezer, the son of Aharon the priest has turned away my anger from the Children of Israel in that he was zealous for My sake among them, so that I did not consume the Children of Israel in My jealousy" (Numbers 24:10-11).

Why does the Torah add the words "among them" which are seemingly extra words?

The commentator Alshich explains that the seemingly extra words "among them" are to focus us on the fact that Pinchas' zealous action was not very popular among the people; there were those who were ready to kill him for his zealousness! Nevertheless, Pinchas was ready to sacrifice everything to do the will of the Almighty. He took action even though many people disapproved of what he did.

There are many instances in life in which the correct thing to do is not always the most popular. For example, if a group of people are speaking *loshon hora* (gossip) against others, they usually do not appreciate someone's telling them to stop talking negatively. However, a person whose

focus is on doing the will of the Almighty will not be deterred even if others will insult him for his behaviour.



Shabbat Shalom,
Kalman
Rabbi Kalman
Packouz

Hot Kiddush: presented by Anna & Robert Baruch on the occasion of their son's birthday who will be reading part of the parsha.

Guest speaker: Rabbi Eli Salomon from (Israel). The Rabbi collects funds to support soldier's families who lost a member, on the battlefield.

Kolel: Sunday 9th of July, the Halacha shiur started at Ohel David under the responsibility of Rabbi Mordehai Cohen, it was very successful. This shiur dedicated to people with a background in Limoud Torah. Our objective is to provide students between the age of 17 to 97 with a strong and structured methodology to understand the way the Halacha is defined. How the Guemara, the rishonim, Maran Yossef Karo, the Aharonim and our contemporary Rabanim understood and built the rules that define the halacha. The course will take place every Sunday between (09:30 to 12:30) at Ohel David Synagogue hall ground floor, For more detail and registration, please contact Rabbi Mordehai Cohen, (07713 695864).

Sefer Torah: We will be presented with a new sefer torah and Haftorah sefer at the end of November (Heshvan).#

Security Alert: Please be very vigilant when you leave the Synagouge. Do not stand in groups and chat, go home without gathering on the main road. Be safe and alert.

Dear all: If anyone wants an alliyah please approach our gubbay Adel, David or Ghassan before Shahrit not later then 9:15.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE"
TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 01 Tammuz Mr Sami Shemie | 12 Tammuz Mrs Vera J Wegscheider |
| 07 Tammuz Mr Raphael Mansour | 17 Tammuz Mr David Gigi |
| 08 Tammuz Mr Fred Dalah | 17 Tammuz Mr Y. Kelly Saltoun |
| 08 Tammuz Mr Andrew Dalah | 19 Tammuz Mr Moshe Moses |
| 09 Tammuz Mr David Gigi | 23 Tammuz Mr Charlie Morris |
| 13 Tammuz Mrs Muzel Gubbay | 29 Tammuz Mr Saul Benjamin |
| 12 Tammuz Mr William Abner | 27 Tammuz Mr Cesar Sassoon |

Quote of the Week

You can't change the truth, - but the truth can change you