



# LATE EDITION



MISHPATIM BY RAV SHMUEL BLOOM

29 SHVAT 5767 MOTZAEI SHABBAT: 18:04

## MESSAGE FROM THE RAV

Dear Chevra

Welcome to our minyan. In פרשת ו' uses an educationally enlightening method of introducing תורה starts off with familiar ground – the laws of slavery. In counseling and in making friends, it's always good to start with some common ground. עם ישראל have just come out of slavery – it's the lifestyle they are most familiar with. Therefore they are shown that every lifestyle, even slavery, has a place within יהדות – within the limits and קדושה of הלכה. However, the ideal situation is not to be enslaved by another nation; we are to be the holy servants of ה'.

Familiar with the fact that they have to move out of a slavery mentality, ה' introduces them to their new environment and the levels of responsibility that come with it. Firstly, the תורה introduces the laws of damages – bringing the Jews a sense of personal responsibility. Thereafter, the תורה expands our field of laws to those of mutual responsibility with the laws on שומרים. Finally, the תורה extends our

hand out to the level of communal responsibility with instructions to help the helpless, widows, and orphans and the requirement to provide interest free loans to those in need.

Our פרשה only then moves into the sphere with the commandments of שמיטה and חגים. It seems that ה' is most interested that our interpersonal relationships are functioning, and then cares for us on the level that our Homeland should be functioning on a level of קדושה and should be providing us food that will nourish our bodies and souls; and only then does ה' "worry" about Himself – giving the commandments of the שלש רגלים.

Finally, ה' promises us a swift passage to ארץ ישראל and conquering of our homeland.

עם presents this full plan to ישראל, who commit themselves to ה' saying: כל הדברים אשר דבר ה' נעשה. Having this commitment, משה spends the night writing the first part of the ספר תורה (according to רש"י – everything from בראשית until מתן תורה – he must have been a very fast writer) and reads it to עם ישראל the next morning. עם ישראל respond the

to this reading נעשה ונשמע and the covenant is concluded with the blood of the sacrifices that have been offered at הר סיני being thrown in front of the people and the people attaining an extremely high level of נבואה and experiencing the revelation of הקב"ה. Now that the nation has reached/returned to the ideal level of humanity – living their lives under the direct command of משה, ה' goes up הר סיני for 40 days and nights to receive the next set of instructions for עם ישראל – the building of the משכן – the "how" to take הר סיני with them to ארץ ישראל and from there bring about a עולם תיקון.

We are privileged to live in the generation where all of the above has started being fulfilled once again. Baruch ה' we live in a time where helpful organizations function in ארץ מצוות התלויות בארץ ישראל, where are a practical reality and where we have the ability to experience the revelation of הקב"ה, albeit through its "lower" level of learning תורה and not its ideal level of נבואה. May we merit achieving our ideal level of existence very soon!

שבת שלום  
Rav Shmuel and Taly

## TEAM LATEMINYAN 054 4292 365

ACTING CHAIRPERSON: TAMMY WILSON 054-429-2365 CHAIR@LATEMINYAN.COM

MINYAN RAV: RAV SHMUEL BLOOM 054-758-7089, 02-566-2580 RABBI@LATEMINYAN.COM

THE GABBAIM REPRESENTATIVE: ROB ARNOLD 054-422-8666 ROB@JERUSALEMTYPE.COM

HEAD KIDDUSH & EVENTS: GALI DORN 02-561-9459 052-2403-423 EVENTS@LATEMINYAN.COM

HEAD CHARITY: BINNY FREEDMAN  
02-566-2487 050-5287882 BINNYFREEDMAN@YAHOO.COM

FINANCIAL: DANIEL GREENSPAN 02-563-9499 050-598-5588  
FINANCE@LATEMINYAN.COM

WEB SITE: BEN SHAFFER 054-630-4986  
WEBMASTER@LATEMINYAN.COM

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"HAPPY MOMENTS - PRAISE G-D.  
DIFFICULT MOMENTS - SEEK G-D.  
QUIET MOMENTS - WORSHIP G-D.  
PAINFUL MOMENTS - TRUST G-D.  
EVERY MOMENT - THANK G-D."



### SHMIRAT HALASHON

*"I'm not speaking Lashon Hara - Its true!!"*

The Chafetz Chaim lists 31 mitzvot which may be violated when a person speaks or listens to Lashon Hara. This is a staggering number. Even though one does not generally violate them all in one shot, it is important to remember how carelessness can lead one into deeper trouble.

The central prohibition against unethical speech is Vayikra 19:16 - "Lo telech rachil b'ameicha" -- do not go about as a talebearer among your people. [FYI: Rashi's commentary on this verse is a "classic." He discusses the origins of the word rachil (a roving merchant), and a few divergent ideas about the Hebrew language.]

This verse in Vayikra applies equally to Rechilut and Lashon Hara. The Chafetz Chaim gives their exact definitions later on, but for clarity we should mention them here:

- \* Lashon Hara - any derogatory or damaging (physically, financially, socially, or stress-inducing) communication.
- \* Rechilut - any communication that generates animosity between people.

Rechilut is often the repeating of Lashon Hara. For example, Reuven tells Shimon that Levi is ugly (Reuven spoke L"H), and then Shimon tells Levi what Reuven said about him. Shimon probably made Levi angry with Reuven, which is Rechilut.

Although Rechilut seems more obviously derived from the verse, both as a cognate (rachil/rechilut) and a concept (talebearer), the Torah is prohibiting any type of harmful or negative speech in this commandment.

There are several other commandments that directly address "gossip":

- \* Dev. 24:8 - "Take heed concerning the plague of leprosy" because it is a punishment of Lashon Hara.
- \* Dev. 24:9 - "Remember what the L-rd your G-d did unto Miriam by the way as you came forth out of Egypt." Specifically, she spoke against her brother Moses.
- \* Vay. 25:17 - "You shall not wrong one another" which the Talmud (Bava Metzia 58b) explains that this means saying anything that will insult or anger someone.
- \* Dev. 19:15 - "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity or for any sin" because, unlike in a court for monetary matters, the testimony of a solitary witness is not binding, so that his testimony damages the defendant's reputation without any beneficial result.

### MAILING LIST WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN?

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\*WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL THE NEW FACES TO OUR MINYAN. IF YOU ARE NEW IN THE AREA, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO EITHER RAV SHMUEL OR TALY AFTER SHUL. IF YOU NEED A PLACE FOR LUNCH, WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ORGANISE ONE FOR YOU.

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\*FOR COMMENTS ON THE PARSHA PAGE OR QUESTIONS FOR RAV BLOOM PLEASE E-MAIL: [RABBI@LATEMINYAN.COM](mailto:RABBI@LATEMINYAN.COM)

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\*IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THIS WEEKLY PARSHA PAGE IN MEMORY OF A CLOSE ONE OR IN HONOUR OF AN UP-COMING SIMCHA, PLEASE CONTACT TAMMY WILSON AT: [CHAIR@LATEMINYAN.COM](mailto:CHAIR@LATEMINYAN.COM)

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## SHABBAT SHALOM

FROM THE LATE MINYAN

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