

# CONGREGATION BNAI AVRAHAM of Brooklyn Heights NEWSLETTER

Parashat Ki Teitzei • Aug 20-27 2021 • Elul 12-19 5781



## Reserve your seats for the High Holy Days

Rosh Hashana begins Monday night, Sept. 6. Now's the time to reserve seats or renew your shul membership (which includes High Holy Day seats). For membership and seat links, visit [BnaiAvraham.org](http://BnaiAvraham.org)

## Learning THIS WEEK

**Sunday 11:00 am** — Pirkei Avos  
with Rabbi Aaron Raskin

**Monday 8:15 pm** — Daf Yomi

Meets Monday, Thursday and Saturday. No previous Talmud study necessary, and a free Daf with English explanations is available online. New participants (men and women) are welcome. For links to the Daf Yomi group's Google Meet, email: [ed@weintrob.com](mailto:ed@weintrob.com). (Put **Daf** in subject line).

**Tuesday 8:15 pm**

Parsha of the Week

with Rabbi Moshe Hubner

For an invitation to this online class, write: [charlesbender@verizon.net](mailto:charlesbender@verizon.net)

**Wednesday 9:15 am**

Parsha of the Week

with Rabbi Aaron Raskin

**Thursday 9:30 am**

Maamarim Chassidus with text

with Rabbi Aaron Raskin

**Thursday 8:15 pm** — Daf Yomi

See Monday

**Saturday 9:00 pm** — Havdalah  
and Living Torah video

**Saturday 9:30 pm** — Daf Yomi

See Monday

Zooms (except Daf Yomi which is on Google Meets).

Zoom link: [bit.ly/3xV9QqM](https://bit.ly/3xV9QqM)

Zoom Meeting ID: 856 8776 4369. Passcode: 613



At B'nai Avraham and on Zoom  
Motzei Shabbat, Aug 28, Midnight

## WEEKDAY TEFILLAH

### SHACHARIT

Sunday 8:45 am

Monday thru Friday 7:45 am

### MINCHA followed by MAARIV

Sunday thru Thursday 7:25 pm



### THIS SHABBAT

(Aug 20-21)

Parashat Ki Teitzei

Candlelighting 7:29 pm

Mincha-Maariv 7:30 pm

Sat Early Minyan 8 am

Sat Main Minyan 10 am

Sat Mincha-Maariv 7:30 pm

Havdalah 8:36 pm

*Kiddush, which follows each minyan, is sponsored by Enid Myers in honor of her daughter Mia Scharphie's visit and recent marriage to Aaron Voldman, and by Rivolye Alex.*

### NEXT SHABBAT

(Aug 27-28)

Parashat Ki Tavo

Candlelighting 7:18 pm

Mincha-Maariv 7:25 pm

Sat Early Minyan 8 am

Sat Main Minyan 10 am

Sat Mincha-Maariv 7:25 pm

Havdalah 8:25 pm

**Selichot Midnight**



# Rav Raskin's Mnemonics: Ki Teitzei

Reprinted from a book by Rabbi Aaron L. Raskin, "Parsha Mnemonics: Decoding the # of Verses in the Torah Portion"

*An old man who lived alone wanted to plow his small field to grow a carrot garden. As it turned out, the work was too hard for him.*

*Unfortunately, his only son, who would have helped him, was in prison for bank robbery. The old man wrote a letter to his son and mentioned his predicament. Shortly thereafter he received this reply: "For Heaven's sake Dad, do not dig up the field!*

*That's where I buried all my money!"*

*A few days later at 4 in the morning, a dozen policemen showed up and dug up the entire field — without finding any money. Confused, the old man wrote another message to his son telling him what happened and asking him what to do next. Then came his son's reply: "Dad, it's the best I could do from here. Now plant your carrots."*

The Parsha of Ki Teitzei contains 110 ("ק") pesukim. The mnemonic is the name Eli (עלי) 110=10+30+70

## War and Peace

The portion of Ki Teitzei begins and ends with war. How can the mnemonic for a Torah portion about war be Eli, referring to Eli the High Priest, whose job it was to be a man of peace? And how does the concept of war relate to us on an individual level, when most of us are not soldiers or warriors?

The answer may be found in the phrase that our father Jacob chose pertaining to his conquest of the city of Shechem, "with my sword and my arrow." The Targum translates the words differently, rendering the verse, "I conquered Shechem with my prayer and my beseeching."

