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Shabbat - Vayakhel - P. Shekalim,

שבת פ' ויקהל - פ' שקלים

Sat. 1 - 2 Mar. 2019 - 25th of Adar I, 5779 -

כ"ה באדר א' תשע"ט

Issue Number 887

Baal Koreh	Rabbi Asher Sebbag	(Page - 516).
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Mevarchin Hahodesh

מברכין החודש

Rosh Hodesh Adar II Thu. & Fri.

ראש חודש אדר ב ביום חמישי וששי.

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & Arbit. 17:15

Shabbat Candles. 17:24

Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 8:52). 08:30

Mincha Shabbat - Followed by Seuda Shlishit. * (Sunset - 17:41). 17:10

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. *

Arbit Motzei Shabbat. 18:32

Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday - 07:30). 06:30

Mincha & Arbit. 17:15

Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a. 17:45

Next Friday: Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & Arbit. 17:30

Next Friday: Candles. **Shabbat. Pikudei** 17:37

Vayakhel 5779 (Exodus 35:1-38:20)

Feb 24, 2019 | by [Rabbi Kalman Packouz](#)

GOOD MORNING! Last week I shared with you four Torah prophecies charting Jewish history: 1) that the Jewish people will be eternal though 2) we will be few in number and 3) scattered to the four corners of the earth and that 4) the host nations were ultimately inhospitable to us. This week, 2 more prophecies!

One would think, if the Jewish people were so reviled to be persecuted and killed, that we would have little impact upon those nations persecuting and killing us. Yet, the Torah prophecies that we will be:

5. A LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS

"I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You shall become a blessing. And I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you. Through you all the communities of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:2-3). The prophet Isaiah (42:6) states, "I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand and keep you. And I will establish you as a covenant of the people, for a light unto the nations."

Despite our small numbers, the Jewish People seem to occupy a disproportionate place as a focus of world attention. As Mark Twain wrote of

the Jew: "He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning, are also way out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers."

Despite being the most hated people, few in number and dispersed across the globe, Jews are the most influential people the world has known. Jews are responsible for the idea of ethical monotheism and the absolute moral standard that comes from a belief in one God.

Before the Jews, the ancient world thought that infanticide was morally correct (even Aristotle wrote in favor of it.) Before the Jews came along, the world thought that "might was right."

It was the Jewish people that gave the world the ideas of respect for life, peace, equality, justice, love of neighbor, social responsibility, and holiness of human purpose.

Today, on the wall outside the United Nations, the hope of the world is emblazoned, using the words of the Jewish prophet Isaiah: "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, nations shall not lift up sword against nations. Neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

6. INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE NATION AND THE LAND

It has been prophesied in the Torah that the land of Israel was rich and fertile while the Jews were living there: "I have

come down to rescue them from Egypt's power. I will bring them out of that land, to a good, spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey..." (Exodus 3:8). And when they were exiled, it would become barren and desolate: "So devastated will I leave the land that your enemies who live there will be astonished... Your land will remain desolate, and your cities in ruins (Leviticus 26:32-33)."

During the two thousand years of Israel's exile from its Land, numerous empires have conquered the Land and countless wars were fought for its possession. And yet, astonishingly, no conqueror ever succeeded in permanently settling the Land or causing the deserts to blossom.

Mark Twain, who visited Israel in 1867, describes the Land of Israel:

"We traversed some miles of desolate country whose soil is rich enough but is given wholly to weeds -- A silent, mournful expanse... A desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action. The further we went the hotter the sun got and the more rocky and bare, repulsive and dreary the landscape became" ("The Innocents Abroad" Vol. II).

The "land of milk and honey" turning into a desert, is a phenomenon unique in the annals of history. Now that the Jews are returning to the Land, it once again has begun to bloom!

Next week: The final prophecy -- the Return from Exile ... and what does it all mean?



