



Parshat Lech Lecha

By: Rabanit
K. Sarah Cohen

PARSHA

HALACHA

STORY

Q&A

SHIURIM

JOKE

RIDDLE

QUOTES

DAVEN FOR

PARSHAT LECH LECHA

Although this week's parshah is filled with messages and musarei haskel (moral lessons) that we can learn from our forefather, Avram (a"h), there is, however, a lesson that merits a small mention which can be learned from none other than the ancient Egyptian customs agents.

Avram is forced to leave Eretz Canaan due to a famine in the land. He must travel to the only country that has food, Mitzrayim. The Torah Hakedoshah tells us that Avram feared that since his wife Sarai was beautiful, she would be taken captive and offered to Paroh as a wife or concubine. Avram would then be killed by the Egyptians.

He therefore, formulated a plan to spare his life. This however, was not his first strategy. The Torah tells us, "And it was when Avram came to Egypt, and the Egyptians saw the woman that she was very beautiful" (Breishit 12:14).

Rashi Hakadosh (a"h) quotes the question of the Midrash: Why does the Torah not say, "And it was when they came to Egypt?" After all, Sarai came along as well.

The Midrash Yalkut Shimoni (12:67) explains that Avram was actually alone when he arrived to the border of Mitzrayim. Sarai was hidden in a crate.

The Midrash chronicles the account: Avram arrived and the customs agents stared at the large crate demanding that he pay a fee for the "utensils" he was carrying in the crate. Avram gladly agreed to pay. Seeing Avram's compliance, the agents were not satisfied.

"You must be importing expensive silk garments," they declared.

Avram once again agreed to pay the tax on a crate of silk garments. They became even more suspicious.

"You must be carrying a crate of jewels! Pay tax on jewels!"

Avram willingly accepted the enormous financial burden.

At this point the agents expressed their skepticism and forcefully opened the crate. A great light shone from the crate that illuminated Mitzrayim. In it, they found Sarai. We are not certain of all the procedures of the customs agents. But based on the Midrash, it certainly seems that they lost out on the largest booty they could possibly have captured.

Avram was willing to pay tax on a crate of jewels, the most valuable entity that the agents had known. Why open the box and risk finding a box filled with pebbles? The answer can be explained with a story.



REFUAH SHLEIMAH

Yonah bat Henya

Michael ben Yonah

Ro'ee ben Rachel

Maya bat Ilana

Ben Tzvi ben Ilana

Gidon ben Esther

Esther bat Mazal

Yosef ben Devorah

Yaffa bat Rivka

Rivkah bat Malkah

Nissan ben Liza

David ben Liza

Freida Leah
bat

Pesha Rachel

Yehoshuah Mordechai
ben

Leah Gita

Chaim Yehudah
ben
Aidel

Irin bat Sonya

Udel bat Hinda Shaindel

Financier J.P. Morgan wished to bestow a gift to his wife. He called a jeweler and requested that he send a beautiful jeweled ring for his wife.

"Send the ring to me; put the bill in the package and I'll send you out a check immediately."

Two days later a box arrived. Mr. Morgan inspected the contents and found a beautifully crafted ring with an enormous diamond in the center. Along with it came an equally enormous bill for \$25,000.

Mr. Morgan stared in disbelief, as he removed the stone and wrote a check. Then he thought for a moment and re-wrapped the gift box with ornate, monogrammed gift-paper and sealed it with his unique JP Morgan cachet. He sent it back to the jeweler with a check and a note.

Dear Friend,

The ring was magnificent, however your bill was exorbitant. Enclosed please find a check for \$12,000, which I hope, will meet your approval. If it does, please return the gift, untouched, in its personalized gift-wrap and seal. Then you may cash the check. If my amount does not suffice, please rip-up my check and return it at once. Feel free to remove the stone and keep the wrapping as a token for your good intentions.

J.P. Morgan

The jeweler was annoyed at the amount on the check. He ripped up the \$12,000 check and mailed the shreds back to Morgan. He then proceeded to carefully remove the ornate gift-wrapping that ensconced his precious jewel box. He walked toward his safe and opened the gift box and was about to put the ring into his safe when he was startled.

The ring was not in the box. In its stead was a small rock. Around the rock a check was wrapped. It was signed by Mr. J.P. Morgan, for \$25,000.

Even the wordplay between Avram and the customs agents can teach us a lesson. There can be something even more valuable than what is found in one's imagination. And as the item in question is under wrap and seal, you never know its true value. The contents of a simple crate can never be estimated. You may even fantasize that it is filled with jewels and you will still be underestimating.

