

SCHEDULE

שבת קדש

Mincha Erev Shabbos	4:42 PM
Friday Night Learning (w/ Chulent)	7:30 PM
Shacharis— Followed by Kiddush	8:30 AM
<i>Sof Zman K"Z</i> א"ג 9:14 א"ג 9:50	
Mincha- Followed by Shalosh Seudos	4:40 PM
Maariv	5:53 PM

Sunday

Shacharis	8:30 AM
<i>-Shiur will resume next week</i>	
Mincha / Maariv	4:50 PM

Weekday Minyanim & Shiurim

Monday—Friday

Shacharis

Mon, Thurs	6:40 AM, 8:10 AM
Tues., Wed., Fri.	6:45 AM, 8:10 AM
Dirshu Halacha Program	7:30 AM
Mincha	12:45 PM
Open Beis Hamedrash	7:00 PM
Rabbeinu Yonah Shaar Rishon	9:30 PM
Nightly Maariv (Mon-Thur)	9:45 PM

Thursday Night Shiur by Rabbi Teichman
After Maariv

SPONSORSHIPS

Kiddush

Sponsored by

Rabbi Simcha & Leah Kossman
in memory of Mrs. Evelyn Kossman
לע"נ חוה בת ישראל

Shalosh Seudos

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Visit www.ohelmoshebaltimore.com
and click on "The H.O.C."

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י"ד טבת

אהל משה



Rabbi Zvi Teichman

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Volume #74

RABBI'S MESSAGE

„Shouldering” the Burden “שכם”

Israel finds itself embattled and besieged. Our enemies threaten us not only on the battlefield of Gaza, but wherever Jewish interests may lie. In times of crisis we turn with introspection to our inner selves and grope for answers and the means by which to make a difference.

Our מסורה tells us that although we must unfortunately wield the “sword” and “bow” to defend ourselves from a most vicious and cruel enemy it is ultimately the strength of תפילה that powers our physical might and eventual victory. As the תרגום translates יעקב אבינו’s description of his conquest of שכם, *בחרבי, with my sword, ובקשתי, and with my bow*, as *בצלותי ובפנותי; with my prayer and my supplication*.

We have often heard how our Rabbeim cajoled us not to be misled by the notion of our own “strength” as critical to victory, but rather to realize that how we daven, is the true determining factor. Yet somehow it rings hollow. Young soldiers risking their lives to protect בני ישראל, deprived of sleep and the most basic physical comforts, with too many succumbing to the terrorists bullets, and we should feel that it is our תפילות in the security of our cities, that make the difference?! Yet, the תורה clearly tell us that this is so. יהושע in his farewell address reminds them ironically: *לא בחרבך ולא בקשתך; not by your sword and not by your bow*, have you achieved victory, but solely through divine intervention. How can this be? Where is the justice in this?

The תורה refers to יעקב’s taking of שכם by force; אשר לקחתי מיד האמורי בחרבי ובקשתי. When did this happen? יעקב was first informed of the misdeeds of שמעון and לוי and their deception and decimation of the שכם populace, only after the fact. It was his children who captured it, not he!

The מדרש describes how after the fiasco of the destruction of שכם and the distress of יעקב over his children’s impetuosity, the surrounding nations came to avenge this act by coming to slay שמעון and לוי. It was at that moment that יעקב remarked, “am I going to let my children fall into the hands of the nations?” He stood armed with his sword and bow ready to “take” their blows in defense of his children, ultimately succeeding, as the תרגום enlightens us, together with the power of תפילה, in frightening off the menacing nations. יעקב אבינו taught us a vital lesson, it is only when we are ready to shoulder the burden and give ourselves up for those we cherish will the תפילות we pray have any value.

Perhaps it was יוסף who was most deserving of this gift for he represented this quality more than his brothers, the willingness to shoulder injustices foisted on him, without resentment or retaliation. On the contrary, he exhibited only kindness towards them.

The name of this historic city, שכם, which also mean “shoulder”, embodies this very idea.

As we ponder what we can do to assist our brothers and sisters in the cities who are in danger, we should consider the sacrificing of some of our own comforts and conveniences as a merit for them. Devoting more time to learning, attending all תפילות with a מנין, davening more deliberately and with greater reverence, reaching out to someone in need, extending ourselves to someone who may not be a natural recipient of our kindness, at perhaps the expense of leisure activities we can very well do without, are just some of the ways we can show our unity with בני ישראל who are forfeiting so much.

The משיח describes the days of משיח when, *כי אז אהפך עמים שפה ברורה לקרא כלם בשם ה' לעבדו שכם אחד*; *For then will I turn to the nations a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Hashem, to serve Him with one "shoulder"*.

In the merit of our “shouldering” our responsibilities may we see the answering of our heartfelt תפילות for the אולה שלמה במהרה!

באהבה,
צבי טייכמן

לעבדו שכם אחד, לקרא כלם בשם יהוה, שפה ברורה, עמים-אז אהפך אל-כי ט

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Israel Solidarity Rally

This Sunday, January 11th



~
11:00 AM



42nd & 2nd Ave

Midtown Manhattan

See OU.org for details

Melaveh Malukah For Women

A melaveh malka for women is being planned
for motzei shabbos, January 24th.

If you would like to host or help please contact
Elisheva Rabinowitz,

For more information please contact
Elisheva at (410) 484-3909.