

16th Sivan 5770/29th May 2010

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Parashat Beha'alotcha

Hertz Cohen Stone Gutnick

Sedra	605	838	774	910
Haftarah	620	857	1182	1449



Shabbat 8.49pm
Shabbat ends 10.07pm

Wisdom v Gossip

At the beginning of this week's Torah reading, the 11th Cent. French Torah commentator Rashi asks, "Why is the subject of the Menorah (the 7-branched candelabra) placed to follow on the account of the Nesi'im (the Princes who dedicated the Tabernacle at the end of last week's Sidra Naso)? He answers: "Aaron the High Priest was upset that his tribe of Levi had not been given a role in the ceremony of the Princes. G-d therefore told him, "Your share is greater than theirs, for you light and prepare the menorah." The Ramban (Nachmanides of the 13th C) ascribes this reply, meant to console Aaron, to a promise of a future Temple dedication by Aaron's descendants, the Hasmoneans, after the miracle of Chanukah, thereby meriting forever the honour of having established the mitzvah of the Chanukah lights.

Rabbi Joseph Ber Soloveitchik (1903-1993) takes a different approach. "How was it that Aaron was bothered in the first place? Was it not his job to offer upon the altar the sacrifices that the other tribes brought? Why did he feel shut out?" He quotes Moses Maimonides: "One may not bring a private incense offering on the inner altar." Yet says the Rav, the Princes were given a special exemption to do just that, to bring a special, private incense offering. Aaron, for all his personal offerings, was never afforded this opportunity. He was only permitted to bring a voluntary sin-offering, but it was not accompanied by incense. Seeing the privilege given to the Princes, Aaron realised his limitation and was distressed. G-d therefore placated him with the menorah, the lighting of which is intrinsically tied to the mitzvah of offering the incense (in keeping with the verse, "When Aaron lights the lamps, he shall bring the incense up in smoke"). Thus the lighting of the menorah accomplishes two things: the actual mitzvah of the lighting, and the completion of the incense offering. If the incense is brought without the menorah being lit, the mitzvah is lacking. So G-d tells Aaron, "Yours is greater than theirs", for only through his lighting the menorah, therefore, was the incense offering of the Princes complete.

What is this bond between the incense and the menorah? Why is one dependent on the other? The answer is found in this week's Torah reading. At the beginning of Naso, Bnai Yisrael were about to enter the Land of Canaan. But this Parshah ends with a sense of impending gloom. What happened to the dream of entering the Land? What caused this change? Dreams, the Talmud tells us, follow the interpretations they are given. If a positive spin is given, a positive result will unfold, and, G-d forbid, vice versa. The Jews of the desert were fulfilling a dream. They had plenty of positive factors to focus on, but spoke only of the worst. Their petty complaints among themselves progressed to *Lashon Hara* - speaking disparagingly about Moses, and culminated (in next week's Parsha) with the spies speaking adversely about the Holy Land. If you look for the worst, you will always find it -even in Moses and the Land of Israel. The Jews lost the dream and died in the desert.

So in order to guide us away from similar mistakes, the Parsha begins with the mitzvah of Menorah, which is the symbol of wisdom. The incense, the Talmud tells us, was offered to atone for speaking *Lashon Hara* in private. But, as noted above, the incense offering was not complete without the prior lighting of the menorah. Only through wisdom will the atonement for *Lashon Hara* be complete. As King Solomon states in *Eishet Chayil*, the tribute to the optimal woman: "She opens her mouth in wisdom."

We must have the foresight to understand that speaking wisely, even in private, is the only remedy for *Lashon Hara*. Private discussions often become public knowledge. Petty complaints and gossip, which mean nothing at first, can lead to disaster.

This is a lesson for all of us -it applies at home, at work, and in the synagogue too. If we adopt this principle, then our 'offerings' - our prayers - for success in all areas of life will be rewarded by the lighting of our internal menorah, the flame that burns in each of us.

Shabbat Shalom.

