

PARSHAH INSIGHTS

Hashem said to Moshe and Aaron at Mount Hor, adjacent to the border of the land of Edom... (20, 23)

Since Bnai Yisroel connected themselves with the wicked ruler of Edom, they lost a righteous person - Aaron. That is why the section discussing the dealings with Edom is juxtaposed to the death of Aaron (Rashi)

Bnai Yisroel were not interested in receiving anything from Edom. In fact, they were willing to pay for everything they would use. In the end, they never passed through Edom and did not associate themselves with the Edomites. If so, why did their mere request to enter Edom bring upon them the loss of Aaron?

Yossi the traitor turned against Bnai Yisroel and joined forces with the enemy. After they conquered the Bais Hamikdash, the enemy wanted to take some of its valuables. Fearing to enter the Bais Hamikdash, the enemy decided to ask a Jew to go in first. They told Yossi the traitor to enter, retrieve something and bring it out. Yossi entered and emerged with the golden Menorah. Feeling that it is not befitting for a member of the common folk to use such an item, they confiscated it and told him to reenter and get something else for himself. Yossi refused. No matter what they bribed him with, Yossi would not go back in. "I angered my G-d once, I cannot anger Him again," he responded. They beat him as he cried out, "Woe to me that I angered my G-d." (Bereishis Rabba 65, 62)

Yossi was a traitor to his people, turned against them in their time of need and entered the Bais Hamikdash to please the enemy of the Jews. In the end, for his own good, he would not enter a second time. Why?

The Ponovezer Rov zt"l explained that the environment people are in and with whom they associate affects them. When Yossi entered the Bais Hamikdash, it had a positive effect on him. After being in the atmosphere of the Bais Hamikdash, Yossi was not willing to anger Hashem again and even regretted the evil act he had perpetrated when he had entered the first time.

The same thought, in the negative, applies to Bnai Yisroel's request to enter Edom. Although they did not receive anything

from the king of Edom, their negotiating with a wicked person affected them. This brought upon them a punishment - the death of Aaron.

He shall immerse himself in water... (19, 7)

One who immerses himself in a mikve and is holding a dead weasel in his hand (which causes impurity) remains tamei. (Rambam Teshuva 2, 3)

If a person was impure with an impurity that was greater than that of a weasel and immerses in a mikve with a weasel in his hand - does his immersion help to reduce his impurity to the impurity of a weasel or does he remain with his original impurity because his immersion wasn't effective at all?

Rav Chaim Soloveitchik zt"l (424) is of the opinion that the immersion in the mikve would not be effective at all and he would retain his original status of impurity.

Rav Shimon Shkop zt"l (1, 21) explained Rav Chaim's position as follows. The purification process of a mikve can be explained in two ways. 1) A mikve removes the impurity that contaminated the person. 2) A mikve purifies a person.

According to the first explanation that a mikve removes impurities, a mikve would be able to reduce as much impurity as possible, thereby downgrading the person's impurity to the level of impurity caused by a weasel. However, according to the second explanation that a mikve purifies a person, as long as a person is in contact with a weasel, he is disabling the purification process that a mikve creates and cannot even reduce his impurity level.

TABLE TALK

PARSHA DILEMMA

For Cheshbon – it was the city of Sichon, king of Amori; he had warred against the king of Moav and took all his land from his control, until Arnon. (21, 26)

From here we learn that anything an army acquires during war belongs to the conquerors. (Gittin 38a)

One who acquires a stolen item from a thief does not own it unless the original owners gave up hope. (Bava Kama 114a)

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DR. SHELLY AND DEBBIE SENDERS

IN HONOR OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF THEIR SON JOEY

TO ELIANA TUCHMAN OF SILVER SPRING, MD

What is the difference between an army stealing land from its owner or a thief stealing an item from its owner? Why when a thief steals is it necessary that the owner lose hope of its recovery in order for the thief to become its new owner, while an army does not need that the owner lose hope for recovery in order for the army to become its new owner?

WHO AM I?

1. I care for my child
2. Unemployed
3. Burnt
4. One Tone

Last week's clues: I am one of ten, Dusk origination, I'm similar to a cannibal, I couldn't speak.

Answer: The mouth of the ground that opened to swallow Korach

Congratulations to: Aaron Paperman

WHO AM I?

- 1 I confuse you
- 2 I do opposites at once
- 3 I fooled the wisest
- 4 I am not read but...

Last week's clues: I am not bald, I am not cold, Shmuel tricked me, I have singing sons.

Answer: Korach

Congratulations to: Noach Ehrlich, Esti Ehrlich, Elisheva Ehrlich, Yaakov Yisroel Paperman

TORAH RIDDLE

How many Para Adumas have there been?

Last week's riddle and answer: What connection is there between the sin of Korach and the punishment he received of being swallowed into the ground?

Answer: Korach claimed that Moshe was haughty, while in truth, Moshe was as humble as the dirt of the ground. In order for Hashem to put Korach below Moshe, it was required that Hashem put him beneath the earth.

Congratulations to: Yaakov Yisroel Paperman

Please send "Who Am I" and "Torah Riddle" answers to onegshabbos@beachwoodkollel.com by next Wed.

And be entered in a raffle for an amazing

PRIZE

for the months of Sivan/Tammuz.

The answers will IY"Y appear in next week's issue

A GLIMPSE OF GREATNESS

A young student in a Yeshiva approached Rav Yakov Gershonovitz zt'l and complained that he was not having success in his learning. He felt that he was not growing enough, and he wanted to leave Yeshiva to enter the general society.

Rav Gershonovitz opened a Gemara and asked the boy to read the hadran that is recited upon completion of a masechta. It says, "We are thankful to You, Hashem, that you made our portion among those who sit in the Bais Medrash...". "Would it not be more appropriate at a siyum to thank Hashem for enabling us to learn?" Rav Gershonovitz asked.

"The answer is we are thanking Hashem for the basics. Mere sitting in a Bais Medrash has a positive effect on a person. Therefore, even if you do not feel that your learning is as successful as you would have wanted, do not leave Yeshiva. At this young age, just being in a place of Torah study will affect you positively."

KOLLEL EVENTS

MAZEL TOV

Rabbi and Mrs. Donny Gross on the birth of a boy
Dr. and Mrs. Jeff Gross

Mr. and Mrs. Dovid Malcmacher on the birth of a girl
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Malcmacher

Dr. and Mrs. Shelly Senders on the engagement of Joey

Dr. and Mrs. Brian Wolovitz on the engagement of Chani

Avos u'Bonim Learning

5:30 at the Kollel followed by Mincha at 6:00

ATTENTION!

Kollel Summer Learning Program has commenced

Shacharis 8:45 Followed by learning

Shiurim are in session and *chavrusas* will be arranged.

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