



MESSAGE FROM THE RAV

Dear Chevra

Welcome to our minyan! We hope you had a good week and wish you a relaxing and spiritually rejuvenating Shabbat.

Our parsha continues with the story of our forefather, Avraham Avinu. We continue to be inspired by this great man who brought monotheism to the world, survived Nimrod's furnace, made aliya, circumcised himself at the age of 90 years old, believed that HaShem would give him a child; all these accomplishments in the face of an entire world around him who served idols and persecuted those who opposed their views.

His greatest challenge was Akeidat Yitzchak – not only was he required to sacrifice his son and his future, but he was going against everything he had taught and represented his whole life! Avraham was the strident opponent of child sacrifice, a popular practise in those days. Rav Aviner, in Tal Chermon, says: "This teaches us in a most drastic manner that we do not fulfill God's commandments because it is good for us to do so, or because we understand them, or because we experience pleasantness in their performance, but rather because they are God's commandments."

In Birkat Hamazon, we quote Mishlei - "U'mztah (v'nimtza) chen v'sechel tov b'einey Elokim v'adam". We are instructed to act in a way that is pleasing – primarily to Hashem, and secondarily in the eyes of the people around us. Although it's important to do what's right in the eyes of society and be a good example for others, one's primary focus and raison d'être is always HaKadosh Baruch Hu! May we be zoche to fulfil the mitzvot lishma and continue our lives in Eretz Yisrael – filled with kedusha and imbued with purpose.

Shabbat shalom,
Rav Shmuel & Taly

THE BEAUTY WITHIN THE SHADOWS BY RAV SHLOMO KATZ

The Midrash relates that as Avraham, Yitzchak and two servants traveled to the as yet unspecified site of the akeida, Avraham saw a cloud hovering over a distant mountain. Avraham recognized that this cloud was a sign from Hashem as to where Avraham should take his son to offer him as a sacrifice. Avraham then asked Yitzchak, "What do you see?" Yitzchak answered, "I see a beautiful mountain with a cloud hovering over it."

R' Yitzchak Yaakov Reines z"l (1841-1915; Rosh Yeshiva in Lida and founder of the Mizrachi) explains: Avraham wanted to know whether his son Yitzchak could see the light that shines through the darkness of exile and martyrdom. Yitzchak could see; he told his father, "I see a beautiful mountain. True, there is a cloud hovering over it, but the dark shadow of that cloud does not detract from the beauty that I see."

In contrast, Avraham's servants couldn't share Yitzchak's world view. All that they could see was a dark, barren wasteland. Avraham therefore consigned them to the world of the chamor, symbolic of the chomer / materialism which obscures from some people's view a proper understanding of the world.

Avraham and Yitzchak, both of whom could see the beauty within the shadows, left behind the materialistic servants and went "until koh" - to the fulfilment of the verse, "Koh / thus will your offspring be." Those who can see the beauty within the shadows even as they go to their martyrdom are the true stars that shine, as Hashem had promised Avraham. (Ohr Chadash Al Zion, Part VI, Ch. 2, p. 107b)

"ה"ש"ל"ש"ת

כידוע, בקריאת התורה יש "טעמים", שהם המציינים את דרך הנגינה של המילים. בפרשת השבוע שלנו, נמצא אחד הטעמים הנדירים ביותר, שלשלת. טעם זה מצוי בכל התורה רק 4 פעמים, מתוכן 3 בספר בראשית, ובכל פעם שבה הוא מופיע יש לכך משמעות מיוחדת. ייחודו של טעם זה הוא שנגינתו ארוכה במיוחד, ושלבו זאת לרוב עם משמעות המילה שמעליה הוא מופיע. במקרה שבפרשתנו ההקשר ברור במיוחד, כאשר הטעם הזה מופיע מעל המילה "ויתמהמה", בעת תאור יציאת לוט ומשפחתו מסדום. ההשהייה הארוכה, מאפשרת להבין בדיוק את משמעות המילה "ויתמהמה". כך גם דורשים את הטעם הזה, בהופיעו בפרשת השבוע הבא, באזכור תפילתו של אליעזר עבד אברהם שיצא לחפש אשה ליצחק, ושם כתוב הטעם מעל המילה "ויואמר", ודורשים שהוא האריך מאד בתפילתו. הפעם השלישית שבה מופיע הטעם הזה בתורה, גם כן בספר בראשית, היא בפרשת "וישב", בסיפור הנסיון של אשת פוטיפר לפתות את יוסף, שם מופיע הטעם מעל המילה: "וימאן", ואומרים שזה כדי להדגיש את סירובו המוחלט. והפעם האחרונה שבה מופיע טעם זה בתורה, היא בספר "ויקרא", בפרשת "צו", שם הוא מופיע במילה: "וישחט" בקשר לשלושה מקומות בגוף הכהן שעליהם שמים דם הקרבן הנשחט, ולכן השלשלת.

מאת ד. הירוק



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

A person should always have two pockets in his clothing. In one pocket he should have a slip of paper upon which it is written: "For me was the world created" (Sanhedrin 38a).

In the other one it should be written: "I am but dust and ashes"(Bereshit 18:27)

Rav Simcha Bunim of Pshischa

MEALS FOR 8 TOLDOT

AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS GETTING TO KNOW EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY:

SHABBAT PARASHAT TOLDOT

NOVEMBER 25TH

WE WOULD LIKE TO ENJOY A LONG LASTING TRADITION OF "MEALS FOR EIGHT".

THIS SHABBAT WILL BE ABOUT "COUPLES HOSTING SINGLES".

COUPLES WHO WOULD LIKE TO HOST AND SINGLES WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE HOSTED ARE WELCOME TO SEND AN EMAIL TO:

GALI@TALI.ORG.IL AND WE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE IT. EVENTS COMMITTEE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR LAYENING- PLEASE CONTACT YEHUDA ON 052-665-7077 YSHALPER@GMAIL.COM

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO INVITE ANYONE - MEN OR WOMEN - TO GIVE THE DVAR HALACHA IN SHUL. PLEASE SPEAK TO RAV SHMUEL OR TALY TO ORGANISE WHEN YOU ARE GOING TO BE SPEAKING.

GABA'IM COMMITTEE

CHANUKA PARTY!

SAVE THE DATE DECEMBER

20TH

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*IF ANYONE NEEDS A PLACE FOR LUNCH, OR IF ANYONE HAS A SPARE PLACE AT THEIR TABLE, PLEASE SPEAK TO RAV SHMUEL AND TALY BLOOM AFTER SHUL, AND WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ACCOMMODATE EVERYONE.

*FOR COMMENTS ON THE PARSHA PAGE OR QUESTIONS FOR RAV BLOOM PLEASE E-MAIL: RABBI@LATEMINYAN.COM

*IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A DVAR TORAH TO THE PARSHA PAGE - IN HEBREW OR ENGLISH - PLEASE SEND IT TO RAV BLOOM BY MONDAY.

*IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THIS WEEKLY PARSHA PAGE IN MEMORY OF A CLOSE ONE OR IN HONOR OF AN UP-COMING SIMCHA, PLEASE CONTACT TAMMY WILSON AT: 02-5671289

*IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A KIDDUSH IN HONOUR OF AN UP-COMING SIMCHA, PLEASE CONTACT GALI DORN AT: GALI@TALI.ORG.IL

SHABBAT SHALOM FROM THE LATE LATE MINYAN