

DAF TSAFON



19 June 2021
9 Tammuz 5781

Parasha Chukat
ArtScroll 838 Hertz 652

Parasha Chukat is one of the saddest portions of the year. We read of the passing of Miriam and Aharon and that Moses would not be allowed to enter the land of Israel.

Once again the People complain. As we have seen throughout the book of Bamidbar. "Why have you brought the congregation to this wilderness to die there, we and our animals? Why did you bring us up from Egypt to bring us to this evil place? This is not a place of seed or fig tree or grapevine or pomegranate tree; and there is no water to drink." [Bamidbar 20:4-5]

Moses somehow reacted inappropriately and this caused him to lose his opportunity to enter Eretz Yisrael. Why? Rabbi Simcha Zissel Broide, the famous head of the Yeishvat Hebron, offers an incredible insight, not only to our parasha but to our lives as well. He writes, according to the Rambam, the incident of Korach occurred right after the incident of the Spies. This means that all the events in Parasha Shelech and Korach occurred in the second year after the Exodus. However, Parasha Chukat occurred in the fortieth year after the Exodus, approximately thirty-eight years later. They were now on the threshold of entry into the Land of Israel.

All the troubles and complaints up until now occurred in the first eighteen months in the desert. However, the incident at Mei Meriva (the water incident) in Parasha Chukat occurred in year forty. Rabbi Broide asks, "What happened in between? How many sins were they involved in?" He answers that we see from the Mishna in Avot that for the thirty-eight intervening years, they were perfect. How do we know this? The Mishna [Avot 5:4] lists ten specific "challenges" that our forefathers tested God with in the wilderness and quotes the following verse as a source text for this number, "And they tested Me for these ten times" [Bamidbar 14:22]. The Gemara in Eruchin [15a] spells out what those ten challenges were: Two by the Sea, two involving the Manna, two with the Quail, two with Water, one with the Golden Calf, and one in Wilderness of Paran (the Spies). These all happened in the first year and a half, with the exception of Mei Meriva which happened at the very end. From this Mishna we see that in the intervening thirty-eight years, there were no challenges, no complaints, and the Jewish people behaved perfectly!

Rabbi Broide answers with a very important insight into human nature, which is very important for us to know, vis-a-vis ourselves and our children. Years One and Forty were years of transition. They were going from one stage into the next. They left Egypt, where they were slaves and shortly thereafter, they became a Divine Nation. The journey from the 49th level of impurity to receiving the Torah was a year of tremendous spiritual upheaval and transition in their lives. Now, on the verge of entering the Land of Israel, they also face traumatic transition. They were about to go from an existence of eating manna and drinking water that flowed from a rock to a normal existence, having to plant, and hoe, plough, and make business deals and take care of their families. Again they faced transition.

When a person is in a period of transition, he is not serene. When a nation goes through sudden change, they do not have peace of mind and are not at peace with themselves. This lack of calmness makes people vulnerable to make poor decisions and silly mistakes. Without serenity, people cannot make informed decisions.

The lesson Rav Simcha Zissel derives from this is that one must be extremely careful whenever entering a new situation in life, even if the change is a good change.

When things are changing and coming at a person from all directions, he lacks "yishuv ha'daas" [peace of mind] and in such situations, he must be particularly careful.

Shabbat Shalom
(Based on a drasha of Rabbi Yissachar Frand of Baltimore USA)

Haftarah **ArtScroll 1187** **Hertz 664**

JEPHTHAH DEFEATS THE AMMONITES Judges XI, 1-33

The Ammonites have oppressed Israel for eighteen years. (c. 1128-1110 B.C.E.). Jephthah, a renowned warrior, is recalled to Gilead by his half-brothers who had formerly spurned him, to lead the attack against the enemy and accepts, on condition, that he is appointed their permanent chief. He first tries to reach a settlement by peaceful means and on asking the Ammonite king the reasons for his attack receives the reply that it was because Israel 'took away my land when he came out of Egypt from Arnon even unto Jabbok'. Jephthah denies this claim and recalls how the Israelites in the wilderness had attacked the Amorites to whom this territory belonged. Setting out on his campaign Jephthah vows that, if successful, he will offer to God whosoever comes out of his house to meet him on his return. The Ammonites are heavily defeated.

מזל טוב
Wedding anniversary

Gerald and Linda Olstein

מזל טוב
Bat Mitzvah anniversary

Natalie Rom

COMING EVENT

THE NORTH SHORE SYNAGOGUE

The Harry Brunner Memorial Service

**Sunday, 20 June, 2021
3.00pm**

Harry, a jeweller and silversmith with skill and great pride,
made a model of our Bimah, now on permanent
display in our foyer.

The Memorial Service will mark the presentation of
Harry's beautiful piece to our shul and his involvement in and
contribution to our congregation over many decades.

ALL WELCOME!

**Our congregation acknowledges the following
yahrzeit anniversaries and wishes long life to those
who are commemorating a yahrzeit
during the coming week.**

חיים ארוכים

David Isaac Abeshouse	husband of Myrtle Abeshouse
Sheila Adelstein	mother of Stephen Adelstein and Barbara Adelstein
Paul Henry Balla	father of Audrey Balla and Sandra Levenston, grandfather of Michael Levenston
Benjamin Simon Braham	husband of Belinda Braham, father of Sophie Braham
Gertrude (Trudie) Collins	mother of Trevor Collins
Samuel Isaac Gersohn	father of Alan Gersohn
Daniel Leonard Herrman	brother of Jonathan Herrman
Lisa Hubner	mother of Judy Marks
Barbara Rachel Kamlade	sister of Norman Olbourne
Sandra Ruth Levy	sister of Jacob Levy
Etel Milch	mother-in-law of Sharon Milch and Ann Milch
Harry Miller	father of Jules Miller
Adrian Myers	husband of Marilyn Gould
Keith Neumegen	brother of Miriam Myers
Johan Petersen	father of Tina Van der Heyden
Fanny Weissman	grandmother of Ruth MacDonald
Rose Wineglass	mother of Emanuel Wineglass