



Shabbat Times

Vayeshev
Kislev 21

Friday, December 1

4:55 pm – Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv
4:56 pm –Candle Lighting

Saturday, December 2

9:00 am – Shacharit
(9:41 am – Latest preferable time to say the shema)
10:30 am – Shabbat Morning Youth Groups
4:30 pm – Mincha/Maariv
5:54 pm – Havdalah

Kiddush Sponsor:

Congregation Dor Tikvah - Life and Legacy Appreciation
Kiddush

- **Dec 16:** Ruth and Barry Warren celebrating the birth of their granddaughter, Eden Ayelet
- **Dec 23:** Arlene and Peter Rosenthal in honor of Benny Chase, President of JCC, Board and Staff with wishes for a great year in 2018
- **Dec 30:** Available
- **Jan 6:** Rachel Turbow in celebration of Itai's 7th Birthday, and her parents Doreen and Sanford Turbow's 40 years of marriage

Weekday Services

Maariv services every Monday and Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

Regular Classes

(Classes held at the Dor Tikvah House. Park in the Shul parking lot.)
Sunday night Torah 7:30 pm – The Avraham Stories

Lunchtime Talmud @ noon on Thursdays with FaceBook Live access. Contact Rabbi@DorTikvah.org with questions.

Dor Tikvah Youth Programs

Stay updated about Congregation Dor Tikvah's youth programming on our website www.dortikvah.org/youth

Dec 10: ChanuKeif = Chanukah + Fun! Youth Chanukah event. 5:30-7:30 at Dor Tikvah. Glow in the dark dodge ball and bowling, and sufganiyot. Cost is \$5 per child.

Celebrate Israel

Are you interested in being a part of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Modern State of Israel where it all happened? If so, contact Edie Rubin at erubin@knology.net.

Upcoming Dor Tikvah Events

Dec 25: Ladies Paint Night-7:00 pm at Dor Tikvah

Enjoy an evening out with friends as we relax, create and paint together. Wine and art supplies will be provided. \$18 / person. RSVP at www.DorTikvah.com

Jan 5: Spirited Friday Night Service with Singing and Ruach

Jan 6: Clue Night: A murder mystery-Time & Location TBD

Join friends for an exciting night of intrigue and suspense. Details to come.

Jan 13: Shabbat Academy

Jan 19: Friday night dinner

Community Events

Dec 17: Chanukah in the Square-4:00-6:00 at Marion Square

Volunteers are needed to help at the Dor Tikvah booth. Contact Michelle Avrahami. mcavrahami@gmail.com 843-513-0625

Jan 3: Filmfest Menashe at the Terrace Theater, [1956 Maybank Highway](http://www.1956MaybankHighway.com) Adm \$12.50

Jan 4: Bookfest - Standup Comedy Judy Gold, 7:30 pm @ The Schoolhouse, [720 Magnolia Rd, Chas SC 29407](http://www.720MagnoliaRd.com) Adm \$35; Tickets at www.CharlestonJCC.org/JudyGold

Refuah Shelema

Shimon ben Shoshana (Sy Stricker)
Yechil Yeshiahua ben Fradel
Robert Levinson
Rivka bat Yehudit (Ruthie Kaplan)
Hodel bat Raozel (Linda Kirshstein)

Laella bat Simcha
Moshe Ben Chava
Talia Bat Shoshana
Ephraim Ben Rivka (Fred Feldman)
Bloom bat Chaya Sara (Bertha Hoffman)
Miriam bat Mazal

Life Cycle

Birthdays

➤ Arlene Rosenthal (12/13)

Yahrzeits

➤ Samuel Steinert, grandfather of Charles Steinert (12/12)

➤ Edna Banov, friend of Sandy & Gerry Katz (12/14)

Supporters of Congregation Dor Tikvah

We acknowledge contributions given:

In Memory of:

- In Memory of Ashley's Kirshstein's mother, Betty Shealy, by Leah Chase

Ida Fisher Fund for Israel Education and Action

- Joe and Edie Rubin

KEVA High School Program

- Joe and Edie Rubin

We appreciate all contributions - those of \$10 or more will be acknowledged here. Contributions in support of CDT, can be made at, DorTikvah.org or by check to Congregation Dor Tikvah | PO Box 80301 | Charleston, SC 29416

Vayeshev – Exile and Return (part 1)

(Adapted from Rabbi Shraga Simmons via aish.com)

This week's parsha features the famous story of Joseph being sold by his jealous brothers. Joseph is sent down to Egypt, where the Jewish people wind up spending a few hundred years in brutal slavery.

