

WEEK OF

Aug 13 2017

21 Av, 5777

WEEKLY PARSHA NEWSLETTER

BS"D



Parshat Re'eh

By: Rabanit
K. Sarah Cohen

PARSHAT RE'EH

"See I put before you today blessing and a curse" (26:1). "Hear O'Israel The L-rd is our G-d, The L-rd is One" (Sefer Devarim). "You should know today and return it to your heart that Hashem is G-d in the heavens above and on the earth below. There is no other" (Devarim).

"The distance between the mind and the heart is greater than the distance between the sun and the earth" (Rabbi Yisrael Salanter). The Gemara of Rosh Hashanah states: "Hearing is not comparable to seeing."

What is the difference between the way we learn with our ears and the way we learn with our eyes? We see that sometimes the Torah Hakedosha asks that we "LISTEN" and sometimes that we "LOOK." We know that the Torah Ha'kedoshah is read and heard. There is an Oral and a Written Torah. What is the Difference?

Imagine that you hear a disastrous news report where hundreds of thousands of people are swept away by a giant tidal wave. The reports are gruesome. You arrive home and begin to share the horrible news with your spouse as you bring dinner to the table. You take a bite from the delicious food and request salt,

ketchup and a napkin, all the while sprinkling the report like a spice on your dinner table.

Sure, you are in pain. You are grieving and anguishing while imagining the pain of the last moments, the horror of the event and its devastating aftermath.

You decide to skip desert that night as a sign of solidarity and solace for the victims and their families. The following night you are hurrying home from an appointment and about to make the last turn before coming down your block. You can almost smell the dinner and you are starved.

Suddenly, a small dog rushes into the street and you have no time to react. You see the whole thing. You hear the whelp upon impact.

Looking in the rear view mirror you slow down. The dog is now on the side of the road twitching and you wonder what can be done. Suddenly a big Truck that had been trailing behind you finishes off your issue. You pull your car slowly into the driveway and slink up the steps. You slowly open the front door where you are met by your wife who exclaims with exuberance, "Guess what I have for dinner tonight dear; your favorite, HOT DOGS!" You excuse



PARSHA



HALACHA



STORY



Q&A



SHIURIM



JOKE



RIDDLE



QUOTES



DAVEN FOR

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

yourself and go to bed early without a word!

What happened here? Do we care more about a dog than we do about one hundred thousand people? One night we can eat, discuss and pour the ketchup liberally and the next night we are ill from the tragedy of the dog!?

The answer is: one event we heard about and the other we witnessed with our own eyes. We do not always act upon what we know but what we feel.

Knowledge is like having food in the freezer. Feeling is like putting a steak on the fire. The advantage of knowledge is that it remains with us longer. We will recall years later the event of the tidal wave, its date and details. The dog hurts for a day or two and then we went back to life.

Through listening we gain knowledge and information through vision and imagination we gain motivation. When a driver is caught driving drunk he is forced to watch vivid films of human tragedy to sober his reckless ways.

Therefore, the Torah after filling our freezer with knowledge by shouting endlessly "Hear O' Israel"... now demands that we stoke the fire of vision. "Knowing today"... is one project but engaging the heart is another.

Perhaps we can now appreciate the famous Mishnah in Pirkei Avot that states: "Eizehu chacham? Ha'roeh et ha'nolad - who is wise? He who sees what will be born; the future."

Not only does he anticipate what will be, but he envisions with his mind's eye the consequences of his actions.

As an exercise, try writing an action or behavior that you would either like to adopt or reject but you are having difficulty getting started. Write down what pain or cost is involved with this action. Then write briefly how you would feel if you did this good thing for the next 5, 10, or 20 years. How would you feel if this negative trait persisted? Create a detailed picture of the pain and pleasure of the foreseeable future and you are counted amongst the wise.

THE KOSHER LOTTERY

Some people consider lotteries, "treif," - an activity no better than gambling. Others think this is an opportunity for Hashem to bestow some money on them. Some of us dream about what we will do with the money if we won. The following story told over by Rabbi Yechiel Spero is about a form of a lottery that happened in a Midwestern city. It shows the unique togetherness of Am Yisrael.

Chaim Ginsburg had undergone a kidney transplant. However, during the weeks after surgery, he experienced traumatic symptoms. He sensed that the transplant was not successful. He was in renal failure and once again had to begin dialysis treatments. He spent his days and nights hooked up to machines.

