

8th Shevat 5770/23rd January 2010

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Emeritus Chazan: Rev. Moshe Dubiner

Parashat Bo

	Hertz	Cohen	Stone	Gutnick		
						Shabbat 4.17pm
Sedra	248	377	340	398		Shabbat ends 5.25pm
Haftarah	263	404	1151	1403		

FREE WILL, PHAROAH AND US

(From the Dvar Torah given by last week's Bar Mitzvah, Charles Becker)

God brought ten plagues upon Egypt.

For the first five plagues, Pharaoh, by his own will, refused to let the Israelites go. Pharaoh hardened his own heart and was therefore responsible for his own stubbornness.

For the last five plagues, we learn that it was God who hardened Pharaoh's heart. On the surface, God appears to act unjustly as it seems that Pharaoh was forced to act as God had pre-programmed him to act. A deeper understanding however, reveals a profound truth about Pharaoh's behaviour.

If Pharaoh had told Moses after the fourth or fifth plague that the Israelites were free to go, he may have changed his mind at the last minute and prevented the Jews from leaving. So God hardened Pharaoh's heart after the fifth plague which made him even more obstinate than he had been before.

After the killing of the first born, Pharaoh got to the point where he had no more fight left in him. He had no choice but to surrender to Moses' demands. God forced Pharaoh to reach the point where his recognition of God and of God's absolute power would be permanent and enduring.

Today it is popular to see our behaviour as pre-determined. When we behave improperly, we often claim that we are the victims of our genes, or of our nature.

Or we may claim that we are victims of some inner drives that have been preset and are out of our control. It is easy to say that we are not responsible for our behaviour.

Are we free agents acting according to our own free will? Has God decided in advance what our behaviour and our actions will be? Does this make us like actors in a play speaking the line God has already written for us?

Judaism teaches us that we humans do have free will. This means that we can act according to our good inclination or our evil inclination.

In the beginning, the evil inclination is like a spider web. It is easy to step out of its grasp. But after a while, it becomes like a heavy rope and it becomes difficult to get back on the right track.

Improper behaviour begins as an impulse. Then after some time, it becomes a habit. Soon habit becomes part of our character. Then it becomes part of our nature.

At this point, it is extremely difficult to change course and get back on the right track. It is much easier to play victim and say:

"God made me that way."

We all need to understand, resist and work hard not to fall into this trap which is absolutely of our doing and not God's.

We need to listen to our good inclination.

We should not, like Pharaoh, wait for a tragedy to occur to bring us to our senses.

Shabbat Shalom

Charles Jack Becker

Next Shabbat - Beshalach

29th—30th January 2010

Commences 4.29pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 4.30m

Announcements

We welcome all the families of the Cheder who are attending the special Friday night service and dinner

Kiddush Sponsor

Mazal Tov to Barbara & Stanley Green who invite the congregation to Kiddush after the service to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Before today's Musaf service there will be a special talk given by Admiral Abraham Ben-Shoshan (Res), former Commander in Chief of the Israeli Navy, on Iran's involvement in global terror with Hamas and Hizbullah and piracy in the Red Sea

Breakfast Sponsor

Breakfasts this week are kindly sponsored by Pearl & Stewart Cohen to celebrate Stewart's birthday

Birth Announcement

Mazal Tov to Gillian & John Fenner on the birth of a grandson, Aaron Joseph and to parent Deborah & Adam Fenner

Birthdays—Mazal Tov to:

Gideon Schmidt	Alexander Gold
Joanne Remo	Adam Cedar
Sean Gorvy	Agness Lee
Clive Truman	Antoinette Soning
Edgar Astaire	Esther Osband
Teddie Reitman	Vera Ross

Wedding Anniversary—Mazal Tov

Claudia & Jonathan Plaut
Yvonne & Ervin Landau

Refuah Shlemah

Nat Winsor	Noach Ben Chanoch
H.W	Chaim Shlomo ben Manshi Hacohen
Seymour Freed	Shmuel Zeev ben Sara Rivka
Gala Colover	Chana bat Yehudit
M.A.	Devorah bat Yocheved

Condolences

To the family of Hannah Ross z"l on her passing

Friday 22nd January

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by Ervin Landau
4.15 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & D'var Torah with Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Shabbat 23rd January

- 8.45 am Shiur with Stanley Simmonds
9.15 am Shacharit
Talk with Admiral Abraham Ben-Shosham (res.)
4.15 pm Mincha, followed by Seudah Shlishit & D'var Torah with Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld
5.25 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Sunday 24th January

- 8.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and D'Var Torah
10.00 am Cheder **Aged 4—12 years.** Contact Rabbi Rosenfeld for further information on 07811202244 or email rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk

Monday 25th January

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah by Michael Milston
10.30 am Ladies Shiur with Rabbi Lionel

Tuesday 26th January

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Shiur by Rabbi Yosef Vogel

Wednesday 27th January

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Parsha Shiur by Ervin Landau

Thursday 28th January

- 7.30am Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah by Bernard Silver

Friday 29th January

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur by Ervin Landau

Mincha & Ma'ariv through the week
Sun 24th —Thurs 28th January 4.15pm

Kiddush Rota

Linda Sharpe, Avril Jaque, Diana Black

You can contact Rabbi Lionel & Natalie Rosenfeld at rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk
Tel: 020 7535 0458, mobile: 07811202244

Our Website: For details of times of services and events, go to www.marblearch.org.uk

Hearing Assistive Loop System

The Synagogue is pleased to have installed a loop system for the benefit of hearing aid users. Please set your hearing aid to the 'T' setting to access this service

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Rabbi Rosenfeld's Monday Shiur for Ladies

Next Shiur Monday 25th January at 10.30am

GCSE Judaism 1-Year Course for Teenagers

Rabbi Rosenfeld's GCSE Judaism Course takes place every Thursday. Teenagers wishing to enrol should contact Rabbi Lionel by email: rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk or phone the office on 020 7723 9333

Adult Education & Cultural Event— Date for your Diary:

Monday February 8th 2010 at 7.45pm

Well known Scholar-in-Residence at the London Jewish Cultural Centre Clive Lawton on: "Is the rest of the world a *Jewish* concern?"

Saturday Night/Sunday 27th—28th February 2010—Purim Celebrations in conjunction with Central Synagogue

Saturday night 27th February: Megillah reading and bumper party celebration at WMA

Sunday 28th February: Megillah Reading and festive breakfast at Central

Sunday 28th February: children's party at WMA

Full details to follow, but make a note in your diary

Yadgaroff Library

The Yadgaroff Library is open every day for those wishing to study or browse the fine selection of books.

Sponsoring an Event

If you are celebrating a Simchah or commemorating a family Yahrzeit or if you are just feeling generous please consider contacting the office and sponsoring a Shabbat Morning Kiddush, the Morning Minyan breakfasts or the weekly Newsletter.

Newsletter Articles

We have had some very interesting articles that have been written by members in the past and we would like to have more. If you have a story to tell then why not publish it? The article should be around 450 words and be emailed to the office.