Parshas Re’eh

**THE CHOICE**

**RABBI SHMUEL SILBER**

“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse.” (Devarim 11:26).

Life is filled with choices. From what we wear to what we eat to how we act, we must condition ourselves to think and choose wisely. This was the simple, yet profound message Moshe was conveying to our ancestors. There are blessings and curses. If you follow in the way of God, blessing awaits. If you ignore your spiritual responsibilities and engage in negative behaviors, there will be consequences. Each and every day these two paths are in front of us and we must choose which one to travel.

The great Chassidic master, Rebbe Nachman of Breslov (1772-1810) advances a slightly different interpretation:

“Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: before ‘you,’ it is blessing and a curse, but from before God it is a simple light, simple letters and it is man who connects them together. If man is good, the combination (of the letters) yields blessing, and if not (if man is evil) then the opposite will occur (negative results). For before God there is no combination of the letters, there is no blessing or curse.”

(Likutel MoHaran 1:36)

From the cryptic words of the Rebbe emerge a life altering lesson. God delivers circumstances and it is up to us do decide if it will be a blessing or a curse. Everything God does is good, sometimes we see and understand the good and sometimes the good is obscured by difficulty, pain and suffering, but the result is always *tov* (good). Moshe Rabbeinu tells the people, “Re'eh anochi noseyn lifneychem ha'yom (see that I, God am placing life circumstances in front of you. You must now decide), beracha u'klalah, (will it be a blessing or a curse.)” More often than not, we don’t get to choose our circumstances, but we absolutely choose our disposition and attitude. We choose whether a particular life situation will be a *beracha* or a *klala* Similarly, we each have strengths and abilities; they are neither good nor bad. They represent energy that God has given us, the nature of which will be determined by how they are used. This was the lesson Moshe was trying to teach us. Life is a series of choices. We must choose how to use our innate traits and abilities. We must choose how to channel the incredible strengths we possess. We must choose how to look at life. It is easy to see the good times as blessings but are we able to see the blessing in adversity? And even if we can’t see the blessing in our challenges, can we find the strength to believe that blessing is present and hopefully will one day be recognizable? These are the choices we must make today and every day.

This Shabbos is Rosh Chodesh Elul. The last month of the year 5779. This sacred month serves a dual role, it affords us the opportunity to end the current year with meaning and purpose while simultaneously paving the way for a successful and uplifting year ahead. There are things we promised ourselves to accomplish and aspects of our life and identity we pledged to change. Hopefully, we have made good on our promises, but if we haven’t, there is still time. There are challenges which will derail our dynamic activity and there are character flaws and negative traits which hold us back. As we enter this most opportunity laden month let us remember the words of Moshe Rabbeinu. God gives us abilities and circumstances. It is up to us to use our *kochos* (strengths) for good and see the Divine blessing in every situation.

New Shiurim online and on podcast at rabbisilber.com
MEMBER NEWS

MAZAL TOV
Gregg & Rachel Levitan and Stephanie Rabinowitz on the bris of their grandson, Refael Moshe Simcha, son of Uri & Adina Rabinowitz
Charles & Jennifer Auerhan on the occasion of their son, Zev, putting on Tefillin
Aaron Goldberg & Beth Eisenberg on the birth of grandson to Rachel and Daniel Brujis
Yudy & Dory Brody on the bas mitzvah of their daughter, Eriella (Elle)

BIRTHDAYS
Ariel Bluman, Tzipora Einbinder, Mark Goldenberg, Libby Goldstein, Morris Goldstein, Molly Horwitz, Chaya Sarah Leiter, Rachel Levitan, Michael Lichtman, Shimson R. Nabozny, Ava Norah Esther, Naomi Neuman, Josh Rosen, Sandy Schoenhof, Avi Shnidman, Rosalie Sklar, Benji Tusk

YAHURZEITS
Anton Benedek, Beryl Leve, Jeannette Fruchter, Dore Trestman

TEFILOS NEEDED
Please continue to daven for Gavriel Shmuel Lev ben Elisha Miriam, son of Ari & Elisha Ross

CONDOLENCES
Julie Blumenfeld on the loss of her grandmother, Mrs. Lillian Lowe z’l

SHUL HAPPENINGS
SOTC Book Club
Tues 9/10 | 2:00p, SOTC
The Inheritance by Dani Shapiro

Security Training
Thurs 9/12 | 8:00p, SOTC
suburbanorthodox.org/event/security

Siyum HaShas: Special Opportunity
January 1, 2020 | MetLife Stadium
Register with the special code below to be seated together with members of our Daf Yomi group.
thesiyum.org
Special Code: DY-CY230-1757A

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS
Bringing Peace to the World One Word at a Time: Feat. Rabbi Yechiel Spero
Wed 9/4 | 7:30p, Shomrei Emunah
For women and girls

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
Meet the Bas Mitzvah girl, Elle Brody
As Elle approached her bas mitzvah, she began looking for ways to contribute to the community. She began to visit a local nursing home and develop relationships with the residents, listening to their stories and advice. On one occasion, she visited with her dog, and saw how much joy it brought the residents. She immediately took the initiative to sign up her family pet to train as a therapy dog. Elle hopes to continue visiting the residents of the home with her dog.

Elle and her younger sister, Anna, both attend Beth Tefiloh. Their older brother, Yosef, attends Montgomery College.
The Brodies say they love Suburban because it feels like home. “It is a very family oriented shul which is perfect for us. Rabbi Silber is such an amazing Rav who supports his entire kehillah and gives the best guidance and advice. One of our favorite parts of shul is listening to his D’vrei Torah on Shabbas which are always filled with life lessons that leave you challenging yourself to be a better person.”

MEMBER NEWS

SPONSORSHIPS
SIMCHA KIDDUSH
Yudy & Dory Brody in honor of the bas mitzvah of their daughter, Eriella

DAF YOMI
Marysol Perez in the merit of a refuah sheleima for Evelyn Morales

DONATION
Tzviel & Phaygi Blankchtein

Talmud Torah Elul Sponsor
Bennett Goldberg

IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER, LEONARD (AVRAHAM BEN ASHER PINCHAS Z’L) AND MOTHER, PEGGY (FAIGE RAIZEL BAS ZELIG Z’L) AND IN THE HOPES THAT ALL OF THE SUBURBAN MISHPACHA HAVE THEIR TITLOHS ANSWERED OVER THE YOMIM NORAIM

SPONSORSHIP

Mildred Shapiro in memory of her father, Shmuel Pinchas ben Yoel Zvi z’l, brother, Avraham Yaakov ben Shmuel Pinchas z’l, and brother-in-law, Shmuel Yaakov ben Gershon HaLevi z’l

Morton & Rosalie Rapoport in memory of Rosalie’s mother and sister-in-law, Basia bas Ozer Lipa z’l and Baila bas Mordechai z’l

Molly Griner in memory of her mother, Miriam Pancer

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

SUBURBAN BASIC SECURITY TRAINING

Learn About
• Historical Events
• Lessons Learned
• Best Practices in Response

Be Prepared For
• An Emergency Situation
• Active Assailant Incidents

thesiyum.org

THURS 9/12
8:00pm

suburbanorthodox.org/event/security