

25th Teveth 5771/1st January 2011.

Minister: Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld

Emeritus Chazan: Rev. Moshe Dubiner

Parashat Va'era

	Hertz	Cohen	Stone	Gutnick		
Sedra	232	351	318	372		Shabbat 3.46pm
Haftarah	244	372	1149	1400		Shabbat ends 4.56pm

How We Speak Can Make All The Difference

With all of the high drama found in this week's Torah portion, Moses and Pharaoh engaging in a fierce war of wits and the image of the powerful Egyptian empire reeling from the spectacular plagues that have pushed them to the brink of ruin, a critical idea may be lost in the excitement.

At the beginning of this week's Torah portion (Exodus 6:13) we find G-d issuing important instructions to Moses and Aaron as they set out to Pharaoh to ask for the release of the Jewish people. Rashi, the French 11th Century Torah commentator, quotes the Midrash where G-d instructs them to be very sensitive to accord Pharaoh the honour and respect due to a king, during their on-going and strained discourse with him. Imagine the events in Egypt as they unfold. Pharaoh refuses to heed the words of Moses. Egypt is deluged with plagues that shake its very foundation. Its infrastructure and economy are shattered, yet Pharaoh continues to scorn Moses, trivializing the man and his mission. He promises to release his hold on the Jewish people if Moses convinces G-d to put a halt to the plagues, yet, after Moses delivers, Pharaoh mockingly ignores his promises and acts as if nothing has happened. Although Moses is repeatedly slighted and will warn Pharaoh of events that will bring humiliation and ruin upon him and his kingdom, a fate he richly deserves, G-d has taught Moses that there is no justification in employing a choice of language and tone of voice not befitting a man of Pharaoh's position.

Indeed immediately following the plague of darkness, Pharaoh threatens Moses with death if he returns to the palace. Even Moses' patience appears to be wearing thin after this tongue-lashing by Pharaoh because the Torah describes Moses' exit from Pharaoh as "*bachori af*" – "*upset and angered*" (Ex.11:8). Yet Moses' parting words to Pharaoh are that the day will come when his servants will approach me in complete submission and implore me to take the Jews out of Egypt. Our sages teach that, in reality, Moses knew that it would be Pharaoh himself who would do the imploring, but to soften the impact of this indignity Moses told Pharaoh that it would be his servants who would beg him to go.

Rabbi Leib Chasman, a great exponent of *mussar* (Jewish ethics) in the early 20th century, says we learn a fundamental lesson from Moses' behaviour with Pharaoh: the honour and feelings of another human being are to be held sacred. If Pharaoh needed to be warned of impending plagues, so be it. If Pharaoh needed to be punished for his continued recalcitrance, so be it. However, all of Moses' dialogue with him, as well as what needed to be expressed, had to be within the context of preserving the honour and respect due to a king.

Says Rabbi Chasman: On occasion, we have to deliver stern words to our friends or family. Perhaps our children deserve a stiff reprimand because of misbehaviour. But let us not forget that our words must be instruments to express our concern, or to rehabilitate poor conduct; they should never become like missiles with lethal warheads that destroy self-esteem, shatter self-confidence, or inflict a searing pain which can hurt long after the reason for its infliction has dissipated.

Surely our friends and loved ones deserve at least the same measure of respect that G-d felt was due to a person such as Pharaoh!

Shabbat Shalom.

From a D'var Torah by Rabbi Shlomo Freundlich, Atlanta, USA

Next Shabbat - Bo

7th—8th January 2011

Commences 3.54pm Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat 4.00pm

Announcements

A warm welcome to Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks & Lady Elaine Sacks and to Rev. Ari Cohen & members of the West End Great Synagogue who will be with us this week

We thank our Kiddush Sponsor

Kathleen Slade invites the congregation to Kiddush after the service in memory of her sister Rifka bat Menachem, Irene Cowan z"l

Birthdays—Mazal Tov to:

Raphael Grunschlag	Lillian Harrison
Ronald Perelman	Irving Brecker
Raymond Zelker	Helen Cooper

