



SUMMER
5776/2016

G E S H E R

Washington Heights Congregation

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A Message From The Rabbi ...

Torah: A Summertime Activity?

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman


Most people, if asked to summarize the **תוכחה**, the ominous section of Parshas Bechukosai, would probably say something like “if you fail to observe the Torah, there will be terrible consequences for the Jewish people.” However, the truth is that it is not simply a failure to observe. The Torah describes the precondition for receiving the punishments of the **תוכחה** as: “If you listen not unto me and do not all these commandments, if you reject my statutes and spurn my laws, not to do all my commandments and to negate my covenant.”

Our Sages point out that this repetitiveness is telling us that we are not dealing with a failure to observe the commandments out of laziness or temptation. As bad as that may be, it does not precipitate our receiving the curse of the **תוכחה**. That is caused by a more fundamental step-by-step degradation of our relationship with God.

Rabbenu Bechaye, a 13th-century Spanish commentator, basing himself on earlier Midrashic sources, charts the progression very smoothly. Each of the seven phrases of these verses refers to a specific phase of our falling out with our Creator. The first stage, “if you listen not unto me,” refers not to “listen” as a synonym for “obey,” but as “if you do not stop and hear what I have to say.” The first step in the descent towards “nullifying the covenant” and denying the Creator is a failure to learn Torah and experience God’s speaking to us.

The importance of education is paramount – just look at how the level of observance in America has increased with the level of Jewish education. Ignorance is unsustainable – even if one is observant by rote, without knowledge one cannot stand in awe of the breadth and depth of the legal system with which the Jewish people has grappled since time immemorial, and thus be comfortable with one’s relationship with Judaism and God.

During the summer, we are very busy with leisure and encounter more temptations to indulge our senses rather than our souls. During this time, we must redouble our efforts to make sure to study a bit of

Torah every day. This ensures that even if we have periods of spiritual lows, we will be able to pick ourselves right back up and keep our relationship with God on track. 

Shul Events:

June 4, Yom Yerushalayim lunch. We celebrated Yom Yerushalayim with a very well-attended and festive Shabbat lunch. **Rabbi Yosef Blau**, Senior Mashgiach Ruchani at Yeshiva and Stern Colleges and President of the Religious Zionists of America (Hapoel HaMizrachi American branch), spoke about “Recapturing Jerusalem: Celebration or Controversy?”. The excellent food came from K-Grill in Riverdale. Special thanks to **Morris Whitcup** and, as always, **Ilse Gruenspecht**.

June 5, Memorial service for Ira Schatten o"n. There was a memorial service to mark the shloshim of our long-time member **Ira Schatten o"n**. **Pinny Bulman** read his own and his father's poetry and introduced the other speakers, who were **Rabbi Hoffman, Rabbi Bloch, Elan Rieser, Rabbi Neil Fleischmann, Freda Birnbaum, David Sclar, Ira Saiger**, who read a message from **Bob Wolf** as well as spoke about his own memories, Ira Schatten's sister **Marlene**, Ira Schatten's three daughters, **Sandy, Debbie**, and **Rebecca**, and **Alma**. It was a special tribute that meant a great deal to the many people who attended. The Schatten family would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy.

Shavuot. As we have for the past few years, we had shiurim before and after mincha on both days of Shavuot. **Rabbi Ezra Schwartz, Dr. Rivka Schwartz, Dr. David Sclar**, and **Rabbi Hoffman** spoke very interestingly. And we all enjoyed the cheesecake at the kiddushes!

If you have any questions or needs,
please call the Shul office at **(212) 923-4407**
The answering machine is checked frequently.
You may also consult our website at **www.bridgeshul.com**

מזל טוב / Congratulations

To **Shmuel & Chavie Kadosh** on the birth of twin girls, **Aliza Maytal** and **Rivka Maayan**

To **Sonya Jacobs** on the wedding of a granddaughter **Yehudis Greenwald** to **Danny Krasna**, the engagement of a grandson **Yitzi Horowitz** to **Sara Brownstein**, and the graduation of one grandchild from medical school and two from college

To **Ada Maccabee** on the birth of a grandson

To **Dvora Hersh** on the birth of a grandson to **Boruch & Ilanit Hersh**

To **Meir & Mira Weiss** on the birth of a son

Welcome New Members:

Ruthie & David Skochil

Meir & Mira Weiss

Kiddush Sponsors:

Pesach: Thanks to **Giti Hoffman**, we had kiddushes with mezonot throughout the yom tov!

