

PARSHA INSIGHTS

Pharaoh also summoned his wise men and sorcerers and they also did so with their incantations. Each one cast down his staff which turned into snakes, and then the staff of Aaron swallowed their staffs. (7, 11)

Why was Aaron's staff/snake the only one that had the ability to swallow the other staffs/snakes? Didn't the Egyptian sorcerers have that ability as well?

Moshe spoke accordingly to the Bnai Yisroel, but they did not heed Moshe's words because of their shortness of breath... (6, 9)

Rebbi Elozor said in the name of Rebbi Chanina, "Torah scholars increase peace in the world, as it is said, "And all of your children will be students of Hashem, and your children (bunoich) will have peace' (Yeshaya 54, 13). Do not read the word bunoich which would translate to children, read it as bonoich which translates into builders – those who build the world through Torah study. (Berochos 64a)

The Chida derives from the above Chazal that one who has been empowered by Torah study is able to dissolve difficult situations. In addition, in circumstances of disagreement, he can even engender peace.

Therefore, Aaron had the ability to swallow the staffs/snakes of the Egyptians because he had the power of Torah. However, the Egyptians were lacking the characteristic of Torah study and as a result were unable to swallow Aaron's staff/snake.

Moshe said, when I leave the city I shall spread out my hands to Hashem, the thunder will cease and the hail will no longer be... (9, 29)

But he did not daven within the city because it was full of idols. (Rashi)

Moshe had davened many times to Hashem and did not specify that he was leaving the city. Why now did he specify that he was exiting the city? Were there idols that suddenly appeared in town that did not exist before?

As long as Bnai Yisroel were in Mitzrayim they always had a Yeshiva. (Yoma 28b)

No new idols had been brought to Mitzrayim during the plague of hail. However, the Netziv (Meishiv Dovor 1, 10) points out that there was another aspect which differentiated Moshe's davening by the other plagues to his davening by the plague of hail. Until the makah of hail, Moshe had always davened in a Bais Medrash. A Bais Medrash has the quality of being a separate entity which is elevated from the general environment. Therefore, he was not in a place of idols.

However, when attempting to rid Mitzrayim of hail, Moshe wanted to "spread out his hands to Hashem" and pray under the open sky. He did not have the benefit of being in a separate locale. That is why during his prayers to rid Mitzrayim of hail, he had to go outside the city to be away from the idols.

TABLE TALK

PARSHA DILEMMA

Hashem spoke to Moshe and said to him, "I am Hashem. I appeared to Avrohom, to Yitzchok, and to Yakov... (6, 2 - 3)

I appeared to the forefathers. (Rashi)

It is common knowledge that Avrohom, Yitzchok and Yaakov are our forefathers. What is Rashi adding when he writes that they were our "forefathers"?

WHO AM I?

1. I was proof of Hashem
2. I was from a finger
3. I am tiny
4. I came from the sand

Last week's clues: I was humble, I had a bush, I reference hatred, Unity was accomplished in my presence.

Answer: Har Sinai

Congratulations to: Tal and Ronen Lowenthal

**SPONSORED IN MEMORY OF
R' YAACOV SHIMON BEN YISROEL TZVI POLLACK A"H
ON HIS TENTH YARTZEIT כ"ז טבת BY HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN
AND IN MEMORY OF HIS MOTHER CHAYA BAS R' YAACOV SHIMON POLLACK A"H
BY HER CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN**

WHO AM I ?

1. I defied nature
2. I made them go inside
3. I was suspended
4. I am waiting for Gog and Magog

Last week's clues: I was a sign, I am for Loshon Horah, I could remind you of snow, I could get you locked up. **Answer:** Tzoraas
Congratulations to: Ronen and Tal Lowenthal

A GLIMPSE OF GREATNESS

Hashem said to Moshe, say to Aaron, "Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Mitzrayim... and they shall become blood. (7, 19)

Why did Hashem choose the first plague to be Egyptian water turning into blood?

The Egyptians were a cultured society with laws in place. Such a society is referred to as 'fresh water' because it is refreshing for the uncultured who are being introduced to it. Hashem purposely turned the Egyptian water into blood as a sign that even their cultured society was in reality a mess. Following legalities alone do not determine if a society is cultured or not. Sometimes the exact letter of the law corrupts people's character. A true cultured society focuses on beyond the law and tries to understand the character of the law, while following the law. (Rav Moshe Feinstein zt"l)

A person was using one of the public telephones in Eretz Yisroel (circa 1960) and the phone "ate up" his money, without the phone call reaching its destination. The company was called but was unresponsive.

One day, this person found a public telephone that was malfunctioning and allowing calls to be made without inserting a coin. The person thought to himself as follows. 'Under normal circumstances, usage of this phone in this manner would constitute theft. However, since the company 'stole' from me a phone call in an earlier situation, reason dictates that I should be allowed to use the phone without compensation today.'

Before doing so, he went to ask the Steipler if his reasoning was correct. The Steipler told him, "Legally your reasoning has merit. However, Chazal (Berochos 5b) tell us that one should not steal his money back from a thief because it trains a person to steal. One must check beyond the letter of the law to ensure that he is not corrupting his own character."

TORAH RIDDLE

What is the similarity between the first three of the ten plagues, and the first two of the Aseres Hadibros?

Last week's riddle:

"Shall I go summon a Jewish wet nurse?" (2, 7)

The baby refused to nurse from a non-Jewish woman, because Hashem said, "Shall the mouth that will converse with the Divine Presence drink unclean milk?" (Rashi)

Which halocho is derived from this? **Answer:** That a Jewish child should not nurse from a non-Jewish woman.

Congratulations to: Tal Lowenthal

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

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Baintree/Silsby/Groveland.....Mr. and Mrs. Menachem Salant
8:00 – Parsha 4493 Silsby

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Motzoei Shabbos Pirchei Learning

(bring your fathers)

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

Pirchei 3:45

Grades 3 – 4: Zichron Chaim – Yavne (Dock) 2475 S. Green

Pirchei 3:00

Grades 5 – 6: Rabbi Mordechai Giffin 14370 Washington

Pirchei

Grades 7 – 8: **No Pirchei This Week**

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

Grades K - 1 Chana Levine 2515 Laurelhurst

Grades 2 - 3 Elisheva Chaifetz 2585 Lafayette

Grades 4 - 5 Gitty Wainbrand 14460 Summerfield

Kollel Davening Schedule

Shacharis 7:30

Mincha 2:45

Maariv 7:45 / 9:50

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