



Menucha v'Simcha



A PARSHA WEEKLY BY THE PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY KOLLEL

Candle Lighting: 8:15 p.m.

Parshas Pinchas 5773

Vol. 9 Issue 30

DVAR TORAH

A Five Star Lesson

By Rabbi Yerachmiel Lichtman

In this week's *parsha*, the Torah relates that following the plague resulting from the sin of *Baal Peor* which killed 24,000 people, Hashem commands Moshe to count the children of Israel. Rashi likens this counting to a shepherd whose herd has been attacked by wolves who counts the herd to determine the remaining number of sheep. Likewise, we find numerous times throughout history, Hashem counting his beloved children, the *bnei Yisroel*.

Hashem blessed the Jewish people that they should be as numerous as the stars. Besides the implied blessing of prolificacy, there are other lessons which can be gleaned from this association with stars. For one, the *Nesivos Shalom* explains, the comparison to stars is to teach us the importance of individuality. From all the myriad thousands of stars in the sky, no two stars will ever actually touch each other. They are all separate, each with a unique shine and radiance. So too every Jew has his unique ability to grow in the service of Hashem in a way that is not dependent on another. Chazal tell us that every Jew must say, "*Bishvili nivra ha'olam*," which literally means the entire world was created for me. Homiletically, the word *Bishvili* can also mean my path, as if to say the world was created for my path in life.

Rav Avraham Yaffen, *zt"l* Rosh Yeshiva of the Novardok Yeshiva, gives us further insight into the Jewish people's similarity to the stars. A star can be perceived as being very small. Yet in truth a star is a large ball of fire like the sun; we only see it as small because of the great distance between us and the stars. So too the potential a person has in this world to accomplish is a lot greater than may be realized. The Rambam writes that everyone has the ability to become like Moshe Rabeinu, but often we don't maximize our potential. We think to ourselves "who am I? what can I become?" If we would take a closer look at who we can become we will realize our opportunities for growth are endless.

A third lesson from the stars can be derived a Gemarah in Chulin. The Gemarah tells us that after the creation of the sun and moon the moon complained to Hashem say-

ing, "how can two rulers reign under one crown?" Hashem therefore punished the moon by diminishing its size. In order to appease the moon, Hashem created the stars to "help out" with giving light. The lesson is clear. The essence of the stars creation was to assist the moon. So too the hallmark of a Jew is *chesed* - helping out a fellow friend and brother.

A fourth lesson to be taken from the stars is based on a verse in Psalms (chapter 147). King David writes "*He is the healer of the brokenhearted, He counts the number of stars, to all of them He assigns names.*" A star is one of billions in the sky and can feel insignificant; that its contribution of light is unimportant to the world. Therefore *Hakadosh Baruch Hu* names each and every star to show that they do indeed make a difference. So too each and every individual in *K'lal Yisroel* has the power to make a difference in the world!

Rav Yosef Tzvi Salant, *zt"l* in his *sefer*, *Be'er Yosef* offers our fifth and final explanation. Stars are only visible at night when all is dark. The *Baalei Mussar* teach us that nighttime symbolizes *galus*, exile. Just as the stars have the power to light up even the darkest of nights, so too *K'lal Yisroel*, even in the darkness of *galus*, subjugated by other nations of the world, can stand apart as the chosen nation. It is for this reason that Hashem counted *b'nei Yisroel* at the time of entry into Egypt. He wanted to convey this message, that although we may be surrounded by the dark cloud of *galus*, we are still His children and chosen nation. A nation that will always shine and sparkle even in the darkest of times. May we internalize and take to heart the lessons of the stars, and merit speedily in our days the true radiance of *K'lal Yisroel* with the building of the *Bais Hamikdash*.



DVAR HALACHA

Halachos of the Nine Days

Part 1

By Rabbi Yochanan Eskenazi

As we get closer to *Tisha B'Av*, Chazal instituted additional activities in order to help us feel the *aveilus* (mourning) and destruction of the *Bais Hamikdash*. These additional restrictions begin at *shkiyah* (sunset) of *Rosh Chodesh Av* [This year Sunday, July 7th, 8:32 PM in Bala Cynwyd] and continue until *chatzos* (*halachic* midday) of the 10th of



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

Contact Malky Adlerstein for more information at: Phone: 610-227-0388

Email: madlerstein@gmail.com - Web: www.kutestkids.com

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Av [July 17th, 1:07 PM]. This period is commonly known as "The Nine Days." All the restrictions of the Three Weeks are still in place.

