



Chatam News and Notes

Shabbos Parshas Ki Sisa

March 14 - 18 Adar 5780

Friday Night

Mincha..... 12:21 (Main Minyan), 5:30 (MM+Upstairs)
Candle Lighting 5:25

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 7:45 (MM), 8:30 (UP)
Sof zman krias shema 8:50
Minchah..... 1:00 (MM), 5:15 (MM)
Seudah Shlishis after Mincha
Shkiah 5:48
Maariv/Havdalah 6:25 (MM)

Shabbos Shiurim

Men

Daf Yomi (English, Rav Stein) one hour before Shacharis
Halachah (English, Rav Stein) after Shacharis
Daf Yomi (English, Dr. Kasser) 4:15
Avos uBonim 7:30 (motzaei Shabbos)

Women

Parshas haShavua (English, Mrs. Gilbert) 3:30

Sponsorships

Looking to find a meaningful way to honor a loved one's yahrzeit, celebrate a birthday or siyum, or just be part of our dynamic community? Consider a sponsorship!

This week, avos uBonim is sponsored by Gershon Tobias in honor of his father's yahrzeit, פסח בן גרשון הלוי ז"ל.

This week, sponsorships are still available for the upstairs' kiddush for 250 NIS (contact Avigail Manheim for details) and seudah shlishis for 200 NIS (contact Dov Kurz for details).

Mazel Tov

Mazel tov to Eli and Miriam Har-Even on the birth of a baby boy.

Mazel tov to Mordechai and Robyn Lehrer on the upcoming bris milah of their son. Special mazel tov to the proud grandmother, Hilary Lehman.

Condolences

Condolences to the Fish family on the passing of their grandmother, פערל איטה פנינה ז"ל. May the family be comforted among the mourners of Tzion and Yerushalayim.

Thank you

Thank you to Pnina Aronson for her dedication to the Chatam Purim mishloach manos fundraiser, and thank you to the men who participated in deliveries: Alan Abrahams, Avi Block, Baruch Bodner, Hadar Crown, Guy Forer, Eli Har-Even, Tuvia Gilbert, Sanford Kadish, Asher Kassel, Moshe Kasser, Lev Kempner, Herb Krantman, Meir Joseph, Eli Julian, Abraham Levenglick, David Levitt, David Manheim, Michael Markowitz, Ahron Mizrahi, Asaf Naymark, Reuven Pokroy, Yehuda and Deena Roller, Avraham Ruder, Reuven Sumner, and Meir Tulkoff.

Message from R' Stein

We are all concerned about corona virus, but this is not the time for panic and hysteria. We will aim for a renewed feeling of closeness with the Ribono shel Olam in three ways: (1) We must follow exactly the directives of misrad habriut. Shaking hands should be avoided. (2) Plagues come to the world because of sins that are punishable by death such as chilul Shabbos. We should strengthen our observance of Shabbos. (3) In a dangerous situation, we must pray.

If we do these three things the Ribono Shel Olam will surely see we are trying and send us the yeshua we are all waiting for.

Dvar Torah by Dr. Kasser

This week's parsha details Bnei Yisrael's greatest national sin, one that redefined our relationship with G-d and our very existence on this earth. There were certainly elements of idol worship entailed in the sin of the Golden Calf, but not all were guilty of this sin. Indeed, those who were witnessed worshipping and were warned were killed by the sword, those who were witnessed worshipping but were not warned died by plague, and those that worshipped with no witnesses quickly wasted away after drinking the water containing the pulverized Golden Calf. Thus, all who were truly guilty of idol worship were quickly culled from the herd, but the problems created by the sin were much longer lasting (indeed, there is no punishment that does not have some element of payback for this sin in it, see 32:34). Even after judging all idol worshippers, Moshe again needs to go to Hashem to seek forgiveness for the nation (32:30-2). There seems to be an underlying problem, other than idol worship, that was the sin of the entire nation.

A likely place to understand the underlying issue would be to examine the consequences of the sin as well as their remediation (for those that have been remediated). As a result of the sin of the Golden Calf:



Elevator Campaign

We have raised 240,000 out of the 300,000 needed towards the elevator campaign! If you would like to help, please donate by giving a check made out to Chatam to David Levitt or by making a bank transfer to Bank HabeiNeumi (31), snif Rechovot (029), account number: 409644544, account name: Chatam. All donations are tax-deductible and are considered maaser. For questions, contact Shira Kasser.



