

PARSHA INSIGHTS

Yakov departed from Beer-Sheva and went to Charan. (28, 10)

The Torah could have only recorded, "And Yakov went to Charan". Why does the Torah mention from where he departed? The verse teaches that the departure of a righteous person from a place makes an impact. When a righteous person is in a city, he is its magnificence, splendor and grandeur. When he departs, its magnificence, splendor and grandeur have also left. (Rashi)

Both Avrohom and Yitzchok left the cities in which they lived. Why doesn't Rashi tell us by their departures that when a righteous person leaves a city, its splendor is diminished?

The Avnei Shoham answers that Avrohom was involved in influencing those in his vicinity. Yitzchok was involved in dealings with Avimelech and other communal affairs. It is quite obvious that when Avrohom and Yitzchok left their cities, people felt the void of their presence.

Rashi is teaching us that there is a greater loss to a city than the departure of a person who is involved in communal affairs. The greatest impact on a city is from those who study Torah. Yakov personified one who is steeped in Torah study. Torah learning is the most powerful force that influences a city. Many people do not recognize the power of Torah study on a city's inhabitants. Only a Torah connoisseur will notice it. Rashi therefore points out that the departure of a tzadik who sits in a Bais Medrash is the greatest loss of glory and splendor for a city.

Rochel stole the terophim (idols) that belonged to her father. (31, 19)

In whom's possession you will find your gods shall not live... (31, 32)

A 'Son of Noach' is punished with death for stealing. (Sanhedrin 57a)

An item that one is not permitted to have any benefit from has no monetary value... One is not allowed to benefit from an idol. (Kidushin 56a)

Since terophim are valueless items, stealing them is not classified as theft. If so, what prohibition did Rochel transgress?

Rav Shimon Shkop (Shaarei Yoshor 1, 9) explains that the valueless status of an item is because the Torah prohibits a person to benefit from it.

However, the prohibition of deriving benefit from an idol is not because it is forbidden to benefit from it. It is because one is not

permitted to become attached to it, as the posuk says, "One should not attach himself to idols..." (Kidushin 56b).

This prohibition does not prohibit all uses of the item. If a person would use the item in a destructive manner (Chulin 8a allows a knife that was used for idol worship to be used for slaughtering an animal), it may be used. Since the item has a permitted use, it does have monetary value and therefore stealing it would be considered theft.

TABLE TALK

PARSHA DILEMMA

And then she (Leah) had a daughter and called her Dinah. (30, 21)

Leah passed the following judgment on herself, "Yakov is destined to have twelve sons. I have had six and each of the handmaids have had two. If I have another son, there will only be one left for Rochel to give birth to, leaving her at a lower level than the maids." To save her sister from being lowered in status, Leah davened that her child should be a girl. A miracle occurred and the fetus changed from male to female. (Rashi)

If a woman is pregnant and her husband says, "It should be the Will of Hashem that this child should be a male", it is a prayer in vain. Rav Yosef asked, "Don't we find that Leah was able to exchange the status of her fetus?" Chazal answer, "One cannot bring a proof from a miracle." (Berochos 60a)

If one is not supposed to pray for a miracle, how could Leah have prayed that her fetus should be changed?

WHO AM I?

1. I am for the poor
2. I am for the blind
3. I am for the dead
4. I am for the one with Tzoraas

Last week's clues: I was..., I wanted..., I am called..., Don't confuse me with read. **Answer:** Red / EDOM / Esav.

Congratulations to: Tal & Ronen Lowenthal, Avi Segal (Modiin), Sarah Stoll

WHO AM I?

1. We were many
2. I was one
3. We fought
4. I am a matzeiva

Last week's clues: I am not a doctor, You will read me in the summer, I could be since, I was Moshe's target.

Answer: Aikev / Heel

Congratulations to: Sorry no congratulations this week.

A GLIMPSE OF GREATNESS

Yakov told Rochel that he was her father's relative... (29, 12).

If he will try to cheat me, I will be his brother in deceit... (Rashi)

Yakov was a wholesome man... (Toldos 25, 27)

There were many righteous individuals who resided in the proximity of the Chozeh M'Lublin. One individual was extreme in his righteousness, giving away everything he owned, including his shoes and food. The Chozeh approached him one day and reprimanded him as follows. "Chazal warn us not to give away more than a fifth of our possessions. You should not give away so much."

The man replied, "Chazal are only referring to people who are concerned for their existence tomorrow. However, I follow Hashem and as the posuk states, "You should be wholehearted with Hashem, your G-d" (Shoftim 18, 13), with Rashi explaining that one should not worry about the future. In complying with this command, I am not concerned about the future, so I give everything away."

The Chozeh answered as follows, "To be wholehearted to the degree that you are is not good."

"I don't understand," the man replied, "Don't we find that Yakov was praised for being wholehearted?"

The Chozeh answered, "By Yakov the Torah adds the word 'ish' to the word 'wholehearted' with which he was described. The meaning of 'ish' in conjunction with the adjective used to portray Yakov is that he was in control of his wholeheartedness. He did not allow himself to be unconditional to the point that people were able to take advantage of him. A person needs to be balanced in being wholehearted and know when his dedication to others has gone too far."

TORAH RIDDLE

Which posuk in this parsha is recited when one travels?

Last week's riddle:

Which unintentional curse was uttered in this parsha but nevertheless fulfilled?

Answer: Rivka said, "Why should you both (Yakov and Esav) die on one day." Yakov and Esav did die on the same day.

Congratulations to: Dan Lowenthal

Please send your "Who Am I" and "Torah Riddle" answers to onegshabbos@BeachwoodKollel.com by next Wednesday. The answers will IY"H appear in next week's issue

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SHABBOS EVENING SHIURIM

Beachwood..... Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brown
8:00 - Parsha (Rabbi Katz) 23988 Wendover

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* * STARTING THIS WEEK * *

Motzoei Shabbos Pirchei Learning

(bring your fathers)

Zichron Chaim 2203 South Green Road
Grades 3 - 8 7:00 - 8:00

Pirchei

Grades 3 - 4: No Pirchei this week!

Pirchei 3:00

Grades 5 - 6: Rabbi Mordechai Giffin 14370 Washington

Pirchei 3:00

Grades 7 - 8: No Pirchei this week!

Bnos 2:30 - 3:30 (Please be considerate and pick up on time)

Grades K - 1 Ahuva Schwartz 14470 E. Carroll

Grades 2 - 3 Leeba Goldstein 2456 Milton

Grades 4 - 5 Shifra Perel Stoll 2542 Claver

Kollel Davening Schedule

Shacharis 7:30

Mincha 2:45

Maariv 7:45 / 9:50

Thank you...

Chairs: Fraydie Katz, Revi Schwadron.
Co-Chairs: Menucha Fant, Penina Lipton.

Mrs. Mimi Solomon, Mrs. Miriam Salamon.

Hostesses: Daniella Botnick, Faigie Compton, Aliza Feldman,
Batsheva Frankel, Giela Gellis Bassy Gutman, Francoise Jacobs,
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