THE JAR OF MAYONNAISE

A philosophy professor in front of his class and had some items in front of him. When class began, without saying a word, he picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks that were approximately 2 inches in diameter.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

He then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles, of course, rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was and they laughed.

The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

"Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this is your life. The rocks are the important things; your family, your partner, your health, your children - anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed.

"The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else, the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there will be no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same is true for your life. If you spend all your energy and time on the small things, you will never have room for the things that are important to you."

We should all pay attention to all those the things in life that are critical to our happiness. We should play with our children instead of our cell phones. We should take care of our bodies and maintain a healthy life. We should spend time with our spouse and talk to our children.

Showing love and concern to the people we care about is part of setting our priorities in place. Let's learn to take care of the things that really matter because the rest is just sand.



THE MERIT OF RIGHTEOUS WOMEN

A Series On Devorah Ha'neviah

Part 1

Devorah Ha'neviah (a"h) was the fourth Judge in Am Yisrael. Prior to her reign, Jews were not learning Torah and some were even worshipping idols. Therefore, Hashem allowed remnants of the seven nations to fight the Jews. Melech Yavin who ruled over Eretz Canaan and constantly attacked the Jews had a general named, Sisra. Sisra was a very wicked man. He and his army robbed and killed the Jews causing all of Bnei Yisrael to live in constant fear.

Sisra would poke fun at the Jewish people claiming he was greater than G-d. As a result of his haughtiness, Hashem decreed that his downfall would come about through women as this would cause him shame. The Jews suffered under his iron fist for twenty years and they did not dare fight back as Sisra maintained 900 iron chariots of which Bnei Yisrael had none. They were convinced they would never win.

Out of sheer desperation, K'lal Yisrael cried out to Hashem more deeply and desperately than ever, during the time of the Shoftim (Judges). Hashem then chose Devorah Ha'neviyah from Shevet Naftali to judge the people. Devorah was a righteous woman and extremely learned in Torah. She used to make wicks for the Menorah in the Mishkan in Shilo and would always thicken the wicks so that the Menorah gave off more light.

Knowing this, Hashem announced, "Devorah, you want My light to shine brightly. I will therefore make your light shine among the Jewish people!"



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The Sanhedrin appointed Devorah as Judge over Bnei Yisrael. She did a marvelous job leading the nation. She taught and judged them fairly. Devorah was independently wealthy, owning several date trees in Yericho, fruit gardens in Rama, olive groves and other properties in different locations. She had quite enough to live on and never accepted gifts or money from the people.

She would sit all day under a palm tree known as "Devorah's Palm Tree." She would always make sure to be in an open place so that everyone could openly see that she was modest and not alone with a man in a closed house. She judged and advised K'lal Yisrael in every kind of climate - cold, rain, heat.

Devorah Ha'Neviyah considered herself the mother of Am Yisrael and they were her children, whom she had to raise to have love for the study of Torah and the keeping of mitzvot. With her warmth, grace and strength, she taught the people to steer clear of idol worship. And she became greater than all the other Shoftim (Judges) who had felt Hashem's spirit rest on them. Devorah surpassed them all and reached an even higher level. She became a Neviyah (prophetess) to whom Hashem spoke directly.

Hashem told Devorah that it was time to overcome Sisra's army and He instructed her to prepare 10,000 men from two tribes, Naftali and Zevulun to gather on Har Tavor.

Devorah did not intend to go to war or to lead the Jews in battle. Being in the army is not a woman's job. But because her husband Barak ben Avinoam (a"h), was afraid, she agreed to join the battle. She prophesized that winning the war will be credited to two women.

Continued on page 4

THE MERIT OF RIGHTEOUS WOMEN

A Series On Devorah Ha'neviah

Continued

When the two tribes heard the command, they immediately prepared for war. No one refused to be drafted into the war against Sisra, even though they were risking their lives. Even the Sofrim (scribes) who were not trained for military service, joined without hesitation. The other tribes who heard the news joined the war against Sisra were the talmidei chachamim from Shevet Yissachar.

K'lal Yisrael had suffered greatly in the hands of Sisra and because Sisra was part of the seven nations in Eretz Canaan, it was a mitzvah to destroy him and his entire army.

There were some shevatim who stayed away from the battle including the men from Shevet Reuven, Shevet Menasheh and Shevet Dan. Their attitude towards this battle was considered wrongful and in Devorah's famous song, she blames these shevatim for being more concerned about themselves than the Jewish people.

Sisra's army was stationed at the valley, close to Nachal Kishon; while Barak's army stood on top of Har Tavor. Without the guidance and assistance from Hashem, Bnei Yisrael would not have stood a chance against Sisra's powerful regime. Hashem created miracles for the Jewish people. He confused Sisra's soldiers as they imagined hearing clangs of chariots and horses approaching when there were none in reality. Barak's army had no chariots.

