



Shearith Israel
**SPANISH &
PORTUGUESE**
Synagogue of Montreal
Est. 1768

SHABBAT BULLETIN

July 17, 2021 | 8 Av 5781



Parashat Devarim

"The Good Eye"
Rabbi Maimon Pinto

I am always amazed when I read this week's Torah portion every year for the past 35 years. The concluding book of the Five Books of Moses, Devarim, is essentially a monologue of Moses, reviewing the events of the Sinai desert. It is his final testament. His last words of prophecy and leadership, spoken and written at the age of 120, the year of his death.

Moses was highly critical of Israel in this final message of his. In his address to the people, he complains that the role of Jewish leadership is too overwhelming—an enormous task for anyone human.

Faced with the bitter memories of the failures of the desert; the Golden Calf, Korach, the constant carping and ingratitude of Israel, Moses could easily have made this book of Devarim a diatribe of despair and pessimism. All would understand such an attitude, and many would even justify such

feelings of hurt, rejection, and disappointment. But he was above that. Moses does not leave us with discouraging words. Instead, he blesses Israel, with all of its shortcomings and spiritual weaknesses, for all of its generations: "May the Lord your God increase you as you are a hundredfold, and may He bless you as He has promised you."

One of the essential traits for leadership of any kind and most certainly for leadership in Jewish life is cultivating a "good eye."

Our Rabbis in Pirkei Avot emphasize that having a "good eye" is an important goal and accomplishment in life. A "good eye" allows one to be optimistic, even though the realities of life are often discouraging and negative.

One of the tests of faith in Judaism is the ability to be optimistic even in overwhelming difficulties. Again, the Rabbis of the Talmud taught us, "Even if there is a sharp knife held at your throat, do not despair completely."

Despair, relentless criticism, pessimism, bitterness, cynicism – none of these traits and attitudes are acceptable Jewish behavior,

and certainly not in those who occupy public leadership roles.

The Torah demands that we always look at life and people realistically. We are not allowed to willfully fool ourselves into the harmful dangers that exist around us. The Torah asks us to be optimistic, hopeful and to see life's realities and circumstances through the prism of a "good eye."

Moses' words were not limited to his time and generation of Jews but are a call unto all future generations of the Jewish people.

He speaks to us of our real shortcomings. He warns us that these are unpleasant consequences that result from such attitudes and behavior. But he also blesses us and endows us with the gift of his "good eye" – of being able to see the good in life and people and of being optimistic and strong-hearted in the face of all adversity.

These messages make the Book of Devarim and the lessons we derive from it enduring and eternal.

Shabbat Shalom.

SHABBAT SHALOM

Start/Debut End/Fin
8:22 pm 9:33

SERVICE SCHEDULES

Shabbat Services

Shahrit: 8:30 - Minha: 6:00 - Arvit: 9:30

Sunday: **8:30 am**

Parashat Devarim - Hertz page 736

Haftarah: Isaiah - Hertz page 750

TSOM TISHA B'AV
Begins/début Shabbat, July 17
Juillet 8:38 pm
End/fin Sunday/Dimanche 9:22pm

Week Day Services:

Shahrit: **7:30 am**

Everyday Monday through Friday

Afternoon/Evening Services:

Minha/Arvit : **6:00 pm**

CHEVRA SHAAS - Service Schedule

Shabbos Services: **9:30 am.**

Tisha b'Av - Shabos, July 17,
Ma'ariv 9:50 pm, followed by Eicha
Sunday, July 18, Shacharit followed
by Kinot: 8:30 am

BEIT HAMIDRASH HELWANI WITH RABBI PINTO

Monday through Friday

8:40 am - Hok L'Israel

Dvar Torah

Weekly Debate - Sunday after services

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

8:25 am - Halaka/Talmud

6:15 pm - Jewish Wisdom

Dear friends,

I am here for you. Whether you want to ask a question, consult, learn or just chat, you can call me on my mobile (514) 506-3164 or to my email rabbi@thespanish.org

*I am available 24/7.
Shabbat, emergencies only*

Rabbi Maimon Pinto

*To contact Hazan Daniel Benlolo:
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

It is your attitude, not your aptitude, that determines your altitude!

| Aish HaTorah

OPINION

Chevra Shaas

Words From
Rabbi Menahem White
DEVARIM 5781

Congratulazioni agli italiani per aver vinto la Coppa del Mondo.

Well, I'm not really a soccer fan. But I was intrigued: how many of these players for Italy have Jewish blood?

