



Candle Lighting: 5:12

Parshas Yisro 5772

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By: Rabbi Yaakov Deutscher

True Treasure

“And now, if you hearken well to Me and observe My covenant, you shall be to Me the most beloved treasure of all peoples, for Mine is the entire world.” (Shemos 19:5)

Why does the *pasuk* conclude with the words, “...for Mine is the entire world?” This statement seems to have no correlation at all to the beginning of the *pasuk*.

Rabbi Yitzchok of Volozhin (1879-1948), *z”l*, answers the following: The *gemarah* in Berachos (33b) teaches, “Hashem has nothing in His treasure house other than the merit of *yiras shamayim*, the fear of Heaven.” What is so unique about the fear of Heaven that only *it* merit’s to be placed in the treasure house of Hashem? R’ Yitzchok explains further. Generally, one can define a precious object based on its rarity; the rarer the object the more precious and valuable it becomes. Because the owner of such an object understands its rarity he immediately puts it away for safekeeping. On the other hand, items which may have significant value but are not rare are not stored for safekeeping, for they can be attained with ease at any given moment. When the *gemarah* tells us that only *yiras shamayim* is worthy of being stored in the treasure house of Hashem we can understand why. There are many good qualities that people possess; however, obtaining fear of Heaven is the only quality that, by its nature, is unattainable for Hashem. Thus, when Hashem encounters the ‘rare’ quality of *yiras shamayim* He immediately stores it in His treasure house. Every other positive quality that is present already exists within the ‘essence’ of Hashem, as we say in *Tehillim* (99:5), “Hashem, Yours is the greatness, the strength, the glory... for everything in heaven and on earth is Yours.” Now we can fully understand the conclusion of the *pasuk*. Hashem told *Klal Yisroel* that if they were to serve Him with the precious quality of *yiras shamayim* then they would merit being His treasure. Why specifically *yiras shamayim* and not any other

quality? - “...for Mine is the entire world.” Every other quality is easily attainable for Hashem, for they stem from Him, as the Torah reiterates in *parshas Eikev* (*Devarim* 10:12), “What does Hashem, your G-d ask of you? Only to fear Hashem, your G-d.” It is only through achieving proper *yiras shamayim* that we have the ability to be to Hashem “the most beloved treasure of all people.”

Inequality For All

“These are the words that you shall speak to the Children of Israel.” (Shemos 19:6)

Rashi, citing a *medrash*, deduces from this *pasuk* that Moshe was commanded by Hashem to tell *Klal Yisroel* precisely that which he was taught; no more and no less. This is somewhat difficult to comprehend. Could it be that Hashem was concerned that Moshe would purposely alter some of His words? Also, at the beginning of His conversation with Moshe, Hashem commands, “So shall you say to the House of Yaakov and tell to the Sons of Yisroel.” Why then, does Hashem reiterate, “These are the words that you shall speak to the Children of Israel?” (*Shemos* 19:6)

Rav Matis Blum, *shlita*, in his *sefer* Torah L’daas explains that Rashi’s commentary is actually in reference to a totally different idea altogether. Hashem was informing Moshe that his duty, as leader of *Klal Yisroel*, was not limited to teaching Torah to *Klal Yisroel* as a whole, but also to teach each and every Jew on an individual level as well. Each person according to their G-d given ability, no more and no less. For Hashem only expects us to work within the capabilities that He bestowed upon every one of us, with the ultimate goal being to work and strive to fulfill our own individualized potential.

The *mussar seforim* learn from the *gemarah* in Chullin (95a) a tremendous lesson about fulfilling one’s own potential, and not someone else’s. Mar Ukva said, “In regards to the following matter, compared to my father, I am like vinegar the son of wine: My father would wait

twenty four hours after he ate meat until he would eat dairy, whereas I only wait until the next meal (to eat dairy).” Instead of calling himself vinegar, why didn’t Mar Ukva simply wait the twenty four hours, thus enabling himself to match the saintliness of his father? The answer is simple. Mar Ukva understood that at that point in time, in regards to waiting between meat and dairy, he was not yet at the level of his illustrious father. His goal was to reach his own saintliness, not his father’s.

This concept is critical for those who are constantly striving to grow in *avodas Hashem*. We must recognize exactly who we are and what we must achieve, as Rashi tells us, “No more and no less.”

