



# Parshas Vayikra, Parshas Zachor

Candle Lighting

Havdalah

Torah Reading

HafTorah

Candle Lighting 3/29

7:04p

9:00p

Vayikra: 1:1-5:26, Devarim: 25:17-19 Shmuel I: 15:2-34

7:11p

## Drinking, Repairing, and Accepting: Appreciating the Purim Message

*Rabbi Shmuel Silber*

*"Rava said: 'An individual is required to become fragrant (intoxicated) on Purim until he cannot differentiate between 'Cursed is Haman' and 'Blessed is Mordechai.' Rabbah and Rabbi Zeirah conducted their Purim meal together. They became intoxicated. Rabbah got up and killed Rabbi Zeirah. The next day, Rabbah realized what he had done and prayed for Divine compassion and Rabbi Zeirah was brought back to life. The following year, Rabbah said to Rabbi Zeirah, 'Let us make the Purim seudah together.' Rabbi Zeirah responded, 'Miracles don't occur at all times (Talmud, Megillah 7b).'"*

This "obligation" seems somewhat out of character with normative, Jewish practice. We are a religion of moderation, a people who strive to find the "middle path." Yet, the great sage Rava explains that we are required to drink on Purim until we can no longer differentiate between "Cursed is Haman" and "Blessed is Mordechai." This question is compounded by the fact that the Talmud quotes a story of great rabbis who adhered to Rava's ruling with tragic consequences. How are we to understand this obligation to drink on Purim?

It is important to note that some of the Talmudic commentaries (Rabbeinu Nissim, Rabbeinu Ephraim) understand that Rava's statement is not accepted as law. They derive this approach from the fact that right after Rava says there is an obligation to drink on Purim, the Gemara quotes the story of Rabbah and Rabbi Zeirah. What is the purpose of this story? According to some commentaries the message is – don't follow Rava's advice. Other commentaries take a compromise position and explain that on Purim one should simply drink a bit more than usual. The Shulchan Aruch states, "Echad ha'marbeh v'echad ha'mamit, u'bilvad she'yichaveyn libo la'shamayim, whether you drink a lot or a little, make sure your heart is directed to the heavens." If one is going to drink on Purim, it must allow for spiritual elevation and cannot be the cause for the spiritual or social downfall of the individual.

The Chochmas Manoach (Rav Manoach ben Shemarya, died in 1611) provides a beautiful and powerful explanation. We all have people with whom we don't get along. Sometimes, we even have enemies. There are two different types of "enemies" in life. There are individuals who have hurt me, either by taking advantage, exploiting my weaknesses, or betraying my trust. These are the "Hamans" in my life. Then there are others who have not hurt or harmed me in any way. They have never said or done anything disdainful or harmful. But they have more, are more accomplished, and are more successful than I can hope to become. I don't like them because I am jealous of them. These are the "Mordechais" of my life. The Megillah ends with the phrase that Mordechai was beloved by "rov echav, the majority of his brethren." You may ask how could it be that Mordechai who was one of the architects of the Purim salvation would only be beloved by the majority of the Jewish nation? Is it possible to imagine that there were people who didn't like Mordechai? And of course, the answer is – yes. The Ibn Ezra explains that there were some who didn't like Mordechai simply because he had and was more. Some significant minority of our ancestors did not like the man who was ready to give his life for his people – simply because he was more successful. Many of us have our Mordechais – the people we don't "like" because they have what we perceive we lack.

The Chochmas Manoach explains that our job on Purim is to reconcile with our Hamans and Mordechais. Our job is to try to make peace within the ranks of our holy nation. But sometimes, it is difficult to reconcile with people from whom we feel separate and estranged. This is the beauty of Rava's statement. Rava teaches us that we should drink until we don't know the difference between "Arur Haman, Cursed is Haman" and "Baruch Mordechai, Blessed is Mordechai." We should use a glass of wine and a celebratory meal to come closer to one another. Sometimes, a little l'chaim and sharing some mezonos has the ability to break down walls that have stood for a long time. Sometimes, with a little bit of wine, a person feels the confidence to approach another and settle old differences. Rava is not necessarily teaching us to get drunk; he is teaching us how to reconcile and strengthen our people.

