

PARSHA INSIGHTS

One is obligated to fast on... the tenth of Teves. (Orach Chaim 549, 1)

On the tenth of Teves, Nevuchadnezer, the wicked one, laid siege to Yerushalayim. This eventually led to the destruction of the Bais Hamikdosh. (Mishnah Berura)

Sancheirev laid siege to Yerushalayim during the reign of King Chizkiyohu, which was one hundred twenty years prior to the times of Nevuchadnezer. One morning one hundred eighty five thousand officers of Sancheirev's army were found dead from a plague. Due to the miracle, the siege abated and Bnai Yisroel continued to live in peace.

Sancheirev's siege collapsed and Bnai Yisroel were miraculously saved. Nevuchadnezer's siege brought about the destruction of the Bais Hamikdosh. Why were the outcomes different?

Who is the wise man who will understand this? Who is he to whom the mouth of Hashem speaks that he may explain this? What is the reason for the land perishing and become parched like the desert, without a passerby? But Hashem has said, "Because they have forsaken My Torah... (Yirmiyah 9, 11 - 12)

Rav Yitzchok Nafcha taught, "The yoke of Sancheirev was broken because the oil of Chizkiyohu burned in the Bais Medrash... (Sanhedrin 94b)

The Mayan HaMoed points out that these two sources address the above question. The unique phenomenon of Chizkiyohu's rule was the rejuvenation of Torah study. Torah was nearly forgotten. Through Chizkiyohu's valiant efforts, there was no person in all of Eretz Yisroel who was not fluent in the intricacies of the most complex areas of Torah (Sanhedrin 94b). This was the reason for their salvation.

Unfortunately, during the time of Nevuchadnezer, Bnai Yisroel's commitment to Torah study had waned, resulting in the destruction of the Bais Hamikdosh.

Please place your hand under my thigh... do not bury me in Mitzrayim...Swear to me..." (47, 29 - 31)

Eliezer placed his hand in proximity to Avrohom's bris mila while he swore to fulfill Avrohom's mission in accordance with his

instructions. The reason for placing one's hand in such a manner is because when one takes an oath he is supposed to hold a mitzva item. (Shavuos 38b)

Yakov asked to Yosef to place his hand in proximity to his bris mila so that it would serve as a mitzva item. (Rashi)

Yakov was born circumcised. (Pirkei D'Rebbi Eliezer 2, 5)

Since a circumcision was never performed on Yakov, how could his bris mila qualify as a mitzva item? Since it occurred on its own without the fulfillment of a mitzva, why would it be accorded the status of a mitzva item?

One must hold a holy item. (Ritva Shavuos 38b)

The Ritva explains that the requirement to hold a mitzva item while taking an oath is not because a person is required to hold a mitzva item per se. It is in order to fulfill the requirement of holding a holy item. Since a bris mila itself is considered a holy item (Shabbos 137b), a mitzva item is not required to be held.

Yosef was able to place his hand in proximity to Yakov's bris mila because it is a holy item and meets the requirements of what needs to be held while making a halachic oath. (Chavatzeles HaSharon)

TABLE TALK

PARSHA DILEMMA

Yakov lived in Mitzrayim for seventeen years... (47, 28)

Why is there no space in the Sefer Torah between this parsha and the previous parsha? Because when Yakov died, the hearts and eyes of Bnai Yisroel were sealed because of their servitude in Mitzrayim. (Rashi)

The servitude did not begin until all of Yakov's children died. (Shemos Rabba 1, 8)

If the servitude did not start until all of Yakov's children passed on, which was many years after Yakov passed away, why were the hearts and eyes of Bnai Yisroel sealed when Yakov died, if the servitude had not yet begun?

לעילוי נשמת צפורה בת יצחק ע"ה

**MRS. FLORENCE ALPERT ON HER YARTZEIT
"A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR WHO SERVED THE
CLEVELAND JEWISH COMMUNITY WELL FOR A LONG TIME"
SPONSORED BY HER FAMILY**

WHO AM I?

1. I was said to grandchildren
2. I am said at night
3. Some sing me
4. I am angelic

Last week's clues: I informed of my uncle's survival, I informed of his coffin, I am similar to Eliyahu HaNovi, Dovid HaMelech and I used the same instrument.

Answer: Serach bas Asher

Congratulations to: Sorah Stoll

WHO AM I?

1. I gave the bechora to Yosef
2. I caused Levi to work in the Bais Hamikdosh
3. I made Yehuda King
4. I am the personification of repentance

Last week's clues: I guaranteed my brother, Royal family, I founded the Yeshiva, I bear Hashem's name.

Answer: Yehuda

Congratulations to: Tal and Ronen Lowenthal, Sorah, Shifra Perel and Naftoli Stoll

A GLIMPSE OF GREATNESS

Zevulun shall settle by the seashores. He shall be at the ship's harbor, and his last border will reach Zidon. (49, 13)

Two businessmen came to Rav Yakov Abuchatzaira zt"l and requested that he give them a brocho for success in business. Rav Yakov told them, "I have a guaranteed segula for you. In Shacharis we recite, "Rising up early in the morning and staying up late in the Bais Medrash... reaps benefits for a person in this world and the principle still remains for the world to come."

"We daven in a shul every morning and evening and still not achieving," the businessmen replied.

Rav Yakov responded, "It does not say Bais Knesses, it says Bais Medrash - a Torah study hall. If one wants to succeed in business, he should make sure to study in a Bais Medrash."

"That is for Torah scholars," the businessman argued. "We are Zevulun people whose job is to work."

Rav Yakov answered, "The posuk referring to Zevulun can be interpreted in the following manner as well. Zevulun shall settle by the seashore does not only mean that he will live in close proximity to his commerce. It also means that he shall settle near the water of Torah. Although he does not spend the majority of his time in the Bais Medrash, he must spend some time at the shore of Torah."

"In addition, the word Zidon at the end of the posuk is the numerical value of Hashem's Name. It can be explained in the same vein. Hashem will support (yarkisai can also be translated as support) Zevulun if he spends time in the Bais Medrash."

The businessmen followed the advice of Rav Yakov and achieved great success in Torah study and business.

TORAH RIDDLE

The scepter shall not pass from Yehuda... (49, 10)

When in Jewish history was this command transgressed?

Last week's riddle:

Who was the first of Yakov's descendants to descend to Mitzrayim? **Answer:** Osnas bas Dina.

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 / Groveland / Silsby.....Mr.and Mrs. Ari Gunzburg
8:00 – Parsha 2294 S.Green Rd.

Motzoei Shabbos Pirchei Learning

(bring your fathers)

****HEIGHTS JEWISH CENTER****

Grades 3 – 8

7:00 – 8:00

Pirchei 3:40

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

Pirchei 3:00

Grades 5 – 6: Rabbi Mordechai Giffin 14370 Washington

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

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Kollel Davening Schedule

Shacharis 7:30 Mincha 2:45 Maariv 7:45 / 9:50

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