You see, I was reminded that when I was in high school, I was given the book The Jews of Ancient Rome, by Prof. Harry Leon. He described how there had been, since ancient times, a significant Jewish community in Rome, whose numbers were considerably increased by captives who were marched into Rome after the destruction of the Temple in the year

70. It is a reasonable assumption that many of these Jews intermarried and assimilated over the years into Italian society.

So, the calamity of Tish`a be'av is not only the destruction of the Temple, and the carnage in Jerusalem, but also those many Jews who, though they survived the destruction, were lost to our people after having been dispersed.

In addition to the destruction of our 2 Temples, many terrible events happened to our people on the 9th of Av.

-In 132, many Jewish soldiers were killed at the battle where Betar was destroyed.
-In 135, the area of the Temple was ploughed by the Romans, and Jerusalem renamed in Latin Aelia Capotolina.
-In 1095, the first Crusade was announced in 1290, Jews were expelled from England.
-In 1492, the expulsion from Spain

-In 1914, Germany declared war on Russia, thus leading to WWI, which in turn led to WWII and the holocaust.
-In 1942, inhabitants of Warsaw ghetto deported to Treblinka.
-In 1994, bombing of Community Centre in Buenos Aires.

In his powerful Kinah that we say on Tish`a be'av morning, Rabbi Kalonymous ben Judah (11th century) wrote concerning the crusades: "their massacre weighs no less than the burning of the house of God."

And yet, the Tish`a be'av prayers end on a hopeful, positive note, quoting the Prophet Zechariah: "My cities shall again overflow with prosperity, and the Lord will comfort Zion... and make her wilderness like Eden... joy and gladness shall be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song."

Shabbat shalom; have an easy and meaningful fast.

Congregation Maghen Abraham

Thoughts: Mayer Sasson

DEVARIM - Shabbat Chazon

"Thus says G-d – what iniquity have your fathers found... that they have gone far from me and have walked after vanity and are becoming themselves worthless" (Yirmiyahu 2,5)

Distancing

On the verse in the Haftara on Shabbat - "Thus says G-d – what iniquity have your fathers found in Me that they have gone far from me" - our Sages ob'm have explained how serious it is distancing from G-d; we must know that when the Children of Israel go against G-d and G-d forbid, do sins and bad deeds, they separate their connection and strong cleaving to G-d. Therefore, it is very important to go

in His ways and cleave to Him, for He gives us power and life, as it says, "And you who remained firm with G-d are alive, every one of you this day."

We can understand the significance of the connection and cleaving of Israel to their Father in Heaven from the words Yisrael and Elokim that join together and can be written from up to down.

ישר-א-ל
א-ל-הים

May we merit to cleave to Him forever, Amen!

SHABBAT SHALOM!!



HALAKHA

Tragédies historiques de
Tishva b'Av - Maimon Pinto

Les espions sont revenus de la Terre promise avec des rapports effrayants, et les Israélites ont rechigné à l'idée d'entrer dans la terre. Dieu a décrété qu'ils erraient donc dans le désert pendant 40 ans.

Les deux temples sacrés de Jérusalem ont été détruits à cette date. Le Premier Temple a été brûlé par les Babyloniens en 423 avant notre ère. Et le Second Temple est tombé aux mains des Romains en 70, déclenchant une période de souffrance dont notre nation ne s'est jamais complètement remise.

La révolte de Bar Kochba contre les Romains en 133 se solda par une défaite: les Juifs de Betar furent massacrés le 9 Av et le Mont du Temple fut labouré un an plus tard à la même date.

Plus tard dans notre histoire, de nombreuses autres tragédies se sont produites ce jour-là, notamment l'expulsion en 1290 des Juifs d'Angleterre et le bannissement en 1492 de tous les Juifs d'Espagne.



Got A Question for Hazan Daniel Benlolo?

about the practice of Kabbalah as being something that can enhance the spiritual experiences in Judaism. Is this true? What makes Kabbalah so special in this regard?

Dear reader,

Spirituality is something that is definitely ingrained in religious studies within Judaism. There are references throughout the Torah and other liturgical writings, and the notion of the *neschama*, or spirit, is present in most facets of Jewish belief. That being said, many people such as you, dear reader, are looking for something more – a more mystical approach to religious observation that can include elements of the secular world. For many, this is where the practice of Kabbalah comes in.

Kabbalistic study refers to the esoteric - that is, that there are small-scale, underlying references in scripture that are meant to be studied on a more interpretive level. Many Kabbalists believe that biblical literature is littered with secret meanings, purposefully hidden within the text. This approach to Kabbalah resulted in scholars considering such things as the fate of humanity and G-d, and how the two are intertwined. Kabbalah seeks to form a clearer and more spiritual link between G-d and His creation, looking to answer longstanding ontological questions regarding the nature of human existence and the relationship with the divine.

