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**MR. DAVID
SALAMON A"H**
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PARSHA INSIGHT

If you follow My decrees... (26:3)

That you should delve into the study of Torah. (Rashi)

There was a time when “the wicked regime” decreed that the Jewish people should not engage in Torah study. Pappus ben Yehuda found Rebbi Akiva convening public assemblies and engaging them in Torah study. Pappus said to him, “Akiva, are you not afraid of the regime?” Rebbi Akiva replied, “I will give you a parable....”

A few days later they arrested Rebbi Akiva and sent him to prison. Shortly after, they arrested Pappus ben Yehuda and placed him in jail next to Rebbi Akiva. Rebbi Akiva asked him, “Pappus, what brings you here?” Pappus replied, “Fortunate are you Rebbi Akiva, for you were apprehended because of the words of Torah. Woe is to (me) Pappus, who was apprehended on account of meaningless issues.” (Brochos 61b)

What was the “meaningless issue” that Pappus was arrested for?

Rav Boruch Ber Leibowitz (introduction to Birkas Shmuel volume 4) explained as follows. Chazal in Taanis (18b) relate that when the Emperor’s daughter was found murdered, he blamed the Jews and threatened to kill all of them. Pappus and Lulianus came forward and accepted responsibility for the murder, although they were innocent, in order to save their brethren. The Vilna Gaon explains that the Pappus in Taanis is the same Pappus in Brochos. When Pappus was put in jail next to Rebbi Akiva, it was due to admitting to murdering the Emperor’s daughter.

If Pappus was put in prison on account of risking his life to save Klal Yisroel, why would he refer to it as a “meaningless issue”? Is there anything more meaningful than saving Jews?

Rav Shimshon Pinkus explains that although saving Jews is one of the most important mitzvos, however, Pappus was comparing his act to the act of Rebbi Akiva. His act, albeit a very important one, paled in comparison to Rebbi Akiva’s because the most meaningful act a person can do is to learn and teach Torah. Its value lies in the fact that it has the ability to transform the essence of a person – his neshomo.

SHAVUOS NIGHT
LEARNING

***The Schedule For
Shavuos Night
Learning Will Be
Emailed Out
Next Week.
Look Out For It!!***

DILEMMA

***Five of you will pursue a
hundred, and a hundred
of you will pursue ten
thousand... (26:8)***

The math seems to be off. If five pursue a hundred, a hundred (which is twenty times five) should pursue two thousand (which is twenty times a hundred). From here we see that when many people are following the Torah, their power increases excessively. (Rashi)

***For how could one (non-Jew)
pursue a thousand (Jews), and
two (non-Jews) cause a myriad
(ten thousand Jews) to flee?
(Haazinu 32:30)***

Why doesn’t Rashi ask in Haazinu as he asks here in Bechukosai - why does the power of non-Jews chasing Jews increase in such a non – disproportionate manner?

H ALOCHO

***If you follow My decrees and observe My commandments and perform them...I
will provide rain for you in their proper times... (26: 3 - 4)***

The Torah lists many rewards for observing the mitzvos of Hashem. However, all these rewards are physical rewards. Why didn’t the Torah list the spiritual reward one receives for observing the Torah?

We must first explain the meaning of the “rewards” and “punishments” listed in the Parsha.

The Rambam explains that Hashem is not promising rewards for those who observe mitzvos. Rather, He is promising to remove the difficulties that impair a person’s ability to perform mitzvos, thereby making it easier for him to serve Him. He is promising that through the observance of mitzvos there will be peace, which will diminish the yoke of the nations upon us. With a person feeling more secure in the financial realm of his life, he will be able to spend more time serving Hashem.

If the Torah was listing physical rewards for observing the Torah, the above question of why didn’t the Torah also list the spiritual rewards would be well founded. However, according to the Rambam, the Torah is not listing the rewards for mitzvos - the Torah is only listing the removal of the inhibitors to avodas Hashem. Therefore, this is not the place to mention the spiritual reward for those who observe mitzvos.

Rabbeinu Bachya answers as follows. With a neshomo being a spiritual entity, there is no wonder that when a person enhances his spirituality, his neshomo attains a higher spiritual level. Logic dictates that his neshomo will be a beneficiary of spiritual reward after it returns to Heaven.

However, the fact that a person’s spiritual activity should also impact the physical aspect of his life is a novel concept. Enumerating the physical rewards of mitzvos teaches this fresh idea of spirituality having the ability to influence a person’s daily routine.