We all have our Hamans and our Mordechais. Purim is the day to transform these individuals into our brethren. Purim is a busy day; a day on which we are occupied with the performance of many beautiful mitzvos. But let's not let this golden opportunity pass us by. Let's use this upcoming Yom Tov to reconcile with one another. Let's use this holy day to come close to one another. A successful Purim is not measured by how many Mishloach Manos you receive or even by how much money you donate to Matanos L'Evyonim (gifts to the poor). A successful Purim is one in which I have done something to increase unity and love within the ranks of our people. On this Yom Tov of Purim, let us accept upon ourselves to be good to one another, kind to one another, and do what is within our power to embrace and accept the Hamans and Mordechais of life.

WEEK AT A GLANCE 3/22 - 3/29	22/23 FRI/SHABBOS	24 SUNDAY	25 MONDAY	26 TUESDAY	27 WEDNESDAY	28 THURSDAY	29 FRIDAY
	PARSHAS ZACHOR	PURIM	SHUSHAN PURIM				
	<b>SHABBOS NIGHT</b> 6:15p Toameha 7:00p Mincha followed by Kabbolas Shabbos 7:04p Candle Lighting <b>SHABBOS DAY</b> 7:00a Hashkama- ON BREAK 8:45a Shacharis (KS - 9:39a) 9:15a Teen Minyan 10:00a Teen Girls Shabbos Group 4:00p Women's Learning Group 5:00p Kids Story with Rabbi Silber 5:05 Additional Zachor reading 6:10p Daf Yomi 7:00p Mincha 8:06p Maariv 8:20 Megilla Reading 9:00 Havdalah 9:45 Megilla Reading	6:45a Shacharis 7:15a Megillah Reading 8:00a HS/MS Shacharis (Rooms 2/3) 8:10a Daf Yomi 9:00a Shacharis 9:30a Megillah Reading 11:00a Chessed Caravan at Aventura 2:00p Mincha 7:10p Mincha/Maariv 7:45p Farbrengen Kumzitz	5:55a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 5:55p Plag Mincha 7:15p Mincha/Maariv 7:50p Hilchos Shabbos Chabura 8:00p Teen Boys Learning (HS) 8:40p Amud Yomi 9:00p Maariv	5:55a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 5:55p Plag Mincha 7:15p Mincha/Maariv 7:45p Women's Chabura- ON BREAK 8:00p Teen Boys Learning (5th-6th) 8:40p Amud Yomi 9:00p Maariv	5:55a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 5:55p Plag Mincha 7:15p Mincha/Maariv 8:00p Teen Boys Learning (7th-8th) 8:40p Amud Yomi 9:00p Maariv	5:55a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 5:55p Plag Mincha 7:15p Mincha/Maariv 7:40p Amud Yomi 8:00p Chassidus Chaburah 9:00p Maariv	5:55a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 9:00a Shacharis 6:30p Toameha 7:00p Mincha followed by Kabbolas Shabbos 7:11p Candle Lighting

## MEMBER NEWS

### MAZAL TOV

**Josh & Becca Friedman** on the bas mitzvah of their daughter, Bella.

**Baruch & Karyn Gold** on the birth of a grandson.

### BIRTHDAYS

Nina Allen-Goldberg, Lailah Bondy, Avi Friedman, Chana Friedman, Berel Galkin, Yocheved Miriam Green, Ashira Hirsch, Jennifer Kaplan, Ethan Kaplan, Elan Kovacs, Kenneth Lasson, Lilah Messing, Zevi Miller, Yummi Minzer, Jackie Nachman, Yehuda Orshan, Sarina Ponczak, Reuven Rakovsky, Moshe Rechthand, Danny Trestman, Dina Rivka Vaks

### UPCOMING YAHRZEITS

Mildred Abramowitz, Phishel Beryl Artman, Mindel Friedman, Mayer Greenbaum, Ida Markman, Sophie Meiseles, Irwin Posner

## SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS

### TALMUD TORAH

**The Schwarzbaum Family** in memory of Aaron J. Schwarzbaum, Aharon Yosef ben Meir z'l. May his neshama have an aliyah.

**Leah Sol** in the zechus of her daughter Ilana bas Esther's successful surgery and complete refuah sheleima, and for a safe return of all our hostages.