(Based on a D'var Torah by Rabbi Shlomo Krupka of Congregation Etz Chaim, New Jersey)

Next Shabbat - Shelach-Lecha

4th—5th June 2010

Commences 8.57pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 7.15pm

Announcements

Friday Night Live

We welcome all the participants in our Friday night service and dinner

Kiddush Sponsor

Ruth & Albere Rouach invite the congregation to Kiddush after the service to commemorate the Yahrzeit of Albere's sister Esther Rouach z"l

Breakfast Sponsor

Breakfasts for the morning Minyan this week are kindly sponsored by Geoffrey Melamet a member of our morning Minyan

Seudah Shlishit Sponsor

Seudah Shlishit is kindly sponsored for the 4th week by Joseph Shavleyan, of our weekday Minyan, to mark the Yahrzeit of his brother Ben Chur ben Gershon z"l

Birthdays—Mazal Tov to:

Jakov Rosenzweig	Raphael Shmuel
Andre Khodari	Daniel Remo
James Remo	George Goldberg
Theodore Rayden	Kiera Newmark
Jessica Truman	Elleanor Sprei
Alexander Balcombe	Mark David
Katie Shmuel	Ophir Shmuel
Damian Soning	Amanda Ronson
Jonathan Plaut	Carolyn Mishon
Stephen Factor	Michael Goodman
Francoise Winton	John Slade
Jonathan Lassman	Gillian Fenner
Selwyn Midgen	Morris Keston
Janine Ingram	Phyllis Howard
Gladys Daniels	

Wedding Anniversaries— Mazal Tov

Annabelle & Mark Sorrell
Fiona & Gabriel Stein
Rica & Wade Newmark
Maureen & Michael Redman Schaffer

Refuah Shleimah

Father of Rita Woolf	Ezra ben Rosa
Samuel Djanogly	Hayeled Shmuel Gad Asher ben Esther Chanah
Leonard Roodyn	Chaim Eliezer ben Malka
Seymour Freed	Shmuel Zeev ben Sara Rivka
Gala Colover	Chana bat Yehudit
M.A.	Devorah bat Yocheved
Tilly Rosenblatt	Golda Esther bat Rivka Rachel

Condolences

To Ruth Hanbury and family on the passing of her father Eric Rayman z"l
To Robert Davis and family on the passing of his sister Susan Grundman z"l

Friday 28th May

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

Shabbat 29th May

- 8.45 am Shiur with Stanley Simmonds
9.15 am Shacharit
9.00 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit & D'var Torah by Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld
10.07 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Sunday 30th May

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

Monday 31st May—Bank Holiday

- 8.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah by Michael Milston

Tuesday 1st June

- 7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah by Rabbi Yosef Vogel

Wednesday 2nd June

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

Thursday 3rd June

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

Friday 4th June

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

Mincha & Ma'ariv through the week
Sun 30th May— Thurs 3rd June 7.15pm

Western Marble Arch Synagogue has disabled facilities

Rabbi Rosenfeld wishes to thank all of you who contributed to his 10k run last Sunday, 23rd May, on behalf of Jewish Blind and Disabled. At the time of writing you have raised £4,200 for this charity. He completed the run (on a very hot day) in 65 minutes

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Monday Shiur for Ladies

Next Shiur Monday 7th June at 10.30am - will be given by Stanley Simmonds

Thursday 3rd June at 10.00am. Tiny Tot Thursdays for Yummy Mummies

Come along to our new playground for 0—3 years and meet new friends. Toys, music and refreshments will be provided.

Shabbat 4th/5th June—Scholar in Residence Rabbi Seth Ferber

Rabbi Ferber is described as "modern, intelligent and very active to fight extremism". He has his own congregation in Ra'anana and is head of the Israeli Charity ITIM which provides assistance to those secular Israelis who want an understanding of and access to the Jewish life cycle

Sunday 13th June 11.00am Annual General Meeting in the Bloomstein Hall

Please join us as there are number of important issues to be voted on, including the extension of postal voting

Tuesday 22nd June 2pm—5pm The Archers 'Midsummer Madness'

An afternoon of Old Time Music Hall - featuring The Top Hat Players and a bumper tea, sponsored by the Israel Discount Bank. Join us with your friends for what will be a most enjoyable afternoon

Rosh Hashanah Brochure 2010

Please let the office have copies of articles of interest and your favourite recipes (in word format) for inclusion in this year's brochure.

Our Growing Cheder at Western Marble Arch Sundays 10.00am-12.30pm

Last week in cheder the children learnt about kashrut and the ideas of keeping meaty and milky. They also learnt what foods are deemed kosher. The children continued to enjoy their weekly classes involving Hebrew reading and writing. If you would like to know more about Marble Arch Cheder please feel free to email marblearchcheder@hotmail.com

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It's all on www.marblearch.org.uk/marketplace

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