



Parshat Nitzavim-Vayelech

By: Rabanit
K. Sarah Cohen

PARSHA

HALACHA

STORY

Q&A

SHIURIM

JOKE

RIDDLE

QUOTES

DAVEN FOR

PARSHAT NITZAVIM

As his final days draw near, Moshe Rabeinu (a"h) warns the nation to obey the mitzvot even after they are no longer under his care. He warns of those who may be arrogant in their complacency, and may openly defy Hashem's will.

"Perhaps there is among you a man or woman, or a family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from being with Hashem, our G-d, to go and serve the gods of those nations; perhaps there is among you a root flourishing with gall and wormwood. And it will be that when he hears the words of this forewarning, he will bless himself in his heart, saying, "Peace will be with me, though I walk as my heart sees fit" - thereby adding the watered upon the thirsty" (Devarim 29:17-18).

Moshe Rabeinu warns the Jews of the anger of Hashem at such open rebellion and apathy.

"Sulfur and salt, a conflagration of the entire Land, it cannot be sown and it cannot sprout, and no grass shall rise up on it; like the upheaval of Sedom and Amorah..., which Hashem overturned in His anger and wrath." (Devarim 29:20).

Moshe Rabeinu then continues his predictions of destruction and doom, foretelling of tragedies strikingly similar to those that came upon Jewish communities beginning with Galut Bavel,

to the mass extinction of European Jewry to perhaps the daily acts of devastations that seem to infiltrate our normal daily lives.

But there is a pasuk that seems both cryptic yet revealing, where Moshe Rabeinu comforts the Jewish people with the words, "The hidden is for Hashem, our G-d, but the revealed are for us and our children forever, to carry out all the words of this Torah" (Devarim: 29:28).

Do we not know that only Hashem can see the hidden actions of a person? Is this a message of hope or a warning to humans who have a limited vision? What do these words mean and what message can be learned as we enter the Days of Awe?

The answer can be explained with a story.

Chief Rabbi Yitzchak Herzog (a"h) once visited the city of Chicago following World War II. The entire Torah-revering community came to greet him at the airport. All the day schools and Yeshivot sent their students to welcome the Rabbi, and many prominent leaders left their daily routine to join as well.

Rabbi Herzog had a distinguished frame, unbent from the enduring pain of the predicament of his brothers and sisters, in Europe. He walked upright and tall down the giant airplane steps with his silver tipped cane in one hand and his head majestically decked with his

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
Sorka
Freida Leah
bat
Pesha Rachel
Yehoshuah Mordechai
ben
Leah Gita
Chaim Yehudah
ben
Aidel
Efrat
bat
Shifra Tanya
Irin
bat
Sonya



signature top hat.

He was led to a podium where he delivered a shiur on a complicated part of the Gemara; and when he finished, his face immediately lost its glow. He became sad and said.

"I come not from Yerushalayim. I come from Rome. I have just met with Pope Pious. You see, during the terrible war, many children were sheltered in monasteries across Europe. The kind Christians saved them from the Nazis. I asked him to release those children, back to their heritage so that they may be raised as Jews."

Suddenly, to the utter surprise of the children and the adults gathered there, the Rabbi began to cry.

"The Pope did not agree. He said that once a child is baptized, he can never be returned."

Rabbi Herzog shuddered as he continued to cry. He looked at the children that were gathered there and with tears streaming down his cheek he said, "My dear children, we lost them!"

Then his composure changed. A ray of hope shined in his eyes and as he looked at the young faces who stared directly into his teary face he said, "We lost them but, WE HAVE YOU! WE HAVE YOU!"

Moshe Rabeinu warns us that one day, the Jews will wander away from Judaism; they will be exiled, with disastrous results. It could very well be that his next words imply rhetorical answers to the questions of emunah we will have about the innocent victims of those dreadful conquests, crusades, and crematoriums.

Moshe Rabeinu tells us that there are no all-encompassing answers for mortal minds. The answers are hidden. Similar to the neshamot in question, the answers are with Hashem. Therefore, after warning of doom and disaster, Moshe Rabeinu says, "The hidden is for Hashem, our G-d."

