



MENUCHAV'SIMCHA

Candle Lighting 8:15PM

Vol. 13 Issue 25

Parshas Chukas 5777

HAVE FAITH

BY RABBI YISROEL SCHWARTZ

There is much discussion on what exactly was Moshe and Aharon's sin that Hashem did not allow them to enter Eretz Yisroel. Rashi states that they hit the rock, thus preventing a Kiddush Hashem.

His interpretation, though, seems not to agree with the Torah's reason of Moshe and Aharon's sin. The Torah states, "Because you did not believe in Me to sanctify Me in the eyes of Bnei Yisroel" (Bamidbar 20:12).

Maharal explains how Rashi's explanation truly concurs with the posuk. The reason for Moshe's punishment was anger. He cites Rashi in Parshas Matos that proves this view. Rashi writes, "... and similarly when Moshe struck the rock, he erred because of anger" (Bamidbar 31:21). However, the underlying reason for Moshe's sin was lack of bitachon. Anger shows a lack of confidence in Hashem.

If someone is confident in Hashem and realizes that G-d is taking care of him and that every situation he finds himself in is prescribed for him, there is no room for anger. Anger only exists

when things do not go our way. However, if we realize that our way is not necessarily the best way, and that Hashem has better plans for us, then we will always be happy or at least content with anything that crosses our path.

Moshe showed a lack of trust in Hashem when he got angry. As a result, he erred and hit the rock. If he had had full confidence in G-d, he would have stayed in control. If he had maintained trust in Hashem, he would have spoken to the rock and thus made a Kiddush Hashem. Moshe and Aharon showed a lack of trust in Hashem, were punished accordingly, and were not allowed to enter Eretz Yisroel.

ANGER ONLY EXISTS WHEN THINGS DO NOT GO OUR WAY

DVAR HALACHA



Laws of the Three Weeks part 1

BY RABBI YOCHANAN ESKENAZI

In the year 3828 (68 CE) on the 17th day of Tammuz, Titus broke thru the walls of Yerushalayim. Three weeks later on the 9th day of Av, the 2nd Bais Hamikdash was destroyed. During that time period over one million men, women, and children were killed. After the Churban the Jewish people were exiled from our land and tormented by our oppressors. For close to 2000 years (this year 5777, will be 1949 years since the destruction) the Jewish people have been cast into the role of the "wandering Jew". Throughout our history we have been persecuted and even until this day we see much anti-Semitism. Our Chazal teach us, all the tragedies and oppressions the Jewish people have suffered throughout our history, has their roots in the period of Bein Hamitzarim. We observe every year the "Three Weeks" as a period of commemoration and national mourning over the loss of our homeland of Eretz Yisroel, Yerushalayim and especially of the Bais Hamikdash.

The Rambam [Hilchos Melachim 12:4] writes that the reason why neivim (prophets) and chachamim (sages) mourn for the loss of the Bais Hamikdash is not for the desire to live the glorious life of "the land of milk and honey" and so that the Jewish people be the rulers of the world. Rather they mourn the fact that we do not have the liberty to completely devote ourselves to the study of Torah in order to merit Olam Haba. We long for the opportunity to become the best people that we can be; to perfecting ourselves like the opportunity our ancestors had.

There are five levels of aveilus (mourning)

[cont. on back]



Menucha Vesimcha has been dedicated by Kutest Kids Early Intervention Services.

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[cont. from front]

observed during the Hebrew calendar dates between the 17th of Tammuz until the 10th day of Av [the day after Tisha B'Av]. This period is referred to as The Three Weeks. The closer to Tisha B'Av it is, the degree of mourning intensifies. The halachos being discussed here are exclusively for the 13 days from Shiva Asar B'Tammuz [17th of Tammuz] until Rosh Chodesh Av [which begins the period that is known as "the Nine Days"].

