



Parshat Ki Tavo

By: Rabanit
K. Sarah Cohen

PARSHA

HALACHA

STORY

Q&A

SHIURIM

JOKE

RIDDLE

QUOTES

DAVEN FOR

PARSHAT KI TAVO

Today. It's a powerful word. It is generally used by doctors to define the exact moment their patients are to stop over-indulging, smoking, and drinking. It is used by account receivables to express when they want their bills paid. Most importantly however, it is used by the Torah Ha'kedoshah in describing what it wants from our attitudes.

In this week's parshah we are told, "Today Hashem commands you to perform these decrees and statutes" (Ki Tavo: 16).

There is obviously a deeper meaning to be found in these words. The mitzvot were not given on the day that Moshe Rabeinu (a"h) was reading this week's parshah.

Rashi (a"h) quotes the Midrash Tanchumah: "Every day the Torah should appear to us as if it were given *today*." Therefore, forty years later Moshe Rabeinu commands his people that *today* Hashem commanded us to observe the Torah.

With that beautiful interpretation of "today," in mind, I would like to shed a new perspective on a pasuk at the very end of this week's parshah.

Moshe Rabeinu calls the nation together and reminds them of the miraculous events that took place during Yetziyat Mitzrayim.

He discusses "the great wonders, signs, and miracles that our eyes beheld." Then he adds something shocking. "But Hashem did not give you a heart to understand or eyes to see until today."

What can the word "today" mean in this context? Did the Jewish people not have the heart to appreciate the value of Kriyat Yam Suf forty years back? Did they not revel in the miracle of the Manna that fell from the heavens decades before? How can Moshe Rabeinu say that they did not have eyes to understand until *today*? The question can be explained with a story.

Rav Chaim Shmulevitz (a"h) once gave a musar shmooze derashah on the subject of inspiration and outcome. He told the story of three friends who were discussing the diligence of Talmudic sages of long ago.

Upon hearing that one particular Gaon's remarkable achievements were derived through tremendous constancy and unrelenting Torah study, one of the boys ran straight from the table to the Bet Midrash where he began a marathon of learning.

For one year the young man refused to speak anything but Torah. He eventually became one of the leaders of his generation.

REFUAH SHLEIMAH
&
HATZLACHAH

Yonah bat Henya

Michael ben Yonah

Ro'ee ben Rachel

May bat Ilana

Ben Tzvi ben Ilana

Gidon ben Esther

Esther bat Mazal

Yosef ben Devorah

Yaffa bat Rivka

Baruch Chai ben Zoya

Rivkah bat Malkah

Nissan ben Liza

Gavriel ben Toviyo

David ben Liza

Baila Chava
bat
SorkaFreida Leah
bat
Pesha RachelYehoshuah Mordechai
ben
Leah GitaChaim Yehudah
ben
AidelEfrat
bat
Shifra TanyaIrin
bat
Sonya

After this inspiring story, one of Rabbi Shmuelevitz's talmidim asked, "I think the story was amazing. But the boy who ran from the table forgot to bentch!"

Rav Chaim smiled at the pointed question. He nodded and said, "You have a good point. He did not bentch. But had he stopped to recite Birkat Hamazon along with all its required preparations and kavanot, he would never have returned to the Bet Midrash with the same enthusiasm."

Perhaps Moshe Rabeinu was telling the nation the secret of eternal inspiration. One may experience miraculous events in life. He may even have the vision of a lifetime. However he "will not have the heart to understand or the eyes to see" until that vision is *today* - unless the inspiration lives with him daily, as it did upon the moment of impact.

Whether it is a tragedy or a blessing, too often an impact becomes as dull as the movement of time itself. The promises, pledges, and commitments begin to travel slowly, hand-in-hand down a memory lane paved with long-forgotten inspiration.

This week Moshe Rabeinu is telling us that even after experiencing a most memorable wonder, we still may, "not have the heart to discern nor the eyes to see." Until we add one major ingredient. Today.

MAKE ME A FEW COPIES!

The boss listened patiently as one of his managers outlined a new business plan that another worker predicated would produce profits for the company.

"I've put it all down on a single sheet of paper for you to review," said the manager proudly, as he handed his summary to his boss.

After a few minutes, the boss handed the document back to his ingenious worker and said, "I like it. Make me a few copies to distribute at our afternoon meeting. I'd like some of the other managers to come up with similar ideas."

When you are satisfied with something, usually you want more of that same thing. "Pass me another piece of cake... I think I'll go back and buy those shoes in Brown... I like the vase, maybe I'll get another for my daughter-in-law..." and so on.

Although most people tend to complain to some extent about life's minor details, finances, the location of their home, the lack of comforts - they feel that the way they live is basically, fine. Most people want more of what they have, for their children.

In order to transmit your life philosophy, religious feelings and morals to your children, you must live an exemplary life. Telling them what you want them to be and lecturing them on how you would like them to behave, usually falls on deaf ears. But LIVING how you would like them to live usually provides them with a script for life, which they can easily follow.