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Dvar Torah (continued)

(1) Moshe broke the first luchos, which were written by the finger of G-d; these were later replaced by the second luchos which were written by Moshe Rabbeinu. (2) G-d sent an angel to lead us into the Land of Israel as opposed to leading us Himself; this punishment was deferred by Moshe until the leadership was transferred to Yehoshua. (3) Bnei Yisrael removed their eidim (33:6); these will be returned with the coming of Moshiach (see below). (4) Moshe moved his tent (termed the ohel moed) to outside the camp; the ohel moed was restored to the middle of the camp when G-d allowed His shechina to dwell in the mishkan. (5) Temple service duties were permanently transferred from the firstborns to the tribe of Levi. This seems to be a hodgepodge of punishments; what is the underlying theme? Perhaps the answer lies in the most enigmatic consequence, the loss of our eidim.

“R. Simai expounded, the moment that Bnei Yisrael preceded ‘na’aseh’ to ‘nishma’, 60,000 angles came down and tied two crowns around each Jew’s head, one for ‘na’aseh’ and one for ‘nishma’. Once Bnei Yisrael sinned, 120,000 angles came down and removed those crowns . . . Says R. Yochanan, ‘Moshe merited to take all of them, as the next verse says, ‘and Moshe took his tent (33:7)’. Reish Lakish said that ‘G-d will return them to us in the future, as it says, ‘G-d will return the captives and they will come to Zion in song, with the happiness of ages on their heads.’ This refers to [the eidim,] a joy that they previously had on their heads” (Shabbat 88a).

These eidim (crowns), were a manifestation of our ability to say ‘na’aseh venishma.’ Key to this is the ability to intuit G-d’s will, to act before listening. If your 4-year-old runs to bake a cake before listening to instructions, the cake is probably not going to turn out well. To act before receiving instruction requires an incredibly close connection to G-d. Bnei Yisrael thought they were on this level, but when they were faced with their first challenge (Moshe Rabbeinu is late, who will lead?) they used this license to make a historically awful selection for a replacement. This demonstrated they (but not Moshe) were unfit to wear this crown and have this license. Accordingly, G-d changes the rules, limiting our license as to how to connect to G-d by clearly defining the terms of the relationship. No longer can we be trusted to live a life free from limitations of death, taxes, and oppressive nations (i.e. life under the first luchos) as we require the rehabilitative guidance of punishments and galus to correct the ship route when we stray off course. Similarly, we cannot be trusted too with a miraculous existence where G-d directly provides our physical needs, as occurred in the desert when we were led directly by G-d. G-d also forced a temporary separation (Moshe moving his tent outside of the camp) until the mishkan, with its clear and uncompromising rules of how to worship G-d, was established. Similarly, instead of having every other family with a son personally involved in Temple service, you can, at best, be a bystander, watching others bring your personal sacrifice.

By selecting (or enabling) the sin of the Golden Calf, Bnei Yisrael showed they were incapable of handling the responsibility of נעשה ונשמע and consequently lost the privileges associated with this lofty level. May we regain our lost crowns speedily in our days!

Tefillah During the Week

Shacharis..... Su-F, 6:30 (6:15 on Rosh Chodesh and fast days)
 Minchah Su-Th, 12:30
 Maariv Su-Th, 9:00

Shiurim During the Week

Day – Men

Daf Yomi (English, Rav Stein)..... Su-F, one hour before Shacharis
 Halachah (English, Rav Stein) Su-Th, 10:00-10:30
 Daf Yomi blyun (English, bChavrusah & Rav Stein) Su-Th, 10:30-12:30
 Halacha (English, Rav Stein) F, 11:15-12:00

Night – Men

Daf Yomi (English, Dr. Kasser) Su-Th, 8:00-9:00
 Mesechta Beitzah (English, bChavrusah & Rav Ashenberg)... Su-Th, 8:00-9:00
 Mishlei (English, Rav Stein) Su, 8:15-9:00
 Shaarei Teshuva (English, Rav Stein) Su, 9:15-10:00
 Mesechta Beitzah (Hebrew, Rav Hakarmi) M&Th, 9:15-10:00

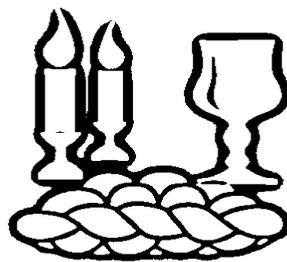
Night – Women

Hilchos Tefilla (English, Rav Ashenberg) Su, 8:10-9:10

Memberships

We are now offering higher membership levels in order to ensure that our community can be provided with the highest level of education and programming.

If you are interested in using your ma'aser money to help make sure Chatam stays financially viable in years to come by joining at a higher membership level, please contact Shira Kasser.



שבת שלום!