In some odd way it seems that the whole tragedy of Joseph's sale was destined to occur from the start. Consider:

- 1) Jacob clearly provokes his other sons by showing special favoritism toward Joseph, particularly by giving him the coat of many colors (Genesis 37:3). This behavior is especially strange for the wizened patriarch Jacob.
- 2) Joseph stirs his brothers' animosity by delivering a bad report about them. (37:2)
- 3) When Joseph has a dream indicating his eventual rule over his brothers, he incites them further by telling them the dream (37:5).
- 4) After a second, similar dream, Joseph again angers his brothers by recounting the dream (37:9). Joseph then compounds their anger by retelling the dream to his father – in front of the brothers (37:10)!
- 5) Jacob, though knowing that relations are highly strained, nevertheless sends Joseph to check on the brothers' activities and report back. Despite the obvious danger, Joseph agrees – and goes alone (37:13). It is then that the brothers throw Joseph into a pit and sell him as a slave.

As puzzling as it sounds, this series of provocations seems like an intentional effort by Jacob and Joseph to stir the brothers' hatred and set into motion the chain of events in Egypt. How can this possibly be?

Engraining Trust

To answer, let's backtrack about 100 years:

In Genesis 15:7-8, G-d promises Abraham that he and his descendants will possess the Land of Israel. To which Abraham responds, "How do I know it's true?"

This remark seems entirely out of line. Imagine a father promising his child, "I'll take you to the ball game on Sunday," to which the child responds, "Can I really trust you'll do it?"

Abraham was on a lofty spiritual level (after all, he's talking with G-d). Yet his comment of "How will I know?" was an unbecoming way to seek reassurance from G-d. For that reason, G-d decreed that before the birth of the Jewish nation, they would need to undergo an experience to engrain a greater trust in G-d into their spiritual genetics.

The remedy, G-d tells Abraham, is to be enslaved in Egypt (Genesis 15:14). There the Jews will come to realize that only G-d can save them. They will turn to G-d with a total heart and cry out. Only then redemption will occur.

Generations later, that is precisely what transpired: "The Jews cried out because of their slavery... G-d heard their cries and remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." (Exodus 2:23-24) The Jews had built a new level of trust in G-d. Egyptian slavery had served its purpose.

The Hebron Plan

We can now understand why Jacob and Joseph went out of their way to provoke the brothers. The Egypt experience was inevitable, and they were setting that process of exile into motion.

This is alluded to in Genesis 37:14, where Jacob sends Joseph to check on the brothers from the "depths of Hebron." At first glance, this makes no sense, for as anyone who has visited Israel knows, Hebron is located not in a valley but in the Judean hills! (see Joshua 14:12) The Talmud (Sotah 11a) explains: When the Torah says the "DEPTHs of Hebron," it means figuratively that Joseph was sent from the "PROFOUND" plan involving Abraham (who is buried in Hebron). The sale of Joseph is an extension of the process set into motion with Abraham questioning G-d.

In fact, the Zohar reports that before sending Joseph to check the brothers' activities (the act that would lead directly to Joseph's going down to Egypt), Jacob first visited Abraham's grave in Hebron.

The process of exile was destined to happen one way or another. Jacob and Joseph helped orchestrate it thusly. In fact, during those crucial moments before meeting the brothers, G-d sent the angel Gabriel to encourage Joseph along! As the Midrash says, if things hadn't worked out this way, Jacob would have eventually been dragged down to Egypt in chains.

Life Lessons

And process of descent is a lesson for us today. Our soul comes to Earth in the first place because we have crucial life lessons to learn – "something we have to go through." The Kabbalists describe this as "Tikkun" – rectification of one's soul, based on mistakes of past lives, rooted in the original mistake of Adam and Eve.

This does not suggest that we should go out of our way to seek difficulties. But if there is a necessary process to undergo, it is foolish to avoid. Too often we busy ourselves with petty distractions, in hopes of escaping the painful confrontation with reality. But it invariably catches up with us; that "difficulty" is part and parcel of our reason for being.

It's all part of G-d's grand eternal plan. If you have an issue, confront it. Work it through. Build your "trust muscles." G-d put you in this situation for good reason, and only He can safely get you out of it. G-d is in control, and He delivers.

Next week: Part 2 of "Exile and Return"