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DILEMMA

Send forth men... (13:2)

Why is the Parsha of the Meraglim juxtaposed to the Parsha of Miriam's tzoraas? Everyone saw that Miriam was punished for speaking negatively about her brother. The spies did not learn a lesson from this episode and spoke derogatorily about the Land. (Rashi)

Miriam spoke about a person who was the leader of Bnai Yisroel. The spies spoke about a piece of land. The situations are not comparable. If so, how were they supposed to learn how to act in their situation from what happened to Miriam?

HALOCHO

"You shall strengthen yourself and take from the fruit of the Land." The days were the season of the first ripe grapes. (13:20)

Why does the Torah find it necessary to tell us that it was the season for grapes to be ripe?

The word used in the posuk to tell the spies to take from the fruit of the Land is "lokach," which connotes purchasing with money (Kidushin 2a). Why would Bnai Yisroel, according to Halocho, need to pay for the fruit? Hadn't Hashem given the Land to Avrohom, which would make them the owners of the Land?

Rav Yehuda Assad answers as follows. The halocho is that if a person works in a field of another person and produces a crop, the owner must pay the squatter for his efforts to produce the crop. However, there is one stipulation - the owner may not be on the land while the fruit is growing. If the owner is on the land while the fruit is growing, it is considered as if he grew the fruit and he does not have to pay the squatter.

When the Torah says that the grapes were ripe already, it means that Bnai Yisroel were not on the land during the fruit's growing process, therefore the squatters had to be paid. That is the reason that the Torah commanded Bnai Yisroel to pay for the crops that they took.

PARSHA INSIGHT

They (the Meraglim) brought forth to Bnai Yisroel an evil report ... (13:32)

When they had left on their mission, they were outstanding people. (Rashi 13:3)

What overcame the Meraglim? How did they stoop to bring back a bad report on Eretz Yisroel?

Wherever we passed, we saw people burying their dead. However, Hashem had done this for the good of the spies. With the residents of the land being preoccupied with burying their dead, the spies would go unnoticed. (Rashi)

Why didn't the spies interpret their experiences in a positive light, as per Hashem's intention? Why did they view it in a negative manner? Additionally, since Hashem had promised the Land to them, how could they claim (13:31) "we will not be able to ascend and conquer the Land?"

They came to Marah, but they could not drink the waters of Marah because they were bitter. (Beshalach 15:23)

The posuk, in its simplest form, means that Bnai Yisroel could not drink the waters of Marah because the waters were bitter. The posuk can be understood another way, as well. Bnai Yisroel could not drink the waters because they (Bnai Yisroel) were bitter. A bitter person understands everything he sees and hears with a bitter twist.

People may have different interpretations of a specific episode. For example - The question, "Do you have a seat?" has different connotations when it is asked in diverse situations. If it is posed by a guest to his host, it means, "I want a place to sit." If it is asked to a salesman at Home Depot, it means "I need to buy something to sit on." If the question is posed to a member of Congress, the question means, "Were you elected back to your seat in Congress?"

Rav Simcha Bunim of P'shischa pointed out that in the mind of a person the following opposing thoughts exist. 1) "I am dust and ash" (Vayeira 18:27). 2) "In the image of G-d, He made man" (Noach 9:6). Ideally, in general, a person should recognize his inferiority. On the other hand, the recognition of man being created in Hashem's image should give a person the drive to accomplish loftier spiritual goals.

Unfortunately, the reality of life is as follows. People remember that they were created in Hashem's image when there is an opportunity to receive honor. Alternatively, when it is time to set higher spiritual goals, their lowly status of dust and ash plays a prominent role when there is a call to attain such goals. This attitude decides for them that it is not within their capabilities and reach.

The spies knew that Hashem promised the Land to Bnai Yisroel, but thought that since they were among those who had sinned by the eigel and other aveiros in the desert, Hashem would not perform miracles for them. Their crushed heart led them to lose their belief in Hashem and caused them to disgrace Him. Their perspective that they were unworthy led them to see those sequence of events as signs that they would not be able to conquer the Land.