May 7, Parashat Achrei Mot: **Margot Fein**

May 14, Parashat Kedoshim: **Laura & Morris Whitcup**, in honor of Yom HaAtzmaut

May 21, Parashat Emor: **Sonya Jacobs** on the marriage of her granddaughter **Yehudis Greenwald** to **Daniel Krasna**, the engagement of her grandson **Yitzi Horowitz** to **Sara Brownstein**, the graduations of three of her grandchildren, and the yahrzeit of her mother **Dora Steierman** o”h

May 28, Parashat Behar: **Margot Fein** on the yahrzeit of her mother **Sylvia Fein** o”h

June 11, Parashat Bamidbar: on the first yahrzeit of **Dulcie Zirkind** o"h, sponsored by her friends **Freda Birnbaum, Shuli Berger & Jai Zion, Margot Fein, Carla Hanauer, Bernice Katz, Tehila Rieser,** and **Sue-Rae Rosenfeld**

June 18, Parashat Naso: **Laura & Morris Whitcup** on the yahrzeit of Morris's father **Jacob Whitcup** (Yisroel Yaakov ben Shalom Shachne Halevi) o"h

If you are interested in sponsoring a Kiddush, please call the Shul office **(212) 923-4407**

תפילה / Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery

Sheva Shtaygrud

Condolences to:

Condolences to **Alma** and the entire **Schatten family** on the loss of **Ira Schatten** o"h

May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

The Eruv

Information about the boundaries of the Washington Heights and YU Eruvin can be found at http://images.shulcloud.com/131/attachments/6279_DOC082112-003.pdf.

Note that the eruv does not extend into Fort Tryon Park or Gorman Park.

Find the CURRENT STATUS of both eruvim at <http://www.mtsinaishul.com/>, or call 646-450-ERUV, or send a text message (SMS) to 412-213-8991. If only the YU eruv is listed as unchecked, check www.yueruv.org closer to Shabbat, or listen to announcements in shul on Friday night.

Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

Summer 5776

“Greeting the Shabbat Bride: Meditations on Lecha Dodi”
a shiur about its language and themes given by **Elan Rieser**,
meets 30 minutes before mincha every Friday

SHABBAT PARASHAT

NASSO

JUNE 17-18

Earliest Candle Lighting	7:01
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:12
Shacharit (note time)	8:30
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:21

SHABBAT PARASHAT

BEHA'ALOTCHA

JUNE 24-25

Earliest Candle Lighting	7:02
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:20*
Candle Lighting	8:13
Shacharit (note time)	8:35
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:22

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM

PARASHAT SH'LACH

JULY 1-2

Earliest Candle Lighting	7:02
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:20*
Candle Lighting	8:13
Shacharit (note time)	8:35
Mincha	8:10
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:21

SHABBAT PARASHAT

KORACH

JULY 8-9

Earliest Candle Lighting	7:01
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:11
Shacharit	8:40

Mincha 8:10

Maariv/Shabbat ends 9:18

SHABBAT PARASHAT

CHUKAT

JULY 15-16

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:58
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15*
Candle Lighting	8:08
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:05
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:14

SHABBAT PARASHAT

BALAK

JULY 22-23

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:54
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:10*
Candle Lighting	8:03
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	8:00
Maariv/Shabbat ends	9:07

FAST OF 17 TAMMUZ

(DEFERRED)

JULY 24 (SUN)

Fast begins	3:50
Fast ends	8:57

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM

PARASHAT PINCHAS

JULY 29-30

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:49
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05*
Candle Lighting	7:56
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:55
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:59

SHABBAT PARASHAT MATOT-MASEI

AUGUST 5-6

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:43
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:20
Candle Lighting	7:48
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:45
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:50

SHABBAT HAZON PARASHAT DEVARIM

AUGUST 12-13

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:35
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15
Candle Lighting	7:39
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	TBA
Fast begins	7:52
Shabbat ends	8:40
Maariv	9:05

TISHA B'AV AUGUST 14

Shacharit	8:20
Chatzot	1:00
Fast ends	8:30

SHABBAT NACHAMU PARASHAT VAETCHANAN

AUGUST 19-20

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:27
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15
Candle Lighting	7:29
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:25
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:29

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT EIKEV

AUGUST 26-27

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:18
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15
Candle Lighting	7:19
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:15
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:17

ROSH CHODESH ELUL SHABBAT RE'EH

SEPTEMBER 2-3

Candle Lighting	7:07
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:05
Maariv/Shabbat ends	8:05

SHABBAT PARASHAT SHOFTIM

SEPTEMBER 9-10

Candle Lighting	6:56
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:50
Maariv/Shabbat ends	7:53

SHABBAT PARASHAT KI TEITZEI

SEPTEMBER 16-17

Candle Lighting	6:44
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:50
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:40
Maariv/Shabbat ends	7:41

SHABBAT PARASHAT KI TAVO

SEPTEMBER 23-24

Candle Lighting	6:32
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:40
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:30
Maariv/Shabbat ends	7:29

SHABBAT PARASHAT NITZAVIM

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 1

Candle Lighting	6:20
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:30
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:15
Maariv/Shabbat ends	7:17

*For those whose families daven with the shul's minyan, candles should be lit no later than 25 minutes after Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat starts

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