

Mr. Ghassan N. Cohen  
Hon. President  
079 8938 7881  
Ghassancohen@gmail.com

ק"ק אהל דוד

OHEL DAVID EASTERN SYNAGOGUE

Established 1959

4-14 Broad Walk Lane, London NW11 8HD

Rabbi Asher Sebbag — 07732 731786

Hazan: Jacob Oved - 07971 119865

Telephone: 020 8455 3491

Web site: www.oheldavid.org Email: info@oheldavid.org

Mr. David Gigi  
Treasurer  
Mr. Adil Darwish  
Hon. Gubbyay



## **Shabbat & Rosh Chodesh - Re'eh,**

Sat. 30 - 31 Aug. 2019 - 30th of Av, 5779 -

**שבת וראש חודש אלול פ' ראה**

ל' באב תשע"ט

Issue Number 913

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## **Rosh Hodesh Elul - Shabbat & Sunday.**

**ראש חודש אלול - שבת וראשון.**

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	19:00
Shabbat Candles.	19:37
Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 8:59).	08:30
Mincha Shabbat -. (Sunset - 19:50).	19:15
Arbit Motzei Shabbat.	20:43
Selichot & Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday - 06:30).	05:30
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	18:30
Mincha & Arbit.	19:15
Next Friday: Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	19:00
Next Friday: Candles. <b>Shabbat. Shoftim</b>	19:21

## **Re'eh** 5779 (Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17)

Aug 25, 2019 | by [Rabbi Kalman Packouz](#)

**GOOD MORNING!** Rosh Chodesh Elul, the beginning of the Hebrew month of Elul will be August 31st and September 1st. This means that there is one month and counting to Rosh Hashanah (Sunday evening, September 29th). Many people might ask, "So, what?" or might think, "Thanks for the reminder to buy a brisket!" However, the answer to "So, what?" is that we have one month to prepare for Rosh Hashanah ... and Yom Kippur.

**Why would** one want to prepare for Rosh Hashanah? Rosh Hashanah is the Day of Judgment when the Almighty decides "Life or death, sickness or health, poverty, or wealth." Does it make sense to prepare for a day of judgment? You bet!

However, for many it has the same emotional impact as their cardiologist telling them that they need to lose weight to avoid heart attacks and strokes ... a wonderful idea between meals!

**There is** a tremendous benefit to living in South Florida. It's a hurricane zone. Around May you get the annual predictions -- 7 to 12 tropical storms, 3 to 6 hurricanes, 0 to 2 major hurricanes. They actually have ways of measuring, correlating, and predicting the number and size of storms. At the beginning of the season we start buying bottled water and batteries to prepare. We put a new battery in the weather radio which broadcasts the position and strength of the storms. We even have a chart where we mark off the present location of storms out there in the Caribbean.

**Why is** living in a hurricane zone a benefit? It teaches you a very important lesson: Be real with life! Usually, the weather bureau (N.O.A.A. -- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) gives a week's heads up. You know that in 7 days a Category 3 or 4 or 5 hurricane will hit. You generally know for sure whether it will hit land, you just don't know whether for sure it will hit YOU until perhaps a day or a few hours before landfall.

**What happens** during that week? The hardware store sells out all of its plywood (used for covering windows) and batteries. They have to make special shipments from neighboring states! The grocery store shelves are cleared out or seriously diminished of canned goods and water. People are scrambling to buy generators to provide electricity needed to keep the lights on, fans going, and the refrigerator and freezer working. There is a mad dash for last minute preparations because the STORM IS COMING!

**What's the** difference between a hurricane and Rosh Hashanah? The hurricane MAY hit your area; Rosh Hashanah DEFINITELY will touch you!

**So, if** one believes in a God who has set a standard for behavior and observance in the Torah and who will judge us, does it make sense to make some preparations? It would be reasonable to think so.

**How can** one prepare for the Day of Judgment? Here are:

### **10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE FOR ROSH HASHANAH**

1. Take a spiritual accounting. Each day take at least 5 minutes to review your last year -- a) your behavior with family, friends, associates, and people

you've interacted with b) your level of *mitzvah* observance.

2. Attend a class or classes at a synagogue, Aish center, or a *yeshiva* on how to prepare. Read articles on [aish.com](http://aish.com) and listen to world-class speakers on [aishaudio.com](http://aishaudio.com), or at [Rabbizweig.com](http://Rabbizweig.com).
3. Study the *Machzor* (Rosh Hashanah prayer book) to know the order of the service and the meaning of the words and prayers. You can buy a copy of [The Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Survival Kit](#), by Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf (possibly available at your local Jewish bookstore or at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)).
4. Make sure that you have given enough *tzedakah* (charity) and have paid your pledges (one is supposed to give 10% of his net income). It says in the *Machzor* that three things break an evil decree - *Teshuva* (repentance), *Tefilla* (prayer) and *Tzedakah* (charity). Why not maximize your chance for a good decree?
5. Think of (at least) one person you have wronged or feel badly towards -- and correct the situation.
6. Make a list of your goals for yourself and your family - what you want to work towards and pray for.
7. Limit your pleasures -- the amount of television, movies, music, food -- do something different so that you take this preparation time seriously.
8. Do an extra act of kindness -- who needs your help? To whom can you make a difference?
9. Read a book on character development -- anything written by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin would be great!
10. Ask a friend to tell you what you need to improve. A real friend will tell you ... but in a nice way!



## TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

### Re'eh, Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17

**This week** is a jam-packed portion. It begins with a choice: "I set before you a blessing and a curse. The blessing: if you obey the commandments of God...; the curse if you do not ... and you follow other gods."

**The portion** continues with rules and laws for the land of Israel, primarily oriented towards staying away from idol worship and the other religions in the land. In verses 13:1-12 you will find the section that caused a missionary's face to blanch and silenced him from continuing to proselytize a renowned rabbi.

**One of** the indications of the existence and necessity of the Oral Torah -- an explanation and clarification (later redacted as the Talmud) of the written Torah (The Five Books of Moses) -- comes from verse 12:21, "You will slaughter animals ... according to the manner I (God) have prescribed." Nowhere in the Torah are we instructed in the manner of *shechita*, ritual slaughter. One might conclude that there was a very sloppy editor. Or -- one might conclude that there are additional teachings (the Oral Law/Talmud) clarifying and amplifying the written Word.

**The source** of the Chosen People concept is brought this week: "You are a nation consecrated to God your Lord. God has chosen you from all nations on the face of the earth to be His own special nation ... (Deut. 14:1-2)." We are chosen for responsibility, not privilege -- to act morally and to be a "light unto the nations."

**The portion** then gives instructions regarding: permitted and forbidden foods, the Second Tithe, remissions of loans every 7 years, treatment of those in need (to be warm-hearted and open-handed), a Jewish bondsman, the three pilgrimage festivals (Passover, Shavuot, Sukkot).

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### Dvar Torah

*based on Growth Through Torah by  
Rabbi Zelig Pliskin*

**The Torah** uses some mighty strong language this week that really needs some understanding:

"See I am placing before you this day a blessing and a curse. The blessing, if you will listen to the commandments of the Almighty which I am commanding you this day. And the curse, if you do not listen to the Almighty's commandments."

**On top** of this, the Sforno, a renowned 15th century Italian commentator, adds "There is no middle way. If a person follows the Torah, his life will be a blessed life. If a person fails to live by the commandments, he will live a cursed life."

**This seems** to be a rather extreme statement. However, if we understand that life is either purposeful and meaningful or not, then we can understand that a life of meaning is a blessed life. And a life without meaning is a life devoid of satisfaction and imbued with a sense that nothing makes a difference when life is over anyway (and what could be a greater curse than that?).

**Understanding** that there is a God Who created the world, sustains it and supervises it -- gives life intrinsic meaning. One can always create a sense of meaning in a diversion -- acquiring

wealth, following baseball or even in something as noble as helping others. However, unless there is a God and there are absolute responsibilities and values, then there is no inherent meaning to life. It gnaws at one's psyche.

**A person** needs to have purpose in life, to know that life is meaningful. To be aware of the Creator and to fulfill His will

enables a person to experience the greatest of blessings in this world. Each day will be an exciting adventure full of the joy of doing the Almighty's will. The choice is yours to make. Choose life!



Shabbat Shalom,  
*Kalman*  
Rabbi Kalman  
Packouz

**Condolences:** We are sorry to inform you of the passing of a dear friend and former member of our synagogue the late Norman Ezekiel z"l. He was a pillar of our community and a committee member for many years. His exceptional kindness and devotion to helping our community will always be remembered and appreciated. We wish his wife and family long life.

Seuda shlishit will be presented by the synagogue in his honour, all are welcome.

**Eliyahu Kelman:** - author of THINK STAND UP & WALK TALL. Will introduce you to hidden secrets... the hidden coded secrets and rules embedded in The Torah and many ancient writings going all the way back to those written by Adam, Abraham, father of all nations and many other kabbalistic writings... Bring Magic into your life. Fantastical stories that show how it all works in real life. Prof Eliyahu Kelman 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019. 20:00 - 21:30. Join us at Ohel David Synagogue Hall 4-15 Broad Walk Golders Green Road NW11 8HD

**The Yarsite** for the father of Jimmy Obadia, (the late Rouben Obadia ז"ר) will be at Lauderdale Synagogue on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 19.00.

**Ladies Gallery:** We are starting the plan for Ladies Gallery and we need your support, you can call Ghassan, David or Moshe for any update.

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

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

04 Elul Mr Sidney Nathan	17 Elul Mrs Evelyn Basrawy
04 Elul Mr Alfred Nathan	24 Elul Mr David Gigi
14 Elul Dr Maurice Gubbay	28 Elul Mr Ezekiel Ezekiel
15 Elul Mr Maurice Arwas	

Quote of the Week

**A good Jew is one who is trying  
to become a better Jew.**