One should not buy any type of new clothing (Rama 551:7) even if he does not plan to wear them until after *Tisha B'Av* (Mishneh Berurah 551:49). There are certain instances where one is permitted to purchase new clothing. This includes: purchasing for a newborn that has no other clothing; a sale item that will not be available after *Tisha B'Av*; someone travelling who is able to buy a specific item only in that place (Laws of Daily Living, The Three Weeks, pg. 67). Similarly, someone who forgot to buy non-leather shoes [for Tisha B'av] may purchase a pair (Igros Moshe OC 3:80).

Non-clothing items that are relatively inexpensive [e.g. pots and pans, etc.] may be purchased (Laws of Daily Living, The Three Weeks, pg. 69 quoting Harav Y.S. Eliyashuv, *zt"l*). Additionally, any items of necessity may be purchased (Igros Moshe OC 3:80).

One may not tailor or repair new clothing (Shulchan Aruch 551:7) even if the garment will not be completed until after the Nine Days (Mishneh Berurah 551:49). One may sew a tear, sew on a button and the like

(Halichos Shlomo, Moadim 1: pg. 422, 22).

One may not launder clothing even if one will not wear it until after the Nine Days. Additionally, one may not give clothing to a laundering service or dry cleaners (Rama 551:3). According to some *Poskim* one may give clothing to a non-Jew [e.g. dry cleaners] during the Nine Days if one plans on wearing them only after *Tisha B'Av* (Mishneh Berurah 551:34). Included in garments are: clothing, towels, sheets, and tablecloths. (Shulchan Aruch 551:3). It is permissible to polish scuffed shoes, but one may not shine them (Igros Moshe OC 3:80).

One may remove a stain from a garment even with water. (Laws of Daily Living, The Three Weeks, pg. 77 quoting Harav S.Z. Auerbach, *zt"l* and Harav Y.S. Eliyashuv, *zt"l*). Additionally, one may wash clothing for young children who constantly get their clothing dirty. One should not add in extra clothing [for example of an adult] while washing the children's clothing. (Laws of Daily Living, The Three Weeks, pg. 80 quoting Harav Moshe Feinstein, *zt"l*).

If someone does not have any clean clothing, he may wash before the week of *Tisha B'Av* (Mishneh Berurah 551:29).

Kollel News

Shabbos, June 29:

- 8:15 a.m.: *Shacharis*
- 8:43/ 9:19 a.m.: Latest *Krias Shema*
- Rabbi Eskenazi's Ramban shiur
- Chaburas Chacham Lev
- 5:15 pm: **Buisness Ethics #9:**
- Is paintballing permissible?**
- 6:00 p.m.: Mincha
- 8:33 p.m.: Shkiya/ Sunset
- 9:45 p.m.: 72 Minutes

Friday, June, 28:

- 6:00 p.m.: Mincha
- Likras Shabbos Program**
- 6:45 p.m.: Kabbolas Shabbos/ Ma'ariv
- 8:15 p.m.: Candle Lighting
- 8:33 p.m.: Shkiya/sunset

1. Save-the-Date! Documentary on Life of Rav Eliyashiv, zt"l: Experience Rav Elyashiv's extraordinary dedication to Torah. In response to this film many have said it has the power to change your life! Get an intimate glimpse into the life of the Gadol Hador (for adults and children 10 yrs. Old and above onli) please come early as the film will start on time. Film duration is approximately 1 hour and 50 min. Tuesday, July 9, 2013 Mincha: 7:45 p.m. Video: 8:00 p.m. Followed by Maariv For Men and Women. \$10 Entrance fee charged by the makers of this film.

2. Save The Date: Rabbi Mike Stern Speaking at the Kollel Finding Light Amidst the Darkness: Lessons from the Life and Passing of Shoshie Stern, A"H. When: July 14th Mincha at 7:30, fol-

lowed by the lecture, followed by Maariv.

Simultaneous Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation Pre-Tisha B'av Video for kids To Be shown July 14th at 1:30 p.m. Featuring: "The Outsider": The presentation on exclusion, by Mendy Pollack, that made waves in schools nationwide! Brand New! Moshe Serebrowski: A powerful story on Tisha B'Av LOCATION: Philadelphia Community Kollel DATE: July 14th TIME: 1:30 p.m. Recommended for ages 8-13 Cost: \$4 per child, \$12 family rate

3. Annual Yizkereim Video to be shown July 2nd: Each year, during the Thre Weeks, the Kollel shows a documentary from the Yizkereim Foundation. This year we will show "Monsieur" which presents the dramatic and inspirational story of Rav Yonah Tiefenbrunner, z"l, and the orphanage he established in Belgium during the Holocaust. For men and women. 8:30pm.

Mazel Tov to:

Jonathan and Dee Tanner on the engagement of their daughter, **Fran**, to **Rafi Miller!**

Condolences to:

Mrs. Miriam Gorin on the passing of her beloved husband, **Mr. Naftoli Gorin, a"h**

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