



Ohr Yerushalayim News

ד' תשע"ד – פרשת בא – ג שבט תשע"ד – 4th January 2014 - Volume 6 - Issue 25

THE NEWS ... LATEST NEWS ... LATEST

מדל טוב

Mazel Tov to Mr & Mrs Shlomo Guttentag on the birth of a son. The Sholom Zochor takes place at 5 Brookside Drive, Salford.

Mazel Tov to Mr & Mrs Nathaniel Davidson on the birth of a daughter.

Kiddush This Shabbos

There will be a Kiddush this Shabbos after Davenning sponsored by Mr & Mrs Jitzchak Nager on the occasion of Shlomie's first rendition of Anim Zemiros.

Yarchei Kallah

Rabbi Danan outlined 3 core Pasukim on Tzedoka: Devorim 15:7-11, Vayikra 25:35-6 and Shemos 22:24.

Splitting into Chaburas we explored Shulchan Aruch and Gemoros and feedback to the wider group. Rabbi Danan will focus the next session on answering practical Shailas. email info@shaareihalacha.com

Rabbi Rubin candidly explained the 'Chinuch crisis' and posited solutions focusing on truly applying 'Al pi darcho'. The Shiur is available outline and is based on Chovas HaTalmidim by HaGaon Rav Kalonymus Kalmish Shapira, Rebbe of Piaseczna

Would you mind someone using your house – for free – while you're on holiday? Or sitting on the bonnet of your car? Dayan Bookman gave us much to think about and act upon in terms of mdos S'dom.

Zevulun's brocho was to go out from Eretz Yisroel on the high seas with merchandise. R Hassan, inspired by R. Tzaddok HaCohen, explored how this was indeed a brocho, and one Moshe blessed them to rejoice in (Devorim 33:18)

Opening with "Happy New Year", Dayan Westheim enthralled the olam with uncensored section of Shulchan Aruch and Gemoros to outline what this time of year means, and does not mean, to us and others.

The Shiurim are available for download via the online Shiurim section of the Shul website.

The third part of the Yarchei Kallah takes place on Sunday - see the back page for the schedule.

Rov's Ladies Shiur - Eruv Special

The Rov's Hilchos Shabbos Shiur takes place on Tuesday night at 9.30pm at his house, 48 Waterpark Road. The focus of this week's Shiur is the Halachos pertaining to the Eruv.

THE NEWS ... LATEST NEWS ... LATEST

Hidden Miracles

Rabbi Yissocher Frand (Torah.org)

The Ramban's Chumash commentary is a storehouse of fundamental Jewish philosophical beliefs. There is a famous Ramban at the end of Parshas Bo which explains why the Torah contains so many commandments that commemorate the Exodus. To name just a few T'fillin, Mezuzah, Pessach, Succah, and Kiddush are all "zecher l'yetzias Mitzrayim".

The Ramban explains that the Exodus set the record straight and debunked all the myths that were prevalent in the world. Some argued that the Master of the Universe did not exist. Others admitted that there was a Creator, but after Creation, He decided not to have anything to do with the world anymore. Still others believed that G-d Knows what goes on in the world, but does not care about it.

The Exodus contradicted all these theological errors. The miraculous unfolding of the events which led to the departure of the nation of slaves from the hands of the most powerful empire of its day proved that G-d created the world and still takes an active role in its direction, changing "nature" itself if it suits Him. This is why this historical event is so crucial for setting straight the "theological facts of life".

Since G-d does not want to create open miracles on an ongoing basis, it was necessary to provide commandments that remind us of the "open miracles" that occurred in the past. The Ramban explains that from the belief in G-d's ability to create "open miracles" (in the past), a person will come to accept the concept of "hidden miracles" (that happen on a daily basis), which the Ramban calls the foundation of all of Torah. "For a person has no portion in the Torah of Moshe our teacher until he believes that everything that happens to us in all circumstances of life – whether private or public -- are all miracles."

We need to believe that life itself is a miracle. The fact that I can stand here and talk and you can listen or the fact that the sun rises every

The Week Ahead

פרשת בא

Candle Lighting	3.47pm
Mincha & Kabbolas Shabbos	3.52pm
Seder HaLimud	8.40am
Shacharis	9.00am
סוף זמן ק"ש	10.18am
Mincha 1st Minyan	1.30pm
Rov's Pirkei Ovos Shiur	3.08pm
Mincha 2nd Minyan	3.38pm
Motzei Shabbos	5.02pm
Ovos uBonim	6.17pm
Sunday	7.15am / 8.20am
Monday / Thursday	6.45am / 7.10am
Tuesday / Wednesday / Friday	6.45am / 7.20am
Mincha & Maariv	3.55pm
Late Maariv	8.00pm
Mincha & Maariv Next Shabbos	4.02pm (Shabbos 3.57pm)

morning in the eastern sky and sets every evening in the western sky is a miracle -- except that these "miracles" are disguised as "nature". We become used to these things because they have happened throughout all our lives and perhaps throughout all of history, but they are miraculous nonetheless.

I recently received the following letter. After hearing the above Ramban regarding "hidden miracles", I believe we can all have a greater appreciation of this letter and the story it tells:

In the summer of 2004, Andrew and Sharon finally became engaged and asked me, their Rabbi from Bel-Air California, if I would officiate at their wedding. The ceremony was to take place on December 5, 2004.

