

Friday 11th January 2019

Candle Lighting	6.45pm
Mincha	6.30pm
Maariv	6.45pm

Shabbat 12th January 2019

Shacharit	9.00am
Mincha	7.40pm
Maariv	8.52pm

A word from the Rabbi

THE HARDENING OF PHAROH'S HEART.

Something shifts in Paroh when we compare his response to Moshe in this week's parsha to last week's. Initially we are told that Paroh hardened his heart, this week we learn that that Hashem hardened Paroh's heart.

Hardening one's heart is the conscious act of stubbornly maintaining a particular position, in spite of all evidence to the contrary. In the beginning of the process Paroh arrogantly exercises his right of refusal, six plagues later, however, Hashem assists him; Paroh becomes immersed and addicted to the power.

How does Judaism justify punishing a person for crimes committed without free will?

Perhaps the question is premised on a faulty assumption; Hashem didn't take away Paroh's free will, rather He gave him free will. The plagues were taking their toll and Paroh was feeling the pressure. Popular opinion was against him, his own advisers were turning against him, and he had his back up against the wall.

Should he capitulate now, it would be a sign of weak-leadership; Moshe having bullied him into surrender. Hashem hardened Paroh's heart, leveling the playing field and granting him "choice" at a time when rationally he didn't have one.

Similarly most of us don't have free choice. This isn't because we are denied it, but rather because we have been conditioned to a certain way of thinking.

Free choice is learned and earned, not inherited. We all share the illusion of free choice, but until we understand the true mechanisms of our desires and our drive, can we ever really consider ourselves free?

Shabbat shalom

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov on your Bar/Bat Mitzvah Anniversary to:

Gabriella Chertkow

Jenna Chertkow

Kyron Israelsohn

Joel Kahan

Rodney Kenner

Basil Melnick

Brad Milner

Ron Ozen

Mark Reinhardt

Gary Sher

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov on your Wedding Anniversary to:

Trevan and Delene Blumberg

Mark and Karen Chazan

Avrom and Desire Gamaroff

Ilan and Nicole Grauman

Trevor and Elaine Lorge

Michael and Fay Padowich

Mark and Jodi Rosenberg

Hilton and Linda Rosenthal

George and Yvonne Rosettenstein

Hedley and Beverley Sandler

Ian and Cheryl Singer

Gary and Robyn Weinberg

Peter and Leah Zinn

We wish long life to the following Members who commemorate Yartzeit this week:

Debritu Alemeneh

for her sister

Inbar Adane

Michelle Segal and

Pam Sher

for their father

Albert Amdur

Rael Awerbuch

for his mother

Lilleen Awerbuch

Lovelle Israelsohn

for her father

Bennie Bloch

Yvonne Rosettenstein

for her father

Nathan Cohen

Howard Coleman

for his mother

Rachel Coleman

Maurice Cornofsky

for his mother

Bertha Cornofsky

Robyn Cohen

for her brother

Gavin Hill

Hilton Kilov

for his father

Jacob Kilov

Bertie Miller

for her husband

Harold Miller

Bernice Jacobs and

Melanie Shulman

for their father

Harold Miller

Melvin Miller

for his brother

Ivan Miller

Julian Miller

for his mother

Jeanette Miller

Joan Gild

for her mother

Dvorah Rabie

Mary Blumgart

for her father

Daniel Scher

Daniel Segal

for his mother

Eva Segal

Linda Rosenthal

for her mother

Sheila Yudaken