

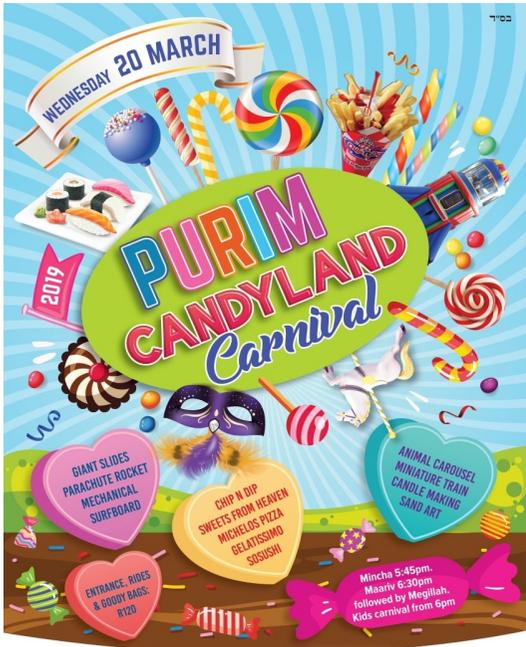
What's Nu?!

Choson Kallah Mazal Tov
Ari Nerwich & Kayli Levitan

Calendar

Parshas Zachor

- ◆ Shacharis: 8:30 am; Shtibl: 8:45 am
- ◆ Brocha in the Seeff Hall sponsored by **Raymond & Rolene Nerwich** in honour of Ari's oifruf and **Yudi & Dina Cohen** in honour of Hadassah's 3rd birthday and their 15th wedding anniversary.
- ◆ **Social Shabbos**
- ◆ Mincha: 5:45 pm
- ◆ Shabbos Ends: 6:55 pm
- ◆ **Fast of Esther:** Wed 20 March.
Fast starts 5:03 am and ends 6:37 pm
- ◆ **Megillah:** Wed night 6:40 pm; Thurs morn early minyan 6:00 am, 2nd minyan 7:30 am & special Megillah reading 10:00 am.

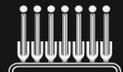


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Good Shabbos SYDENHAM!



16 Mar 2019 Parshas Vayikra 9 Adar 2 5779

Bulls and Lambs by: Rabbi Yossy Goldman

Not only animal rights groups have difficulty with this week's Parsha. Many if not most people in our modern era have a problem with the whole concept of animal sacrifice, which is a major theme of the third book of the Torah, Leviticus.

But I have no wish to enter into a rationalization of biblical morality. The second verse in the book lends itself to some interesting homiletic interpretation, which makes it quite clear that the Torah's focus on sacrifice is not so much on the animal on the altar as on the owner who is offering it.

Adam ki yakriv mikem korban - when a man will bring an offering from among you to G-d, from the animals, from the cattle or from the flock shall you bring your offering. Now, clearly, the language here is rather strained. In fact, most translators have edited the text to read more smoothly - when a man among you will bring an offering, clearly an improvement in the flow of the verse.

Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, in his classic Likutei Torah, insists, however, that the Torah's syntax is deliberate. When a man will bring an offering i.e. he will want to come closer to G-d - the Hebrew word korban has in it the root of karov to come close - then he must know that mikem korban, the offering must come from you, from the animal within you.

Every one of us possesses animalistic tendencies and these must be consumed on the altar of G-d. We are obliged to slay our inner animal and humanize ourselves by working on

developing our character traits until the beast within us has been neutralized - and better yet - sanctified.

What exactly does this mean? The verse continues, from the cattle or from the flock shall you bring your offering. Cattle - some individuals may behave like a raging bull, goring and trampling on everyone and everything in its way. He is the proverbial bull in a china closet, stomping, aggressive, domineering, bullying, and utterly insensitive to people's feelings.

Others might be like the flock - the meek, little lamb that timidly follows the crowd. She has no opinion of her own; whatever the last person she spoke to said becomes her opinion for the moment. She has no backbone, no sense of self or self-respect. She stays with the flock at all costs lest she be labeled a 'black sheep.'