Kollel News

1. This Shabbos at the Kollel Parshas Yisro

Thursday, February 9:

8:00p.m.: Rabbi Biberfeld's Gemarah Yoma Shiur

Note New Time for this week only

9:00 - 10:00 p.m.:

Rabbi Frand's Weekly Parsha Shiur

NO KOLLEL EREV

10:00p.m.: Maariv

Friday, February 10:

8:25-8:50 a.m.: Rabbi Prupas's *Chumash shiur*

5:12 p.m.: Candle Lighting

5:30 p.m.: *Shkiya*/Sunset

Shabbos, February 11:

8:15 a.m.: Shacharis

Chaburas Chacham Lev

9:01/ 9:37 a.m.: Latest Krias Shema

4:51 p.m.: Mincha

5:39 p.m.: *Shkiya*/Sunset

6:26 p.m.: Maariv

6:43 p.m.: 72 Minutes

7:30 p.m.: Masmid Program

8:00 p.m.: Rabbi Reisman's Navi Shiur

2. RSVP TODAY for the Rebbee Hill Masmid Banquet! On Monday February 20th Rebbee Hill will be coming to town to grace our Masmid Banquet. The event will take place at Merion Tribute House beginning at 5:45 p.m. and is for boys and their father/mentor. A full *fleishige* meal will be served in honor of four incredible months of Torah learning at the Masmid Program. The cost for admission of this double program is \$8 per person \$25 family maximum - RSVP recommended to office@phillykollel.org.

Rebbe Hill cds will be available for purchase at the event.

A girl's B'nos program will take place prior to the Masmid Banquet and will run from 4:00-5:30 p.m. The cost per person is \$5 with a \$15 family maximum.

3. Next Shabbos! A Shabbos with Rabbi Tauber Next *Shabbos Parshas Mishpatim*, February 17th & 18th, the Kollel will be hosting international lecturer, **Rabbi Ezriel Tauber**, for a special Shabbos. Community members will have a chance to share the *seudos Shabbos* with Rabbi Tauber as well as hear him speak several times over Shabbos.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Kedushas Shabbos Sponsor: \$500

Includes one of Rabbi Tauber's inspiring books, Friday Night *Seuda* and exclusive Shabbos Morning *Seuda* with Rabbi Tauber.

Kavod Shabbos Sponsor: \$180

Includes one of Rabbi Tauber's inspiring books and Friday Night *Seuda* with Rabbi Tauber.

Friday Evening Seuda only:

\$36 per person

RSVP a must office@phillykollel.org or 610-668-9557

Shabbos hospitality available for out-of-town guests.

4. Shovavim Taharas Hamishpacha Shiurim for Men Announcing a Unique Opportunity for Married Men in Bala Cynwyd/Lower Merion! In conjunction with the world-wide Irgun Shiurei Torah initiative, a review course is being offered in the Halachos of Family Purity, this year, with the participation of Rabbi Avraham Steinberg and Rabbi Yonah Gross

Time: 8:30-9:45 pm Maariv: 9:55 p.m. Shiurim to take place at the Kollel

Monday, Feb 13:

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg,

Young Israel of Main Line

Topic: *Inspiration from the Past (and some Pointers for the Present): A Taharas Hamishpacha Refresher*

Tuesday, February 21:

Rabbi Yonah Gross

Cong. Beth Hamedrosh

Topic: *Halachik Implications of Medical Procedures*

For more information, Please call 610-668-9557

Or visit our website at: www.phillykollel.org

5. Masmid Program This week's Masmid Program is from 7:30-8:30 p.m. **This week's Masmid Program is sponsored by: Dr. Ari and Inbal Elman and Dr. Michael and Linda Elman in honor of Yehuda completing Mishanyos Succah.** The grand prize of this year's Masmid Program is a SHAS! The winner will be drawn at the Masmid Banquet on February 20th. The frequent attendance prizes will be distributed at the last session of the Masmid Program, on February 25th.

Community News

PLEASE NOTE - Bnos of Bala Cynwyd will **NOT** meet this Shabbos, Feb. 11, Parshas Yisro due to the high-school Shabbaton.

Torah Youth will not meet this week. Grades K-8th. If you would like to help sponsor a Shabbos or want more information contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-6686-6833 or SilverDollar@verizon.net

Mazel Tov to:

Mr. and Mrs. Erwin and Rochelle Nosenchuk on the birth of a grandson, born to Rabbi Daniel & Chavi Nosenchuk!

Dr. and Mrs. Yechiel and Zita Weinstein on the birth of their daughter Shalvah!

Rabbi and Mrs. Boruch and Miriam Lichtenstein on the birth of a granddaughter, Leah Roiza, born to Eliyahu and Miryl Glenner!

If you would like to receive Menucha Vesimcha by weekly email or to sponsor an issue of Menucha Vesimcha in someone's honor / memory, please contact the editor at: menuchavesimcha@verizon.net

Philadelphia Community Kollel, 364 Montgomery Avenue, Merion Station, PA 19066 Phone: 610-668-9557 Fax: 610-668-9558 Email: pc.kollel@verizon.net

Good Shabbos!