We, those who remain however, must deal with what we do know. We must comfort and place our hopes with what we do have left - and with this we should face the future.

We must build from the ashes of despair, whether it be the ashes of Auschwitz or the scarred skeletons of a New York skyline. For those we lose are now "hidden, with Hashem," but as Moshe Rabeinu taught us, "the revealed are for us and our children forever, to carry out all the words of this Torah."

OF PIRATES AND PROMISES

Ovadyah was above all else, a simple and honest Jew. Although he was a very wealthy fellow, he took pride in knowing that he always told the truth and never made a shevuah (an oath). He embraced this one mitzvah and was willing to sacrifice much on its behalf.

As Ovadyah grew older, he began to make plans to transfer his business to his son, Shmuel. And he insisted that Shmuel make the same commitment to telling the truth and not taking oaths. He explained to his son that Hashem had provided him with the wealth precisely because he was so careful about never breaking his commitment.

When Ovadyah passed away, Shmuel was only in his early 20's. He was not aware of all the complexities of his father's dealings. Many dishonest businessman thought this may be a good opportunity to present themselves to Shmuel as people whom his father "owed money to." Many swindlers approached Shmuel with their demands and the funds began to deplete.

In fact, after arguing with one of the crooks, Shmuel was taken to court where the non-Jewish judge offered him a choice: "You could swear that you do not owe this man money or you can go to prison."

Shmuel remembered the commitment he made to his father. He declared that he would not take the oath and as a result, he was thrown into prison.

As he entered the prison gates, he looked up to the heavens and said, "Ribono Shel Olam, You know that I could have continued to be a rich man. I could have simply sworn that I did not owe that man any money. I do not enter this prison with bitterness; rather, I enter these gates with the knowledge that I have sacrificed myself in Your name!"

Shmuel had a young wife name Rachel and a four year old son named Moshe. Rachel was heartbroken and knew that she would have to collect funds in order to redeem her husband. Accumulating funds for such a situation was extremely difficult. She decided to create a business of taking in others' washing.

One day, she went to the dock with her son, hoping that some merchant would be in need of her services. Just then, a ship pulled up and she noticed that a suspicious character was eyeing her. She began to run away with Moshe in her hands.

OF PIRATES AND PROMISES

Continued

Suddenly, the sailors jumped off the ship, chased her down the dock and grabbed her before she had a chance to escape.

Rachel was terrified as she and her son were thrown into the ship's cellar which was dirty and wet. Just then, the captain of the ship introduced himself to her and asked why she was standing at the dock if it was not customary for a woman with a child to be seen there. Rachel explained that she was attempting to earn some money to redeem her imprisoned husband. The captain pulled a gold coin out of his pocket and said, "Here, I will pay you one gold coin to wash my clothing."

The sum was enormous, almost 100 times what she would normally receive for the job. Rachel thought it would be wonderful to accept the money but she was concerned that there were strings attached. The captain began to speak in a calm voice as he handed the gold coin to Moshe instructing him to go to the prison and redeem his father. "See? I am not such an evil man after all."

Rachel tried to stop Moshe but it was too late. While the captain was out on his personal mission, Rachel decided she would tend to the laundry on the shore. When he returned, she noticed he was looking at her oddly as he motioned to his men to grab her. No sooner was she on board and the ship took off.

Rachel screamed frantically and was mortified when she looked across the shore and saw her son Moshe and her husband waving to her from the dock. She was powerless and she began to sob bitterly. She was stuck on this ship headed to an unknown destination.



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Join our Amazon Shopping Incentive and help Ohel Sara continue to do its good work.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Ohel Sara Congregation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

Just click on the link below to start your shopping on Amazon so that you can help Ohel Sara continue its good work.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-0152784>

Back on the dock, poor Shmuel cried as he held on to his son. He had no money to be able to follow his wife. He therefore resigned himself to raising his son without his wife. He also knew that in order to make a new start, he must move to another city where he knew he would be viewed and treated like a pauper.