Still others might be moody and temperamental, changing colors and character traits from day to day. One minute they might be like the raging bull and the next the docile lamb.

So the Torah teaches us to be Adam, a human being of human - indeed G-dly - character. Be a man not an ox, a lady not a lamb. Be a mensch; behave like a mature, refined person not like a vilde chaya. Examine your own behavioral tendencies; check out your inner feelings and dispositions. Are you satisfied with yourself as a human being? Are those around you happy, or do you intimidate them with your temper tantrums? Are you mature and mild-mannered or do you suffer from road rage even when you're not in the traffic?

Searching our souls and our inner psyches for unacceptable behaviours and then doing something

Purim Schedule and Instructions:

- Listen to the **Megillah** in Shul on **BOTH** Wednesday night and Thursday morning.
- Send **Mishloach Manot** - a gift of two edible foods to at least one friend. Male to male, female to female.
- Give **Matanot L'Evyonim** - charity to at least two poor Jewish people (You may do this via the **Rabbi** or the **Chev**).
- Eat a **festive Purim meal** on **Thursday lunch** after midday, afternoon or evening starting no later than sunset which is 6:15 pm. Dinner may then carry on as late as you wish.
- Recite **Al Hanissim** in the Amidah and Bentching.



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about it is what we mean when we say to bring the animal up on the altar of sacrifice. It is the animal within each of us. The true and ultimate sacrifice is the sacrificing of self.

Parsha Pointers

*Vayikra: Artscroll Chumash pg 544;
Living Torah pg 499*

G-d calls to Moses from the Tent of Meeting, and communicates to him the laws of the korbanot, the animal and meal offerings brought in the Sanctuary. These include:

The "ascending offering" (dah) that is wholly raised to G-d by the fire atop the Altar; Five varieties of "meal offering" (mindah) prepared with fine flour, olive oil and frankincense; The "peace offering" (shelamin), whose meat was eaten by the one bringing the offering, after parts are burned on the Altar and parts are given to the Kohanim (priests); The different types of "sin offering" (datat) brought to atone for transgressions committed erroneously by the High Priest, the entire community, the king, or the ordinary Jew; The "guilt offering" (asham) brought by one who has appropriated property of the Sanctuary, who is in doubt as to whether he transgressed a divine prohibition, or who has committed a "betrayal against G-d" by swearing falsely to defraud a fellow man.

10 Purim Facts Every Jew Should Know

By: Rabbi Menachem Posner

1. Purim Is the Jolliest Day of the Year

The jolly festival of Purim is celebrated every year on the 14th of the Hebrew month of Adar. Purim 2019 begins on Wednesday night, March 20, and continues through Thursday, March 21 (March 22 in Jerusalem). It commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia from Haman's plot "to destroy, kill, and annihilate all the Jews, young and old, infants and women, in a single day."

2. Purim Is a Persian Word

Purim means "lots" in ancient Persian. The holiday was thus named since the evil Haman had thrown lots to determine when he would carry out his diabolical scheme.

3. Mordechai and Esther Are the Heroes of

the Day

Mordechai was the leader of the Jewish people in Persia, and Esther was his cousin. Forcibly made queen of Persia, Esther bravely interceded—putting her own life on the line—on behalf of her people. The story of their heroism is recorded in the Book of Esther.

4. The Book of Esther Is Handwritten on Parchment

The miraculous events behind the holiday of Purim are written in the Megillah scroll.

Per Esther's request, the events were written in a scroll to be read every year on Purim. This scroll, called the Megillah (Book of Esther), was one of the final books to be canonized in the Tanach. A genuine Megillah must be written by a scribe on parchment—a painstaking process that takes several days or weeks to complete.

5. There Are Four Purim Mitzvahs

Purim is celebrated by observing the following four Mitzvahs:

- Reading the *Megillah* which recounts the story of the Purim miracle. This is done once on the eve of Purim and again the following day.
- Giving *monetary gifts* to at least *two* poor people.
- Sending *gifts of two kinds of food* to at least one person.
- A festive *Purim feast*, which should include wine and good food.