The concept of war in a greater sense is reflected in the war within ourselves, between the G-dly soul and the animal soul. The main battle of this inner war takes place in our hearts during the time of prayer. Additionally, our prayers take the place of the sacrifices that were offered by the Priests (such as Eli) in the Holy Temple. The effect of the sacrifices was to bring peace, light, and G-dliness into the lower world.

## High Holy Days

Ki Teitzei is read in the weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah, a day whose main activity and aspect is prayer. On Rosh Hashanah, we beseech G-d to grant us a good and sweet new year. Why do we pray so intently for our own needs on Rosh Hashanah, when the real goal of the holiday is to coronate G-d as King? We must be totally dedicated and subservient to the King in order to accept his reign. Why should we be asking for, or even thinking of, our own needs on this day?

The Rebbe teaches that we can find the answer in the Haftarah of the first day of Rosh Hashanah. The Haftarah is about Eli the High Priest, and his encounter with Chanah as she prayed in the Holy Temple to be granted a son. She was so absorbed in prayer and emotion that Eli mistook her state for drunkenness. A drunk person is self-absorbed and oblivious to their environment. When Eli confronted her, she replied: "I am pouring out my soul before G-d." She was very cognizant of the fact that on Rosh

Hashanah we coronate G-d as our King. Far from being drunk, she was beseeching G-d with all her strength to grant her a child that would be a pride to the Jewish people and a servant of our King.

We read this episode on Rosh Hashanah because it reflects our own dialogue with G-d on this day. We tell Him that he is our King, and we will be his soldiers, but that we need the proper artillery and supplies to carry out his mission. Each of us asks for what we need — health, a good living, children — in order to fulfill G-d's Will in the fullest and most beautiful way. When we pray, we must go to war and conquer our animal soul and temptations, but we have a right and even an obligation to ask G-d for our needs in order to complete His work and reveal His Presence in our world.

## 110 Years of Joseph

1) Revealing G-d in our world is hinted at in the number 110 (ק"י). Joseph lived for 110 years, and his life was spent bringing holiness down into the Land of Egypt, the lowest place and the absolute antithesis of holiness in the world. Joseph had the Egyptians circumcised, refining the people and bringing G-dliness into a place that had been too coarse to accept it. Finally, he brought about a triumph of light over darkness. This, too, is the purpose of prayer — to let light overcome darkness.

2) The letters ק"י also imply the power of prayer. We are instructed to pray throughout the year with a minyan of ten men in order to guarantee that our prayers be answered. Rambam states, "During the Ten Days of Teshuvah between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, one person has the power of ten people, an entire minyan, and their prayers are answered accordingly." Thus, 10 people praying generates the power of 100. Thus 1=10, 10=100, which all together equals 110

3) At the beginning of Ki Teitzei, it states, "When you go out to war upon your enemies and G-d delivers them into your hands..." The word "upon" or ע"ל has a numerical value of 100. The word "hands" alludes to the 10 fingers; 100 plus 10 equals 110.

In light of the above, we should keep in mind that our prayers can tip the scales, bringing an end to war, and transforming the darkness of the entire world into light. So may it be, speedily in our days.

## Story

The great Mashpia and teacher, Reb Mendel Futerfas, once related a story that occurred during the time he spent in the Soviet prison system in Siberia.

While the prisoners in his barracks were passing the time conversing and telling jokes, one of them began sobbing uncontrollably. The leader of the group said, "Why are you crying? We can't let the prison guards know that we are broken!"

The man replied, "I am thinking about where I was six months ago. I was the chief physician in the city. Every difficult medical issue was brought to my attention.

"Everyone wanted me to treat them and not my subordinates. I was invited to every important function. I was truly a big shot. Now, look at me! Now I am nothing. How can I not cry?"

The leader of the group stood up and said, "Why do you think your situation is unique? I was the top lawyer in my region. I was able to demand a large premium for my services and I too was invited to every important meeting. Now, I am also nothing."

Another prisoner stood up and said, "I was a judge and the most feared person in my region. Everyone trembled when they saw me.

"I sentenced countless innocent people to prison and even to their death, just to put fear in their hearts. Then I was arrested on trumped-up charges and I too am reduced to nothing."

The conversation continued, each prisoner saying how he was reduced from a "something" to a "nothing." The entire time, Reb Mendel listened with amusement.

Then a smile was noticed on his face.

His fellow prisoners pointedly asked him, "Hey, why are you smiling? Have you not lost any prestige? What were you doing before you were sent here?"