As they arrived to a town that looked like a good place to live they realized they would have to cross the river to get there. Shmuel decided to swim across with his son but they were caught up in a strong current and Shmuel was unable to hold on to his son. Shmuel witnessed his son being swiftly carried away down the river not being able to help him. How could this have happened? How could his son and his wife be taken away from him so cruelly? He managed to make it across the river but he thought, "for what?" He had lost his wife to a band of pirates and his son to the river. He was broken and shattered.

He hoped that one day he would be reunited with his loved ones. He found a job, barely earning a living and had no hopes of making enough to conduct a search for his wife and son. His devastation was too overwhelming to bear and he decided to end it all - to jump into the river and let the current carry him way to his death.

As soon as he jumped into the river, he regretted his decision and tried to swim his way back to shore but was unable to. The current kept pulling him underneath the surface. He gasped for air as he was dragged down.

Suddenly, he saw the image of his father leading him toward the bottom of the river. Ovadyah showed his son a magnificent jewel. He explained that since he kept his commitment of never telling a lie and never taking an oath, he was rewarded from shamayim for his mesirut nefesh.

Continued on page 4

Shmuel held onto the jewel and miraculously he was able to come up to the surface. He sold the gem for a tremendous amount of money and found himself richer than his father had ever been. He went from being a pauper one night - to becoming an extremely wealthy man. His joy was tempered however by the fact that he was alone in the world. He had lost a wife and child. It was not the same without them. He built up a successful business and 20 years later he became the governor of the city. He tried desperately to locate his wife and son but to no avail.

One day, a ship arrived and as was customary, the captain went to meet the governor of the city. Shmuel did not know that his son Moshe had been working aboard the ship as a servant. In fact, Moshe accompanied the captain to the governor's house but Shmuel did not recognize him.

After observing the young man, Shmuel wondered if the boy in front of him could be his son Moshe since certain characteristics seemed so familiar. He dismissed the idea however assuming a little boy could never survive the tumultuous river. But Shmuel liked the boy and hired him to help him with various tasks while the ship was in port.

A few weeks later, another ship arrived. The captain was invited to eat dinner with Shmuel. The captain refused the offer claiming he could not leave his wife who was on board. The captain invited Shmuel to the ship instead. Shmuel sent his assistant Moshe.

When Moshe arrived on board, his heart stopped as he was introduced to the captain's wife. There was something familiar about her as well. Moshe did not know that the captain's wife was really, his own mother. At first, Rachel did not recognize him either but he struck up a conversation with her and felt a great sense of familiarity. When Rachel noticed the uneasy look on his face she asked him about it. Moshe denied that anything was wrong. At the same time he wondered why this woman was locked up aboard the ship and if she was indeed the captain's wife.

Moshe, then expressed to Rachel that his own mother had been captured by pirates many years ago and was never heard from again. In a moment, Rachel realized who the young man was. It was her Moshe. She did not dare say anything but inside, her heart leaped for joy.

Rachel did not reveal herself to her son that night. She decided to devise a plan to escape. Later that night, when the captain returned from his outing, he noticed that Rachel was distraught and asked what was wrong. She fabricated a story about Moshe bothering her while he was away. The captain was stunned and immediately returned to Shmuel to complain about Moshe's behavior. Shmuel could not believe that Moshe would do anything improper. Shmuel then demanded that the captain bring his wife to testify against the young man. The captain was hesitant but had no choice.

When Rachel came into Shmuel's inner chamber, she did not recognize him at first. Then Moshe was summoned. Now, the three of them were standing together in one room. Moshe did not recognize either of them nor did Shmuel recognize his wife or son. Rachel sensed that Moshe was her son and that Shmuel was her husband. She looked at Shmuel, then at Moshe and said, "Tell the governor where you are from."

Moshe began to reveal some of the memories that had surfaced. As he spoke, Rachel could no longer hold herself back and cried out, "Moshe, my son!"

Shmuel witnessed the reunion between the two of them and realized that his suspicions about Moshe's identity were confirmed. Not only was this young man his son but the "captain's wife" was his beloved Rachel!

The captain of the ship stood and watched in disbelief. He immediately confessed his horrible crime and was taken away by the guards. The family was now reunited. After all they had gone through - the great wealth, the incredible poverty, the imprisonment, the loss of one another, the belief that they would never see each other again - they were finally together again.