The most important element of Kabbalah is the notion of *tikkun olam*, and it is here that I believe I can best approach the question of enhancing one's spiritual experience. *Tikkun olam* literally means to repair the world, and the Jewish Kabbalistic interpretation is that the world's evils must be counteracted by good deeds and sacred acts. The approach is that when G-d created the world, He did so with the consideration of free will – thus allowing for, but not intending to encourage, the human defect known as "evil." Therefore, Jewish Kabbalists endeavour to become closer to G-d spiritually through the act of world reparation – with the ultimate goal being the elimination of evil and achieving a world fit for Him. In fact, many people take it upon themselves to become ambassadors for *tikkun olam*, and express that it provides meaning and purpose in their lives.

I am reminded, dear reader, of my own feelings towards the Kabbalistic goal of a utopian world – one that is free from all evils and functions for the betterment of others – and am reminded of the Shabbat. Is the Shabbat not a small glimpse, if not a sample size, of the ideal? On Shabbat, where loved ones gather and celebrate what they have, the perils and ills of the world seem lesser; it truly is a window into the world to come. In this way, I feel closer to G-d spiritually on the Shabbat than on any other day, and I feel justified in my contribution toward *tikkun olam*. I hope the upcoming Friday evening, and every Shabbat after that, you will find time to sit down with your loved ones and enjoy your little twenty-four-hour slice of the divine as well.

All the best! Hazan Daniel Benlolo

Dear Danny,

I'm not satisfied with religion as it stands, as I have found it difficult to connect on a spiritual level. I have heard

PARNASS HAYOM

Shabbat 8 Av - July 17 juillet

Dr. Samia Bekhor & Amy Hadid, in memory of their father, Daoud Zubaïda ז"ר.

Monday/Lundi 10 Av - July 19 juillet

Julia Coriat, à la mémoire de Suzanne Coriat bat Saul ז"ר épouse de feu Georges Juda Coriat ז"ר.

Tuesday/Mardi 11 Av - July 20 juillet

Famille Selim Sasson, en l'honneur de ses enfants et petits-enfants.

Wednesday/Mercredi 12 Av - July 21 juillet

Famille Romano, à la mémoire de Victoria Romano ז"ר.

Armand & Lizanne Mamane, à la mémoire de Salomon Mamane ז"ר.

Thursday/Jeudi 13 Av - July 22 juillet

Herscovitch Family, in memory of Elvira Herscovitch ז"ר.

Friday/Vendredi 14 Av - July 23 juillet

Charlotte Shashoua, in memory of her mother, Marcelle Isaac ז"ר.



Upcoming Events



Monday, July 19 | 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Chai Mitzvah Program - Unit 4: Death & Loss
Individual reflection

Join on Zoom ID 526 438 1158 - Registration required.



Thursday, July 22 | 10:30 a.m.

Sisterhood Yoga Class with Lisa Shebath

Registration Required. Contact: Grace (514) 979-9779
email:sisterhood2020@hotmail.com or Lisa (514) 708-8967
email: lisashebath@gmail.com



Thursday, July 22 | 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Ten Paths to God - Unit 8: ISRAEL The Jewish Land - with
Guest Panelists Rabbi Schachar Orenstein with daughter,
Chana & Ephraim Heiliczter.

Zoom ID 846 5677 7165 / Password: 058194



Thursday, July 29 | 7:00 p.m. E.S.T.

Narcissism vs. Intimacy - Webinar with Rabbi Manis Friedman.
The Education Committee of S&P. \$18 suggested donation.

Link to register online: <https://www.thespanish.org/event/narcissism-vs-intimacy---webinar-with-rabbi-manis-friedman.html>



Monday, August 2 | 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Professionalism: series of five presentations, featuring five groups of professionals.

Engineering and Architecture

Join Zoom ID 847 5180 5878 - Passcode: 168614



Monday, August 9 | 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Chai Mitzvah Program - Unit 5: Interpersonal Relationships
Individual reflection

Join on Zoom ID 526 438 1158 - Registration required.



Thursday, August 26 | 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Ten Paths to God - Unit 9: Kiddush Hashem The Jewish Task - with Guest Panelists Rabbi Dr. Menahem White, Spiritual Leader, Chevra Shaas Congregation of S&P.

Zoom ID 846 5677 7165 / Password: 058194



Sunday, August 29 | (Save The Date)

Soccer Tournament - Parc Mackenzie-King
Time to be confirmed. Trophy, fun, games!

Contact: Marc Hadid mhadid@mvapower.com