A GLIMPSE OF GREATNESS

But do not rebel against Hashem... (14:9)

A wheat merchant came to the Chofetz Chaim to receive a brocho for parnassa. "Even though I am doing well, I still want a brocho." The Chofetz Chaim gave him a brocho.

When the Communists gained control of the city a short time later, people were starving. Earning money was a very difficult task.

One day, the Chofetz Chaim saw the man heading to the Black Market. The Chofetz Chaim asked him, "How is life?" The man answered, "Boruch Hashem, the Rov's brocho has been fulfilled." In a quandary, the Chofetz Chaim asked, "Before the Communists took over, you claimed that your parnassa was difficult. What change has taken place that makes you so happy now?"

The man answered, "When wheat was in abundance, people were particular about the quality of the wheat they were purchasing and would return wheat with any minor blemish. With the Communists in control, nobody cares about quality. All wheat is considered good and easy to sell, earning me now a lot of money."

The Chofetz Chaim derived the following lesson from the man's words. "During the times of the Tannoim and Amoroim, avodas Hashem was prevalent. This exposed everyone's Torah study, mitzvos and davening to determine if they were being performed properly. However, today when only a minority of people are studying Torah and performing mitzvos, Hashem is not so particular about quality. It is therefore much easier to become spiritually wealthy."

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

SUMMER BOYS PROGRAM

NEW TIME:

SHACHRIS - 8:45

FOLLOWED BY LEARNING

CHAVRUSAS WILL BE ARRANGED

BULLETIN

MAZEL TOV

- ◆ Rabbi and Mrs. Yirachmiel Becker on the birth of a boy
Mr. and Mrs. Moshe Freund

Shalom Zachor at the Goldstein home 2456 Milton after 9:15

- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Stan Fireman on the upcoming marriage of Aron Yedidya
- ◆ Rabbi and Mrs. Avromi Meystel on the birth of a girl
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Malcmacher
- ◆ Mr. and Mrs. Marc Joseph on the upcoming marriage of Mimi

CONDOLENCES

- ◆ Mrs. Malka Rosenberg and family on the passing of Mr. Moishe Rosenberg

WHO AM I?

(Related to the Week)

1. For some I am a mitzva
2. For some I am to wrap
3. Do not cut corners
4. I am a mitzva reminder

Last week's clues: For my brother I was happy, For myself and my Shevet I was sad, For my children I was silent, For others I was peaceful.

Answer: Aaron HaKohen.

Congratulations to: Boruch Hershfeld, Hershy and Gavi Krash, Ronen Lowenthal, Dr. Ricky Prizant and Gretchen Shapiro, Naftoli Stoll

(A Torah Personality)

1. I would burn the birds
2. I was the best of the eighty
3. I am in the valley
4. Kesuvim was withheld from me
5. My sefer caused an earthquake in Eretz Yisroel

Last week's clues: You are called by my name, I was not allowed into the Heavenly Yeshiva, I was the first do to Yibum, I saved Chananya, Mishoel and Azarya from fire, Royalty.

Answer: Yehuda ben Yakov whose yartzeit was 15 Sivan. We are called Yehudim (Judim - Jews). He was not allowed into the Yeshiva because of the Cherem that he accepted when he took responsibility for Binyomin. By marrying Tamar he performed yibum. In the meri of Yehuda saving Tamar and the twins from being burned, Chanaya, Mishoel and Azarya were saved from the fire. He began the royal family.

Congratulations to: Hershy and Gavi Krash, Dr. Ricky Prizant and Gretchen Shapiro

TORAH RIDDLE

Who went on two spy missions to Eretz Yisroel?

Last week's riddle:

What is the similarity between the Menora and the eigel?

Answer: They were both created by putting metal into a fire - and the final product emerged.

Congratulations to: Yerachmiel Diamond, Boruch Hershfeld, Hershy and Gavi Krash, Ronen Lowenthal, Yehuda Neiman, Neil Parks, Dr. Ricky Prizant and Gretchen Shapiro, Naftoli Stoll

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