The doctors told him that in order to survive he would need yet another transplant. He felt that he would not be able to live long in this situation and he became desperate for a lifesaving intervention. He vividly remembered the first surgery and the enormous toll it took on him and his family. And now he was going to have to go through this all over again?

There was no donor among his close relatives. Therefore he became a "number" on a very long waiting list. The situation was brought to the attention of the Rabanim of the city who decided to make a dramatic appeal to save his life. This was a matter of pikua'ch nefesh.

That Shabbat appeals were made in every shul in the city. But it was not for money. It was for something else that was far more valuable. They asked for a donor to come forward and donate his kidney! The response was immediate. Five men and women volunteered. These volunteers went through extensive examinations and after all the medical tests, three finalists remained.

One of the three was eager to have this mitzvah so he approached the other two and with an unforgettable proposition he said, "Please let me be the donor and I will give you the reward of the mitzvah I am earning."

THE KOSHER LOTTERY

Continued

He was politely rejected. Think about it for a moment. It is one thing to build up the courage to donate your kidney, because you know that the mitzvah of saving another's life is paramount. The Gemara of Sanhedrin states: "Kol ha'mekayem nefesh achat mi'Yisrael, maaleh alav ha'katuv, ke'ilu kiyem olam maleh - whoever upholds one Jewish soul, The Torah considers it as if he upheld the entire world."

This young man was prepared to give up that reward. He just wanted to save another Jew's life - because he cared. One of the Rabbi's called the three potential donors together and asked if anyone wanted to back out. When they all refused, he decided that the only way to determine who should be the donor was through a lottery.

This was not a lottery for millions of dollars. It was going to be worth much more than that. It would decide who would merit to save another Jew's life. The Rav chose a number and asked the men to guess the number and whoever was closest to that number would merit the chance to save a life. One of the volunteers obviously won the lotter and saved Chaim's life. But in a deeper sense, it is safe to say that in this lottery - everybody was a winner. Now stop and think about the trivial issues that break families and friends apart. Very often, arguments are about money and honor. Each side feels shortchanged. If only they would win the lottery...



RIDDLE

If you have two hourglasses - one measuring 4 minutes, the other measures 7 minutes.

HOW CAN YOU MEASURE 9 MINUTES?

(Answer on Page 5)



THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Avoid seeking advice from someone you do not trust. The adviser may give his or her best advice faithfully and sincerely. However, should the plan not work out to your benefit, you will begin to place blame on the failure of the person's poor advice. This would then constitute suspecting the innocent, which is forbidden and bears a strong Heavenly punishment.

(Sefer Chasidim, Siman 133-134)

IF I SHOULD GO TOMORROW

If I should go tomorrow
It would never be goodbye,
For I have left my
heart with you,
So don't you ever cry.

The love that's deep
within me,
Shall reach you
from the stars,
You'll feel it from
the heavens,
And it will heal the scars.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Ben Azai said: "Run to perform even a minor mitzvah and flee from sin; for one mitzvah leads to another mitzvah and one sin leads to another sin. The result of a mitzvah is another mitzvah and the consequence of a sin is another sin."

(Pirkei Avot 4:2)

A CUTE STORY

A salesman tired of his job became a police officer instead.

Several months later, a friend asked him how he like being a police officer.

"Well, the pay is not bad and the hours are decent. But what I like the best about my job is that the customer is always wrong!"



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ANSWER TO RIDDLE

Turn over both hourglasses at once. When the four minute hourglass runs out, turn it over. When the 7 minute hourglass runs out turn it over. When the 4 minute hourglass runs out again (8 minutes will have elapsed). And the 7 minute hourglass has been running for one minute. Now turn over the 7 minute hour glass and when the sand in it runs out - you know 9 minutes have passed.

QUOTES

** "Any fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius and a lot of courage-to move in the opposite direction." **

** "The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it."

**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: Aug 23, 2017

Time: 8:15pm

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

Date: August 26, 2017 - Shabat

Time: 5:00pm

Place: 1364 E7th - Bklyn, NY

Date: August 27, 2017

Time: 7:45pm

Place: 420 Booth Ave.
Englewood NJ 07631

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 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

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 To Post Tuesday, Aug 15

Hashkafah

The Miracle Of A Miracle

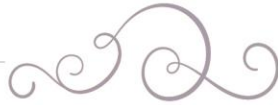
Log on and enjoy the live lectures and be inspired.



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

7:31PM
NY TIME



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

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Ohel Sara Congregation

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

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