What, did Shmuel wonder, did he do to deserve this gift? And then thinking back he remembered what started all of this; the commitment to his dead father.

This amazing saga is filled with drama and suspense. It is a fascinating story. The main point however should never be lost. Shmuel was committed to holding onto his father's request, no matter what the cost. He risked losing everything for one mitzvah and Hashem would eventually repay him for his mesirut nefesh.

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 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 27, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

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

Date: Oct 18, 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 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 27, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Audio-visual shiurim of

Rabanit

Kineret Sarah Cohen

Are Now Available For Viewing At

www.torahanytime.com

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 Ki Tavo

Can I Change The Evil Decrees?

Log on and enjoy the live lectures and be inspired.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

One should never judge another unfavorably, because a person just sees things on the surface. Only Hashem can see the depths of a person's intentions. In fact, one should judge others favorably.

(Sefer Chasidim: 77-796:8)

A CUTE STORY

A local businessman was looking for office help. He put a sign in the window that read:

"HELP WANTED. Must be able to type, must be good with computers and must be bilingual. I am an Equal Opportunity Employer."

A few days later, a dog trotted up to the window, saw the sign and went inside.

He looked at the receptionist and wagged his tail, then walked over to the sign, looked at it and whined. Getting the idea, the receptionist called the office manager.

The manager looked surprised but the dog was determined so he led him into the office. Inside, the dog jumped up on the chair and stared at the manager. The manager said, "I can't hire you. The sign says you have to be able to type."

Continued Below



CUTE STORY

The dog jumped down, went to the typewriter and proceeded to type out a perfect letter. He took out the page and trotted over to the manager and gave it to him, then jumped back on the chair.

The manager was stunned. But then told the dog, "The sign says you have to be good with computers."

The dog jumped down again and went to the computer. He proceeded to enter and execute a perfect program that worked flawlessly the first time. By this time the manager was dumb-founded! He looked at the dog and said, "I realize that you're a very intelligent dog and have some interesting abilities. However, I still can't give you the job."

The dog jumped down and went to a copy of the sign and put his paw on the sentence about being an Equal Opportunity Employer. The manager said, "Yes, but the sign also says that you have to be bilingual."

The dog looked at the manager calmly and said, "Meow!"

QUOTABLE QUOTES

** "I've learned that making a "living" is not the same thing as making a "life." **

** "People may forget what you said. People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." **

** "Nothing will work, unless YOU do."

Tomorrow Night September 12, 2017
Join Us As Usher In Rosh Hashanah With

Rabanut Kineret Sarah Cohen

Tefilot & Selichot Recited Be'achdut

Songs That Stir The Heart

Shiur Torah

"The Last Day Of The Year"

8:00pm Sharp
1402 Ave N – Flatbush

Call: (347) 430-5700 RSVP

Limited Seats Available

Fee: \$15.00

**All Proceeds To Benefit Ohel Sara
Maaser Funds Can Be Used**



The Most Beautiful & Unique Head Scarves For Women

House Tichels
Wrap Around Scarves

Hats
Kipot

Bobos
Velvet Bands

Leather Wrap Arounds
Silk Scarves

Apron Head Scarves

Introducing... New head Scarves From Israel
Unique Exquisite and Exclusive!



Visit Location By Appointment Only:
Sunday - Thursday: 5:00pm – 9:00pm

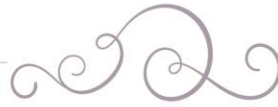
Your purchase helps our organization continue to do
its good work of spreading Torah and Judaism to
women around the world.

OHIEL SARA CONGREGATION
902 Ocean Parkway, Apt 6D – Brooklyn, NY
(347) 430-5700

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

6:46PM
NY TIME



You can now make a donation
to Ohel Sara through Paypal:

yourtrustedcoach@gmail.com

Indicate that money is for Ohel Sara.

Ohel Sara Congregation

c/o Cohen | 902 Ocean Parkway #6D | Brooklyn, NY 11230

www.ohelsara.com ▲ 347.430.5700 ▲ info@ohelsara.com