Sisra's army panicked and fled. As a result of this, there was no need for Barak's army to engage in battle. They merely chased the enemy and killed them. There were several nisim performed for Am Yisrael. As night was beginning to fall and the stars appeared in the heavens, Hashem moved the stars directly over Sisra's army and it shone on their iron coat of arms. The soldiers could not withstand the heat of the stars and were forced to jump into Nachal Kishon to feel revived.

Nachal Kishon was a small stream of water but in one moment, it swelled and became a raging river. The soldiers drowned, together with their horses and chariots. At this point, Sisra realized the battle was lost and went into hiding. However, a person's feet leads him to the place Hashem wishes him to go! Sisra ran into a cluster of tents belonging to Chaiver Hakeini, a descendant of Yitro who was Jewish and many of his children were talmidei chachamim. Chaiver separated from the rest of the Kainim.

Sisra wished to hide and ran into the tent of Yael. She immediately recognized him and told him not to be afraid and that this would be the last place they would look for him. Feeling tired, he was easily convinced and felt more relaxed. He commanded Yael to bring him water and instead she brought him milk, as it causes sleepiness. He ordered her to stand guard by the tent while he sleeps.

A short while later, when Sisra was in a deep sleep, Yael took a hammer and a huge tent pin, (the type that is used to fasten a tent to the ground) and she carefully approached Sisra. She stood above him and drove the pin into his forehead.

Sisra died instantaneously. Through Yael's bravery and courage, she single-handedly freed Bnei Yisrael from a cruel and dangerous man. When Barak (a"h), passed Yael's tent, searching for Sisra, she escorted him inside and showed him the immobile body of Sisra. It was then that Barak realized his wife's prophecy had come true. He would not be credited for winning the miraculous war. His wife Devorah initiated the rebellion against Sisra and Yael had finished the job.

Barak continued fighting against Yavin, the king of Canaan and easily defeated his army. Bnei Yisrael were completely victorious and once again, Eretz Yisrael was free and no longer under the rule of the Canaanites. The night of the Jewish year in which this great miracle occurred was the night of Pesach!

(Part 2 In Next Week's Issue)

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

Date: Oct 28, 2017 - Motzei Shabat

Time: 8:45pm

Place: 1321 55th Street - Bklyn, NY
Shul Entrance

Date: Nov 12, 2017

Time: 7:45pm

Place: 1175 E. Laurelton Pkwy
Teaneck, NJ

Date: Nov 15, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

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

Date: Motzei Shabat, Nov. 18, 2017

Time: 8:00pm

Place: 902 Ocean Pkwy #6D - Bklyn, NY
**Special Melaveh Malkah In Honor Of
Rosh Chodesh Kislev**

Date: Nov 29, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

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

Date: Dec 18, 2017

Time: 7:45pm

Place: To Be Announced
**CHANUKAH PARTY IN HONOR OF
ROSH CHODESH KISLEV**

Date: Dec 29, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

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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 Already Posted

Parshat Lech Lecha

My Life Is Beneficial To Me & Others

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THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The body does not understand the language of ideas, only the language of action. If you have a good idea, do something to make it a reality.

(Unknown)

THE SINGLE ROSE



I received a dozen roses from a friend the other day.
But I only have one left, for I gave them all away.

I gave one to my sister, who to me is very dear.
In the hopes that it will bring to her a little floral cheer.

I took one to a friend who's not feeling very well.
The flower or the visit, which helped more I could not tell.

The rest went to the ones who've helped me come what may.
They have been a cheerful presence on my dreariest of days.

The roses were so pretty, I could not keep them all
Except one single rose that stood beautiful and tall.

My friend gave me the flowers to brighten up my day
But the biggest joy I felt was giving them away.

CUTE STORY

A man was driving down the road at 80 mph, enjoying the wind passing through the little hair he had. "Amazing," he thought, as he flew down the highway. Just then, he looked into his rear view mirror and noticed a police car behind him with flashing lights and the siren blaring.

The man slowed down and pulled over to wait for the police officer's arrival.

The Police Officer walked up to the car, looked at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 10 minutes. If you can give me one good reason why you were speeding and it's a reason I've never heard of before, I'll let you go without a summons."

The man thought for a moment and said, "Officer, a few years ago I got divorced and my wife began to date a police man. When I saw your car, I thought you were bringing her back to me!"

The Police Officer smiled and said, "Have a good day sir!"

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"What you are looking for is often, what is looking for you."

"When you change the way you look at things - the things you look at, change."

"So not be afraid of growing slowly. Be afraid of standing still."



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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

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