6. We Spin "Graggers" on Purim

Graggers are spinning noisemakers (ratchets) used to drown out Haman's name during the Megillah reading. Since every word must be heard clearly, the reader repeats the name after the racket has died down. Although traditionally made of wood, graggers can be made of tin, plastic, or anything else. In a pinch, pounding on the table, stamping one's feet, or shaking one's keys will suffice.

7. People Drink Wine on Purim

The sages of the Talmud assert that "a person is obligated to drink on Purim until he does not

know the difference between 'blessed is Mordechai and cursed is Haman.'" There are many interpretations of this. Obviously, this does not apply to anyone who may become ill or act inappropriately as a result.

8. Purim is Preceded by a Fast

On the day *before* Purim it is customary to fast, commemorating Esther's fasting and praying to G-d that He save His people. The *Fast of Esther* is a morning to evening Fast observed on *Wednesday 20 March*.

9. Hamantaschen and Kreplach: Purim Treats

G-d's involvement in the Purim miracle was hidden; it appeared as if our people's salvation came by way of natural means. Indeed, the day is celebrated with delicacies where the delicious filling is hidden inside dough. Classic hamantaschen are a sweet three-cornered pastry filled with poppy seeds, and meat-filled kreplach are traditionally cooked and served in chicken soup at the festive meal. The seeds recall Esther's vegetarian diet in the royal palace, where she secretly kept kosher.

10. We Masquerade on Purim

People traditionally dress up on Purim, wear masks, or otherwise make themselves look somewhat unusual. Like the "hidden" treats mentioned above, many say that concealing ourselves behind a costume reflects the way G-d operated behind a cloak of natural events.

Did You Know?

Purim Trivia

...Haman was hanged on the second day of Passover? (Purim is the anniversary of the Jews' victory celebration after their war against their enemies 11 month later)

...Queen Esther's Hebrew name was Hadasaah? ("Esther" is Persian)

...Mordechai was the first person in history to be called a "Jew" - Yehudi? (Before then, Jews were called "Hebrews" or "Israelites")

...Achashverosh searched four years for a queen, during which he considered more than 1400 contestants, before choosing Esther?

...Vashti (Achashverosh's first queen) was the great-granddaughter of Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian emperor who destroyed the first

Holy Temple?

...Haman was the one who advised Achashverosh to kill Vashti?

...There is an opinion in the Talmud that Esther was not beautiful at all, and had a greenish complexion, but she had *chein*, the X Factor?

...Haman was once Mordechai's slave?

...Mordechai, who refused to bow to Haman, was a descendant of Benjamin, the only one of Jacob's sons who didn't bow to Haman's ancestor Esau?

...Esther's plan was to make Achashverosh jealous of the attention she was giving to Haman so that he should kill them both?

...Haman's decree was never revoked? (Achashverosh only issued a second decree, giving the Jews the right to defend themselves)

...Mordechai was a very old man during the story of Purim? (He was already a member of the Sanhedrin, the highest court of Torah law in Jerusalem, 79 years before the miracle of Purim!)

...Every single Jew in the world lived in Achashverosh's kingdom, so that they were all included in Haman's decree?

...G-d's name is not mentioned even once in the entire Book of Esther?

Live & Laugh

An Israeli mayor in a small town is walking past a construction site with his wife. One of the construction workers stops and calls out to the woman. "What's new, Sara?"

"Why, it's nice to see you again Avi," the woman replies. She turns to introduce her husband to the construction worker, and they speak for several minutes.

After the mayor and his wife continue on, he turns to his wife to ask how she knows him. "Oh," she said. "We went together in high school. I even thought about marrying him." The husband began to laugh. "You don't realize how lucky you are. If I hadn't come along, today you would be the wife of a construction worker!"

The wife replied without hesitation, "Not really. If I had married him, he'd now be a mayor!"

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