**Maia Hoffman** in memory of her father, Reuven ben Emanuel z'l, and in the merit of hatzlacha, health, and joy for all of her family: Shulamit, Avraham, Mariasha Tzivia, Barak Raphael, and Dora.

**Yoel & Sara Kelman** in honor of the birth of their son, and in memory of Staff Sergeant David Sasson Hy'd, age 21, who was killed fighting in Gaza on March 6, 2024.

### TEHILLIM & TORAH CHABURA

**Evy Getz** in memory of Shulamit bas Bella z'l.

**Fran Hisler** in memory of: Chaya Sora bas Mani z'l, Malka bas Avraham z'l, Miriam bas Avraham z'l, Nessa Chaya Sorah bas Nachum z'l, Miriam bas Sarah z'l, and for the safety of those in Israel.

### KIDDUSH

**Josh & Becca Friedman** with gratitude to Hashem for Bella's bas mitzvah, and in the merit of a safe return of our precious hostages and courageous chyalim.

### DONATIONS

**Dr. Morris & Ann Ellen Gavant** in memory of Ann Ellen's father, Asher ben Moshe Dovid, Asher Blockman z'l.

**Bracha Strimber** in commemoration of her father's yahrzeit, Manuel Backman, Mendel ben Yitzchok z'l, on 25 Adar II.

**Evy Getz** for a refuah sheleima for Selma Woolf and for the refuah and safety of those in Israel.

**David Heffer** for a refuah sheleima to Wendy Heffer, Yitta Chana bas Yehudit Chaya.

## SOTC UPDATES

### GROUPS CANCELLATION

Due to rain forecast and flooding issues in the classrooms, Junior Congregation and youth groups are be canceled this week. Please note, the teen girls group with Tova Miller will take place as scheduled.

### ADDITIONAL ZACHOR READING

There will be an additional Zachor reading at 5:05p for those who cannot make it to shul.

### WOMEN'S TEHILLIM FOLLOWING SHABBOS DAVENING

Please join the women of the shul after davening before kiddush to complete sefer Tehillim in the z'chus of the Eretz Yisroel.

### WOMEN'S SHABBOS TEHILLIM

Will meet on Shabbos at 4:45pm the Lerner home (3302 Northbrook Rd).

## SOTC UPDATES

### SOTC BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Suburban Orthodox Book Club will be Tuesday, April 9, 2 p.m., at Suburban Orthodox Congregation. Selection: "The Little Liar," by Mitch Albom

### JB! Free Haggados for Disabilities

If you or someone you know needs a large print, braille, or audio format Haggadah this year, please visit JBI's website at [www.JBILibrary.org](http://www.JBILibrary.org) or call JBI toll free at 1-800-999-6476 before April 11 and they will be happy to send you your Haggadah, completely free of charge.



**PURIM AT SOTC UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

**SHABBOS 3/23 - SPECIAL PURIM EDITION**  
TEEN GIRLS SHABBOS GROUP **10:00AM**

**SHABBOS 3/23 - KIDS SHABBOS PARTY & PURIM STORY WITH RABBI SILBER** **5:00PM**

**SUNDAY 3/24 - PURIM MORNING MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS MINYAN, BREAKFAST & BEIS MIDRASH** **8:00AM**

**SUNDAY 3/24 - SOTC CHESSED CARAVAN**  
MEET AT AVENTURA AT THE HEIGHTS 7218 PARK HEIGHTS AVE **11:00AM-12:00PM**



**MATANOS L'EVYONIM**  
**GIFTS TO NEEDY INDIVIDUALS**

ALL COLLECTED FUNDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY RABBI SILBER ON PURIM DAY.

[www.suburbanorthodox.org/form/matanos-levyonim-5784.html](http://www.suburbanorthodox.org/form/matanos-levyonim-5784.html)

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO DONATE**