A GLIMPSE OF GREATNESS

Be wary of their (Torah scholars) coals, lest you get burnt by them. For their bite is that of a scorpion... (Avos 2:10)

When the Chazon Ish passed away, the entire Jewish world plunged into deep mourning over their loss. His levaya was scheduled for ten o'clock on a Sunday morning. Hours before it commenced, thousands of people were streaming into Bnei Brak to attend the levaya.

Among the attendees was Rav Sholom Schwadron, who related the following incident:

"Walking with us was a person who had learned in Yeshiva and had unfortunately strayed from the proper path. As we were walking and people were crying, this person blurted out, "Why are you all crying? The Chazon Ish has passed on - what is the big deal?" As soon as he finished his diatribe, he began to scream in pain."

"We tried to ignore him, thinking he was trying to make a ruckus. With his cries continuing, he pulled up his pants and lo and behold, he found a scorpion biting him."

RAFFLE RULES:

- 1) Earn one ticket for every week that you correctly answer a "Who Am I" or "Torah Riddle" from that week
- 2) Only answers that are submitted via email will qualify. OnegShabbos@BeachwoodKollel.com

Month of Iyar / Sivan:

Canon PowerShot ELPH 135 digital camera
With 8 GB SD card and camera case

PIRCHEI

Zichron Chaim - Yavne

5:25 - 3rd - 4th: Rabbi Levi -Dock

6:25 - 7:00 - 5th - 6th: Seder

Sunday June 5th at 4:00

Barbeque for Grades 5 and 6
Rabbi Giffin's house
14370 Washington

BNOS

2:30 - 3:30

K: Peshy Busel 14470 Summerfield

1: Leah Kaliff 2421 Claver

2-3: Adina Schwadron 2416 Laurelhurst

4: Leah Spolter 2595 Larchmont

ZMANIM

Shacharis 7:30

Mincha 7:45

Ma'ariv 9:50

BULLETIN

MAZEL TOV

- ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Lenny Glazer on the marriage of Moshe
- ♦ Rabbi and Mrs. Yossi Kirsch / Mr. and Mrs. Dovid Neuman
on the engagement of Shami and Chani
Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Jacoby // Mr. and Mrs. Moishe Neuman // Mr. Lazer Neuman
- ♦ Rabbi and Mrs. Ahron D. Lebovics on the Bar Mitzva of Zvi
- ♦ Dr. and Mrs. Moshe Chaim Orenstein on the birth of a boy
Shalom Zachor at their home 23805 Woodway after 9:15
- ♦ Mr. and Mrs. Larry Rothenberg on the birth of a grandson

WHO AM I?

(Related to the Week)

1. I am for ten
2. I could be for nine or eleven
3. I cause painting
4. Single file line please

Last week's clues: I was for Sh'mita, I was for mitzvos, I caused hatred, I was humble.

Answer: Har Sinai

Congratulations to: Yerachmiel Diamond, Ronen Lowenthal, Yehuda Neiman, Y.D. Solomon,

(A Torah Personality)

1. I was a Gaon - just not from Vilna
2. I was from Mitzrayim
3. We did not stick elephants through the needle
4. I compiled the nusachayot into one siddur
5. Helper of Hashem

Last week's clues: I am named for the scribe, I was at the Charming Yosef, I offered to work for the "Worker of Hashem", I was a head, My Students became heads.

Answer: R' Ezra Attia, whose Yartzeit was 19 Iyar. His mother had a hard time having a child, she davened at the Keiver of Ezra HaSofer and promised she would name her son Ezra. He was the Rosh Yeshiva at Porat Yosef. When Rav Ovadiah Yosef was a little boy, his parents kempt him home from Yeshiva so he could help in the family business and Rav Ezra offered to work in the store in place of little Ovadiah so he could go back to learn. He was a Rosh Yeshiva and the Sefardic leaders of the next generation were his students.

Congratulations to: Yerachmiel Diamond, Hunger family, Y.D. Solomon,

TORAH RIDDLE

How does the letter "vav" guarantee the coming of Moshiach?

Last week's riddle:

A child is considered Jewish if his mother is Jewish. Is the Nationality of a non-Jew determined by the mother or the father? Where do we know that from this parsha? **Answer:** Father - from the posuk 25:44 that if the father is not from the seven nations - even if the mother is - you can purchase that child as a slave (see Rashi).

Congratulations to: Yerachmiel Diamond, Lowenthal family, Y.D. Solomon,

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