I told them I would be happy to officiate at their wedding provided they satisfied four basic requirements: (1) They are both Jewish; (2) The bride will go to the mikvah before the marriage; (3) The food at the wedding will be kosher; (4) Neither of them are currently married to another person and if they are currently married they must first obtain a Jewish divorce.

The couple agreed to the conditions, however "to be up front" Sharon told me that she had been married previously "but it was only for 6 hours and it was a mistake and I had the marriage annulled and I don't want to revisit it because it was a terrible mistake on my part."

I told her that in Judaism it does not matter if one is married for 6 hours or 6 years or 60 years -- one remains married until the death of the spouse or one obtains a Jewish divorce.

"But the courts annulled my marriage, Rabbi. Please understand. It was a mistake."

"I am sorry, you need a Get", I told her.

"Rabbi, what if I can't find the 'mistake'? Am I doomed forever?"

I told her "I will be there for you. Let's contact the Jewish courts in Los Angeles, and they will help us get through this dilemma."

It took several weeks. This first husband was finally tracked down. I got in touch with the Beis Din in Los Angeles. They arranged the Get and the Beis Din told Sharon, "Now that you have your Get, you can get married, but not before 92 days from today." [This is based on the law of 'havchana,' which requires a waiting period before remarriage to preclude doubt regarding paternity issues of a child that may be born 7-9 months after the first marriage was terminated.]

The couple was now very distraught because this waiting period would push the wedding date past December 5th. All they could think about was their wedding plans, their honeymoon, their chosen dates. For days, they did not understand why they would have to wait until January 2005 before they could get married. But they finally agreed. After a few days, Andrew and Sharon called me back and told me that they wanted to do the wedding right in G-d's Eyes, so they began re-planning their wedding for January 23, 2005.

Still, in the back of their minds they could not understand why G-d was delaying their wedding. They could not understand that until December 26, 2004. Andrew and Sharon were supposed to be on the last days of their three week honeymoon in a luxury hotel on a romantic island in the Indian Ocean, which was totally swept away by the 12/26/2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which took almost a quarter of a million lives.

As Andrew said, "The best advice the Rabbi ever gave us was to follow the rules of G-d's Torah. He assured us that it would be a blessing for us in the end."

DID YOU KNOW? תפילה 1

It is important to pronounce the ג of יתגדל in Kaddish so it does not sound like יתקדל (with a ק). The root קדל has meanings associated with the back.

See O Ch 56 (1) MB [4].

All questions of Halocho should be directed to the Rov

Why a Gemach to Lend Money?

The Torah encourages loans but forbids charging interest when lending money to another Jew:

"When you lend money to My people, to the poor person with you, do not behave toward him as a lender; do not charge him interest." (Shmos 22:24)."

"You shall not pay him money as interest, nor may you give him more food than you borrowed" (Vayikro 25:37).

The Mishna (Bava Metzia 75b) lists the different people who violate Biblical prohibitions when a loan is given with interest:

"These violate a negative commandment: the one who loans, the one who borrows, the guarantor, the witnesses, and, the Sages say, even the scribe who writes the document."

We can see from here that the Torah strongly objects to interest-bearing loans even if the one borrowing the money agrees. This aversion to interest, led to the idea of the Gemach (an abbreviation for גמילות חסדים, "acts of kindness"). It is a free-loan fund which subscribes to both the positive Torah commandment of lending money and the Torah prohibition against charging interest on a loan. Unlike bank loans, Gemach loans are interest-free.

The funds that are available to loan have been given by individuals from their charitable money and the Gemach has an obligation not to lose this money by making bad loans.

To ensure repayment of a money loan, gemachs typically ask the borrower to provide one or two guarantors as co-signers on the loan. (In halakha this is known as Areivus.) Should the borrower fail to repay on time, the Gemach owner can turn to these co-signers and demand repayment, a claim which will be upheld in a Beis Din (Manchester Beis Din for our purposes).

The ZY Gemach is here to avoid people paying interest. The ZY Gemach does not need to know the reason for the loan, as long as the money is not being used for something against the spirit of the Gemach or against Torah law. So as long as the borrower can get a guarantor (ZY Gemach requires only one) there is no reason to pay interest charges (the lowest credit card rate at the time of writing was 13.9%).

The ZY Gemach has only recently started. The rules are not set in stone. But, currently we are prepared to loan up to £1000 for up to two years. As more funds are donated to the Gemach we may be able to loan larger sums.

If you need a loan or would like to donate, please contact Mark Duman or Michael Wilks. We will treat your enquiry in strict confidence.

The Trustees of the Gemach are: Rabbi B Cohen שליט"א, Mr M Duman and Dr M Wilks. The official contact details are: ZY GEMACH LTD, Charity Number 1153306. Address: 8, New Hall Road, Salford, M7 4EL, Tel/Fax 0161 792 6339. e-mail: michael.wilks2@ntlworld.com

קניצה קרושה
אור ירושלים

Sunday 5th January
3rd Shevat

9.00 - 9.30
Breakfast, generously provided
by **Brackman's Bakery**

9.30 - 11.15
Learning Programme:
Maaser & Tzedoka
Rabbi Emanuel Danan
Rosh Kollel, Shaarei Halacha,
Gateshead

11.15 - 11.30
Break

11.30 - 12.20
Summary Halachos Shiur
Maaser & Tzedoka
Rabbi Emanuel Danan
Rosh Kollel, Shaarei Halacha,
Gateshead

אור ירושלים