Wedding Anniversary—Mazal Tov

Nathalie & Jonathan Esfandi
Norma & Selwyn Midgen
Augusta & Leonard Kaye
Sarah & Maurice Shore
Freda & Albert Harris

Refuah Shlemah

CM	Chaya Bella bat Esther
Renata Knobil	Mereleh bat Raizel Berel
Gemma Levine	Tsipora Chana bat Eliezer
Lisbeth Morgan	Chaya bat Miriam
Gala Colover	Chana bat Yehudit
M.A.	Devorah bat Yocheved

Arnold Lee	Sender Fayvish ben Rivka
Lewis Clein	Aharon ben Esther Halevi
Aitan Cobb	Yehudah Yonah ben Liba
	Aitan Gavriel ben Shulamit Aviva

Paul Simons	Pinchas ben Anita
Nat Winsor	Noah ben Miriam Chaya
Seymour Freed	Shmuel Zeev ben Sara Rivka
Alex Guberman	Natan ben Miriam
Benny Ollech	Ben Zion ben Yitta
Ivan Leon	Yitzhak Aryeh ben Sarah Leah

Friday 31st December

7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast & Haftarah Shiur

3.45 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat & D'var Torah by the Chief Rabbi

Shabbat 1st January

9.15 am Services led by Rev Ari Cohen of the West End Great Synagogue, Torah reading by Jeremy Davidson & **Sermon by the Chief Rabbi**

3.45 pm Mincha, followed by Seudah Shlishit & D'var Torah

4.56 pm Maariv & Havdalah

Sunday 2nd January

8.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and D'var Torah

Re-starts Cheder Aged 4—12 years. Contact Rabbi Lionel Rosenfeld for further information on 07811202244 or email rabbilr@marblearch.org.uk or Miriam Kaye marblearchcheder@hotmail.com

Monday 3rd January —Bank Holiday

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

Tuesday 4th January

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

Wednesday 5th January

7.30 am Shacharit followed by breakfast and Parsha Shiur

Thursday 6th January—Rosh Chodesh Shevat

7.15am Shacharit followed by breakfast & D'var Torah

Friday 7th January

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

Come and strengthen our Friday night and Shabbat Afternoon Minyanim

Mincha & Ma'ariv through the week
Sun 2nd—Thurs 6th January 3.45pm

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

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Winter Minyan Rota—

Gentlemen: Bernard Silver has sent you all an email message requesting your help in ensuring a Minyan for daily morning and afternoon services over the holiday period. Our Suburban and Israeli commuters are away, yet members still have to say Kaddish and have Yahrzeits. Please note times of services. Your help in this matter is not just a Mitzvah, it is a privilege of membership of our congregation.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Communal Dinner and Evening with Santa- Sebag Montefiore— 17th January 2011

In support of the charity Ovarian Cancer Action Funding research, raising awareness, giving a voice.
Reception 7.15pm, Dinner 7.45pm, £45 per head. Please call or email the office today to make your booking. 020 77239333, office@marblearch.org.uk

Choral Shabbat Weekend 21st—22nd January with Stephen Glass of Montreal

Make a note now to join us for Choral Friday night and Shabbat morning services

Bar & Bat Mitzvah Classes begin next term

Rabbi Rosenfeld begins a new once- weekly class for boys and girls a year away from their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, beginning January 2011. All interested families should contact him

ONGOING EVENTS

Rabbi Rosenfeld's Shiur for Ladies

Next Shiur Monday 10th January at 10.30am. Ladies who have not previously attended are most welcome.

Monday Mornings -Healing at WMA

Sonia Shalam continues with her healing sessions on Monday mornings. Please phone her on 07799353708 to book a session or for further information.

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.

Office hours over the Public Holidays

The office will close at 1.00pm on Friday 31st December reopening on Tuesday 4th January 2011 at 9.00am. **In cases of emergency only**, on the 2nd and 3rd January between 9.00am—12 noon please call 07981011007