Hashem gave us a great deal of time without children. Other creatures Hashem created, mature much more quickly and they become independent from their parents at a very young age.

Minutes after birth, a horse starts running on its own. Days after hatching, birds are ready to leave their nest. Humans however, spend approximately 20 years at home, venturing out into the world on their own. Some explain that Hashem's plan is to give parents enough time to SHOW their children the correct way to behave in a variety of life situations.

When you have the opportunity to communicate with your children, do not preach. DO as you would like them to do. It only takes a minute to communicate and Hashem gave us many minutes to convey our values to our children. Use every minute before they are ready to strike out on their own and you will produce clear "copies" of your ideals for the next generation.

KNOCK KNOCK

The repetitive nature of everything associated with Rosh Hashanah is noteworthy. During the entire month of Elul, we blow the shofar at the end of shacharit. Instead of creating excitement by not blowing the shofar, we diminish the level by becoming accustomed to it. Of course, we must prepare ourselves. There is a lot at stake on Judgment Day, but would not an unrehearsed blast of the shofar send more of a shiver down our spines and more forcefully a call for repentance, rather than a shofar-sounding ritual performed for 30 days prior which by the end, may feel quite rote?

The Selichot services are also a lead-up to the great day. Sefardic Jews have the minhag of reciting selichot, during the entire month of Elul. And Ashkenazy Jews recite the selichot for more than a week before Rosh Hashanah. Would there not be a consideration that many Jews would get "prayed-out" from the pre-holiday supplications? Is there not a chance that they would get blown-away by the repetitive nature of the month-long shofar exercise?

In the Selichot service, we beg Hashem as if we were destitute. "Like beggars and paupers we knock on Your door. On Your door, we knock, Merciful and Compassionate One." Again, we knock - not once, but twice! Is not once enough? Surely G-d is not in the kitchen. He can hear us the first time! The answer can be explained with a story.

A meshulach came one sunny Sunday morning to a large home in the Five Towns of Long Island. Eagerly he rang the bell, and simultaneously knocked on the door. A woman, quite displeased, swung open the door to her home and, knowing the man's intent, she began to shout.



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"What do you want? I never met you in my life! How do you expect me to give charity to someone I have never seen? I'm sorry, but this is my policy and I just can't give you!"

The meshulach was not disturbed. Slowly, he walked around the block and fifteen minutes later he was back at the same door. Again he rang the bell, and again the woman came out shouting. "I told you I never met you in my life! How do you expect me to give charity to someone I have never seen! Didn't I clearly explain my policy to you?"

The meshulach just smiled as he replied. "You're absolutely correct. However, you forgot one small thing. You know me already! After all, we met ten minutes ago!"

The weeks before Rosh Hashanah we must be wary that we may have to knock a few times to get into the big door. Of course, Hashem knows who and what we are, but we may be a little foreign to him. The daily shofar blasts, and the tefilah we recite, "like beggars we knock...we knock on Your door, Merciful One," helps Hashem get to know us all over again.

We realize that we must reacquaint ourselves with the commitments and the great resolutions that we accepted upon ourselves one year ago. But if we knock once and knock again, ultimately we, too, can smile at the One standing at the door and ask for all our desires. After all, we were just there. And He knows us already!

**ATTENTION LADIES**

Call us to host a learning group in your community.
(347) 430-5700

Rabanit K. Sarah Cohen will be speaking on the following dates:

Date: Sep 06, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

Date: Sep 12, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: To Be Announced

**SPECIAL ELUL GATHERING
IN HONOR OF ROSH HA'SHANAH**

Date: Sep 17, 2017

Time: 7:45pm

Place: 349 New Bridge Rd,
New Milford, NJ 07646

**SPECIAL ELUL GATHERING
IN HONOR OF ROSH HA'SHANAH**

Date: Sep 26, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

Date: Oct 17, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

Date: Oct 31, 2017

Time: 7:45pm

Place: To Be Announced

**SPECIAL GATHERING IN HONOR OF
RACHEL IMEINU'S YAHRTZEIT**

Date: Nov 14, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

Date: Nov 28, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

Place: 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY

ANNOUNCEMENT

Audio-visual shiurim of

Rabanit

Kíneret Sarah Cohen

Are Now Available For Viewing At

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Instructions: Register for free and click on the "Ladies" tab at the top of the Home Page. Scroll down and look for Rabanit K. Sarah Cohen. Underneath the image for the Rabanit, click on the "**follow**" tab if you want to be notified via email or text about a shiur that has become available for viewing.

Shiur To Post Monday, Sept 10

Parshat Nitzavim

Hayom

Log on and enjoy the live lectures and be inspired.



Newsletter Dedication

Sara Bat Mimon Ha'Kohen (A"H)

Ohel Sara is named after this tzadikah (my grandmother). May the inspiration that women draw from this weekly newsletter benefit her neshamah in Gan Eden and may we all be redeemed as a result.



Ohel Sara wishes all it's readers a Shabbat Shalom u'Mevorach!



Candlelighting Time

6:58PM
NY TIME



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