Chazal teach us that five tragic things happened to the Jewish people on Shiva Asar B'Tammuz; Moshe Rabbeinu broke the 1st luchos [when he saw the Jewish people serving the Golden Calf], the Kohanim were prevented by Nevuchadnezar's army from bringing the korban tamid [which was not brought again until the 2nd Bais Hamikdash], the walls of Yerushalayim were destroyed [which led to the destruction of the 2nd Bais Hamikdash], the Greek general Apastomus publicly burned a Sefer Torah, and an idol was placed in the Bais Hamidash (Mishnah Taanis 26b). Since these tragedies occurred on Shevah Asar B'Tammuz, Chazal designated this day as a public fast day (Shulchan Aruch 549:1 & Mishneh Berurah 549:2).

It is important to note, the Gemara makes no mention of the restrictions of any activities starting from the Three Weeks. The Gemara mentions that Chazal wanted to prohibit eating meat all year because of the destruction of the Bais Hamikdash, but they saw that the Jewish people would not be able to handle it (Gemara Bava Basra 60b). At some point in history, our Chazal instituted that there are restrictions starting from Shiva Asar B'Tammuz, which continue until after Tisha B'Av. However, it is clear that these restrictions were rooted in the Gemara.

Prohibited activities include; haircutting and shaving, joyful activities [such as music, singing, dancing, and weddings], reciting birchas she'hechyanu [the blessing recited for buying new things], and other miscellaneous potentially dangerous activities, which we discussed in more detail in the upcoming weeks.

To receive Menucha Vesimcha by weekly email or to dedicate/sponsor an issue PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR AT: menuchavesimcha@phillykollel.org

Kollel News

SHIVTI! NEW TOPIC! TEFFILAH!

FOR ADVANCED LEARNERS:

5:30 PM - 6:15 PM:
CHAVRUSA LEARNING
6:15 PM - 6:30 PM:

CHABURA FROM THE ROSH KOLLEL, RABBI YECHIEL BIBERFELD, AND RABBI YOSEF RABINOWITZ (IN ROTATION)

6:30 PM: MINCHA

COME WITH A CHAVRUSA OR WE CAN SET YOU UP!

FOR BEGINNERS!

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM:

STUDY THE PROPHETS TOGETHER WITH RABBI MOSHE YOSEF SPIEGEL

FOR THE BOYS!

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM:

STORIES, SINGING, AND NOSH, LED BY RABBI YOEL ZEFFREN ON THE LOWER LEVEL

DAVENING TIMES:

Friday, June 30:

8:15 PM Candle Lighting
8:33 PM Shkiya/sunset

Shabbos, July 1:

8:15 AM Shacharis
8:44AM/9:20AM Latest Krias Shema
5:30 PM Shivti
6:30 PM Mincha
8:33 PM Shkiya/Sunset
9:28 PM Ma'ariv
9:45 PM 72 Minutes

A NEW SUMMER SERIES FOR WOMEN!

The Halachos of Muktzah Categories and Allowances of Handling Non-Shabbos Items on Shabbos

Taught by:

Mrs. Sima Greer

Director Of Women's Programming
Philadelphia Community Kollel

Monday mornings at 9:45 AM

at the Lower Level of the
Philadelphia Community Kollel
364 Montgomery Ave. Merion Station, PA

With words of inspiration
about the beauty and sanctity of
Shabbos at each session

| Mazel Tov to!

Rabbi Chaim and Chana Biberfeld, brother of the Rosh Kollel on the engagement of their son, Nesanel, to Leba Selengut, Mazel tov to the Kallah's parents, Rabbi Yaakov and Bruchie Selengut.

Reb Moshe and Rachael Starkman on the birth of a baby boy. The Sholom Zachor will take place this Friday night at their home, 126 Upland Tc. beginning at 8:45 p.m.

Dr. Shloimy and Rochelle Kalkstein on the bris of their son, Yehoshua Ezra.

Eliasaf Addison and Lisa Weinberg on their recent marriage.

Ira and Naomi Sved on the birth of a grandson born to their children, Joseph and Amber Schwarz. Mazel tov to the proud great-grandmother Mrs. Betty Sved.

Marty and Shery Friedman on the marriage of their daughter Sara to Davin Knee!



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