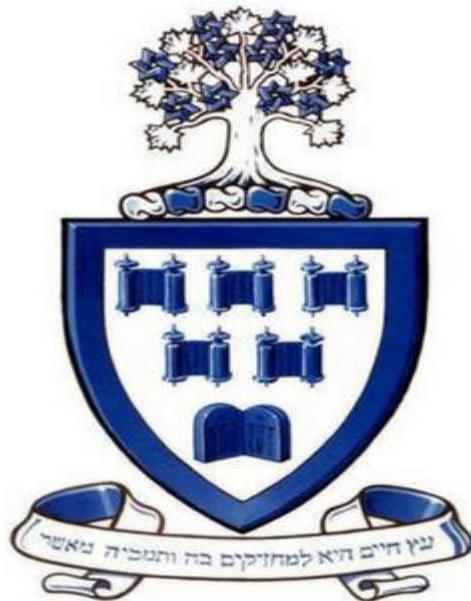


Messages

Wishing Everyone

A Safe, Healthy, and Beautiful Shabbat



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MACHZIKEI HADAS

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SEDRAH VAYIKRA

3 NISSAN 5780

March 28, 2020

SHABBAT | ITON

Torah Thoughts, from *Sermonic Wit* by Rabbi Bulka

WAYWARD THINKING

The Torah introduces the various types of offerings, of which the first mentioned is the olah offering.

Rabbenu Bahya questions why this is in fact the first offering mentioned.

He suggests that this is related to the fact that the olah offering is brought for premonitions of the heart and evil thoughts.

The thought, says Rabbenu Bahya, always precedes the deed.

The message is clear – if we think straight, we will behave straight, and if we think waywardly, we will behave waywardly.

TAKING CHANCES

With regard to the leader who unwittingly sins, Rashi, quoting Torat Kohanim, and playing on the first word of the verse, “*asher*,” says that this relates to the word *ashray*, meaning praiseworthy.

Praiseworthy is the generation in which the leader takes matters to heart, to bring an atonement offering for his unwitting sin.

The author of *Aznayim LaTorah* explains this comment in a novel fashion.

He point out that there are different types of leaders. One type is always looking for ways to improve the congregation. This type does so much that as a result, this leader will sometimes do something that should not have been done.

This type of a sin is expiated via a sin offering, a *korban hatat*.

There is another leader type, who is always in doubt about what action to take, and, fearful of consequences, lands up doing nothing, leaving the congregation stagnant. That person is somewhat like the one who has failed to fulfill an affirmative command, for which an olah offering must be brought.

Praiseworthy is the generation in which the leader, if doing something wrong unwittingly, does so in the sin-offering category; i.e., having done what should not be done rather than not doing what should be done.

Good leaders are proactive, and willing to take some risk to benefit the community.

POINTS TO PONDER

What is the significance of the sacrificial process?

Why is the meal-offering introduced with the words, "When a soul brings" (p.609; 2:1)?

How is it possible for an entire congregation to err (p. 616; 4:13)?

For one who has testified falsely regarding a deposit, why is such a person obliged to return the item in question and an additional one-fifth (p. 624; 5:24)?

HAFTARAH

The Haftarah for Vayikra is found in your Humashim on page 625.

Taken from Yeshayahu, it laments Israel's turning away from God, yet God generously affirms a readiness to forgive if Israel returns.

The picturesque, classical language of forgiveness— God saying that Israel's transgressions have been blotted out as a thick cloud, forms the developing climax of the Haftarah reading.

The Haftarah concludes with the prospect of universal rejoicing and celebration at the redemption and return of Israel.

Quote of the week:

Fear not, nor be intimidated...

Schedule of Services

Saturday, March 28
8:08 p.m.: Shabbat Ends

Friday, April 3
Lighting after 6:15 p.m.
and
before 7:13 p.m.

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As a precautionary measure, the shul will be closed until further notice.

YAHARZEITS FOR THE WEEK OF MAR 28

3 Nisan—March 28 Minnie Chezan Rona Lee Mendelson Anna Neuman	7 Nisan—April 1 Dora Pretsfelder Lily Stokes Mark Zunder
4 Nisan—March 29 Sydney Wexler Stan Miller	Herbert Brown
5 Nisan—March 30 Samuel Cowan Ben Yanover Kathleen Petrie-Polowin	8 Nisan—April 2 Samuel Maurice Marko Ari Koenig Mindel Koenig Gittel Koenig
Fay Fogel 6 Nisan—March 31 Mendel Wasserlauf Lillian Waserman Anne Monson-Baylin Sidney Finkelman	9 Nisan—April 3 Pearl Rosenbloom Stan Gilman