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

Vayakhel, Exodus 35:1 - 38:20

Moshe relays the Almighty's commands to refrain from building the *Mishkan* (the Tabernacle) on the Shabbat, to contribute items needed to build the *Mishkan*, to construct the components of the *Mishkan* and the appurtenances of the *Cohanim*. The craftsmen are selected, the work begins. The craftsmen report that there are too many donations, and for the first and probably the only time in fundraising history, the Jewish people are told to refrain from bringing additional contributions!

* * *

Dvar Torah

*based on Growth Through Torah by
Rabbi Zelig Pliskin*

The Torah states:

"Every wise-hearted person amongst you shall come and make everything that the Almighty has commanded." Later the Torah continues "and each person whose heart motivated him came" (Exodus, 35:21).

Why is it necessary for the Torah to tell us that their hearts motivated them?

The Ramban -- Rabbi Moshe ben Nachman, a brilliant 13th century Spanish commentator, explains that they needed motivation from their hearts because there was no one who had any previous experience with the skills necessary for constructing the Tabernacle. There were no teachers available to train them. But there were people who had the courage to come

before Moshe to tell him, "I will do all that you say."

Our lesson: to succeed in life we must have the courage to take initiative. Many people have goals. Only those who take initiative succeed.

* * *

Dvar Torah

*based on Growth Through Torah by
Rabbi Zelig Pliskin*

Moses commanded the Jewish people regarding the materials for the Tabernacle:

"Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring an offering of the Almighty" (Exodus 35:5).

What lesson do we learn from the command being directed to those who have a "willing heart"?

Rabbi Simcha Zissel of Kelm explains that those who brought the offerings for the Tabernacle should bring their hearts with their offering. It is not sufficient just to give a monetary donation. The Almighty wants our hearts, that is our thoughts and our emotions.

When you just give money to a charity or worthy institution, you help the cause for which you are giving. However, when you give with your heart, you are changing and elevating yourself as a person. Each donation makes you into a more giving person. Whenever you give, reflect before you give and then give with a full heart!



Shabbat Shalom,

Kalman
Rabbi Kalman
Packouz

PURIM PARTY 2019

Join Crafts4kids Events at Ohel David Synagogue for hours of arts, crafts, Mishloach manot, megillah reading and much more to celebrate your special Purim holiday with us.

5:00-7:30 Wednesday the 20th March - £5 entry

Shiur for ladies. We are pleased to announce that a shiur for ladies by rebbetzin chava Sebbag on Tuesday mornings based on mesilat yesharim. For more information please call 07751 434 797.

Hot Kiddush: presented by the family of Meryam Tendler on the shloshim for her late husband Raymond Tendler ז"ל.

Dear all: According to our book keeper and accountant, we have been informed that there are many members and non members who owe a lot of money to the synagogue. If money is owed and not paid, you will no longer be a member, benefit from the burial scheme nor have an aliya. This is a Nedeir angle according to the Torah, and you are responsible to complete all payments by the end of March 2019. We look forward to receiving your payments.

Kolel every Sunday: We are still having a Kolel every Sunday at the Synagogue hall from 09.30am - 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

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 Adar Mr Yaakov Georgy
02 Adar Mr Asher Moses
04 Adar Mr William Yadid
08 Adar Mr Fouad Yadgar
13 Adar Mr Elie Menahem
16 Adar Miss Florence Ruth David
18 Adar Mr Solomon Judah
19 Adar Mrs Rosalind Broomer
19 Adar Mr Mayer Levy
19 Adar Mrs Gilda Aslan
19 Adar Mrs Shulamit Rachamim
22 Adar Mr David Gigi
22 Adar Mr Charles F. Silas
23 Adar Mr Benny Benaiah
24 Adar Mr Albert Ibrahim
24 Adar Mr Aziz Ibrahim
26 Adar Mr David Gigi
27 Adar Mr Ghassan Cohen
29 Adar Mr Sabah Rashty
29 Adar Mr Peres Rashty
29 Adar Mr Morris Rashty

“ Quote of the Week ”

Do your best ... and let God do the rest