

SCHEDULE

שבת קדש

Mincha Erev Shabbos	7:00 PM
Shacharis—Non Stop Flight	8:30 AM
<i>Sof Zman K"Sh</i> 8:47 מ"א 9:23 גר"א	
Shiur Special Guest: Rabi Hexter	7:30 PM
Mincha- Followed by Shalosh Seudos	8:05 PM
Special Guest Speaker: Rabi Hexter	
Maariv	9:16 PM

Sunday

Shacharis	8:30 AM
<i>Followed by Shiur on Machalei Goyim, Bishul Akum</i>	
Mincha / Maariv	8:15 PM

Weekday Minyanim & Shiurim

Monday—Friday

Gemarah Shiur	6:00 AM
<i>Maseches Avodah Zarah with Rabbi Teichman</i>	

Shacharis

Mon, Thurs. 6:40AM Tues, Fri. 6:45AM

Wednesday Rosh Chodesh 6:30 AM

Dirshu Halacha Program	7:30AM
Additional daily minyan (Mon - Fri)	8:10AM
Mincha	1:45 PM
Mincha / Maariv	8:15 PM
Open Beis Hamedrash	7:00 PM
Shiur (Mon-Thur)	9:30 PM
Nightly Maariv (Mon-Thur)	9:45 PM
Thursday Night Rabbi Teichman Shiur After Maariv	

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Rabbi Zvi Teichman

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Volume #44

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Signs of Life

In recent news the world has been focused on and quite amazed by the remarkable technological achievement of the arrival of the Mars Phoenix Lander to that distant planet. The awesome pictures transmitted over literally hundreds of millions of miles and the ability to relay messages and manipulate the Lander is the stuff of science fiction and truly astonishing.

What is it that so excites us? Is it the just the possibility of discovering signs of life beyond earth?

Even more perplexing is a DVD that was deposited on Mars by the Lander that bears the names of 250,000 supporters of the project, along with a collection of books on the theme of Mars and a message, "Astronauts, please take this DVD with you". Peter Smith, principal investigator for the Lander, from the University of Arizona, admitted it won't happen soon, but he added: "Maybe in the next century, we hope, maybe 5,000 years from now, maybe 100,000 years from now. But some day, somebody will come and take that DVD and be able to read the books in our little library."

What compels someone to be identified thousands of years from now and share tomes of information which by then would most likely be considered primitive and unnecessary knowledge?

המלך warns us (משלי פרק כה ט) *He who turns his ear from the learning of Torah, even his prayer is an abomination.* What is the connection between these two concepts? Why are our תפילות despised because of an unwillingness to learn תורה more so than by the lack of keeping any of the other מצוות?

The תורה's means of communicating to us. When we learn we are listening to the unique mission השם has outlined to us. Each person is spoken to individually and directly. Every one of us must pick up the "signals" that are "relayed" specifically to our נשמה and תפקיד.

When we daven we are speaking to השם, sharing our deepest emotions and hopes with Him, continuing and building on the relationship that began at הרי סיני and maintaining healthy open lines of communication.

What type of conversation can take place if it is only one sided? גם תפלתו תועבה... When we turn a deaf ear to השם's attempt to gain our attention and speak lovingly to us, how can we possibly expect our empty and meaningless entreaties for His help to be considered?

Man seeks connection to a higher entity in his thirst to attach oneself to an absolute truth and to find meaning and direction in life. Often that instinctive desire of the נשמה is misplaced and identified as man's quest for "discovery". What is the purpose of those findings if it leads us nowhere?

The flip side of man's need to find G-d and אמת, is man's need to find his specific purpose, to make a difference, to have cause and reason to "exist". Here too, man misguidedly seeks to express that yearning with a name carved in "eternity" on a DVD to be discovered by some Martian 100,000 thousand years hence!

הקב"ה has revealed Himself to us 3,320 years ago and continues to "converse" with us. In the ברכת התורה we state that he is the "נותן התורה"; the Giver of the Torah, in the present tense. This, the ב"ה explains, teaches us that השם constantly communicates to us His thoughts and desires. Only when we learn with open eyes and open hearts, paying careful and committed attention to the conversation, will we merit to hear השם speaking directly to us.

If we listen then we will be heard, for that is the nature of the special fondness השם has for us and is exclusive to those who were worthy to be at הרי סיני.

The signs of life we have to search for are not the ones buried under the Martian surface but rather the ones that are just beneath the surface of our own physical bodies, residing in the נשמה הקדושה, waiting to burst forth with a vibrancy and urgency in our yearning to connect with the "נותן התורה". In that relationship, will we "discover" the ultimate truth and find our greatest expression.

באהבה,

צבי טייכמן

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Monthly Shiur

This Wednesday June 4th

Coffee/Water & Cake/Salad: 8:00pm

Shiur by Rabbi Teichman: 8:30 - 9:00

@ The Rosenblums, 2608 Summerson

If you are willing to host a future shiur please contact the Shul.