Reb Mendel replied, "Before I was arrested, I only wanted to be a G-d fearing person and serve my Creator to the best of my ability. That same mission remains with me until this very day. Perhaps the place and surroundings are different, but the goal remains the same. I smiled because I just realized I have actually lost nothing."

# The Congregation B'nai Avraham team

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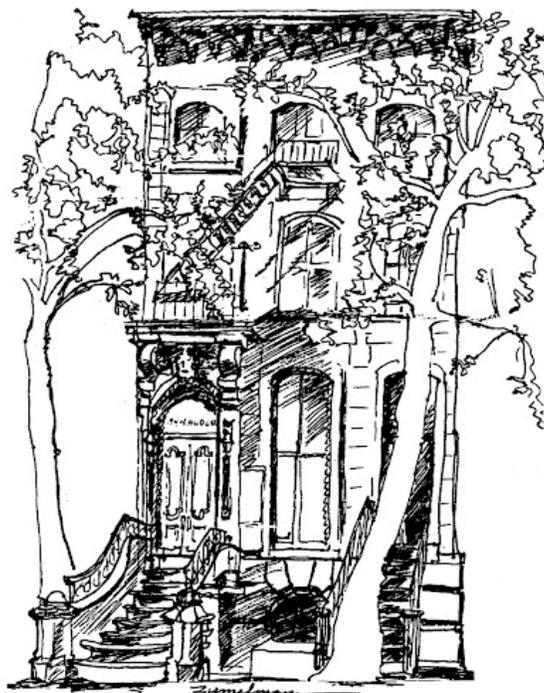
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### WHATSAPP MINYANIM

**Daily and Main Shabbos Minyan:**

Shul Minyan 5781

To join: [ShternieRaskin@gmail.com](mailto:ShternieRaskin@gmail.com)

**Early Shabbos Minyan:**

Shabbat Hashkamat Minyan

To join: [mark.zelcer@gmail.com](mailto:mark.zelcer@gmail.com)

### WHATSAPP GENERAL

**Bnai Avraham:**

To join: [ShternieRaskin@gmail.com](mailto:ShternieRaskin@gmail.com)

**CBA Sisterhood:**

To join: [ShternieRaskin@gmail.com](mailto:ShternieRaskin@gmail.com)

### YOUTUBE

**Bnai Avraham channel:**

Updated address to come

**Rabbi Raskin's channel:**

[bit.ly/3JzZdmB](https://bit.ly/3JzZdmB)

## Keeping kosher in and around B'klyn Heights

While Brooklyn Heights doesn't duplicate the walkable dining and shopping scene of Borough Park, Flatbush, Crown Heights and Williamsburg (each less than a 30 minute subway or car ride away), kosher groceries are readily available in supermarkets in the Heights and adjacent Cobble Hill, Boerum

Hill, Carroll Gardens and Downtown Brooklyn. A limited selection of chicken and beef is available at Trader Joe's on Court Street, and some of the large kosher markets in central Brooklyn accept remote orders and deliver.

CBA is updating its list of nearby kosher dining establishments that are frequented by

congregants in Brownstone Brooklyn, Crown Heights, Lower Manhattan, Williamsburg, Flatbush, and Borough Park. The list will include each establishment's *hashgacha*.

Please email your suggestions to [media@bnaiavraham.org](mailto:media@bnaiavraham.org)



**It's Elul. The King is in the field. Tishrei, and the High Holy days, are around the corner.**

	<p><b>Selichot</b> Midnight on motzei Shabbat, Aug 28. At CBA and on Zoom</p>
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	<p><b>Rosh Hashanah</b> Monday evening, Sept 6 (Labor Day) Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept 7–8</p> <p><b>Tzom Gedaliah</b> Fast of Gedaliah • Thursday, Sept 9</p>
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	<p><b>Yom Kippur</b> Kol Nidre, Wed evening, Sept 15 All day Thurs, Sept 16 • <b>Yizkor</b></p>
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	<p><b>Sukkot</b> Yom Tov Tues-Wed, Sept 21-22* Hoshana Rabba, Mon, Sept 27* Shemini Atzeret (<b>Yizkor</b>), Tues, Sept 28* *Holiday begins previous evening</p>
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	<p><b>Simchat Torah</b> Dance with the Torah on Tues night, Sept 28, and Wed Sept 29</p>
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**G'mar chatima tova גמר חתימה טובה**

May you be inscribed in the book for a good life