



# Menucha v'Simcha



A PARSHA WEEKLY BY THE PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY KOLLEL

Candle Lighting: 8:03p.m.

**Parshas Masei 5774**

Vol. 10 Issue. 36

## DVAR TORAH

### Clarity

By Rabbi Yosef Prupas

In last week's Parsha, the Tribes of Reuven and Gad asked Moshe for the land of Transjordan. Moshe received this request with displeasure. Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler *zt"l* points out that Moshe was not upset by the request to live outside of Eretz Yisroel. Rather, Moshe was concerned that it seemed that they also wanted to refrain from participating in the battle for Eretz Yisroel, which might affect the morale of the other Tribes. Why wasn't the fact that they wanted to live outside the land a reason for concern?

Rabbi Dessler answers that the Tribes of Reuven and Gad were on a truly elevated level, and as was common at that time due to the heightened level of prophesy, they understood very clearly their goal in life. They knew that their large amount of livestock and holdings were given to them for a higher purpose. The Tribes and Moshe both knew that they belonged just outside the borders of Eretz Yisroel. Their goal was to turn the area, and all that they owned, into vehicles for sanctification of Hashem in this world. But there was one slight problem, their request.

Their request was predicated on the fact that they needed a place for their animals and possessions, not a place to settle their families. Thus, although they had the right motives, they confused what was primary and what was secondary. That is why Moshe was disappointed.

We can now understand the juxtaposition of the episode of the Tribes of Reuven and Gad at the end of last week's Parsha with the log of the travels of the Jewish people at the beginning this week's. It is to advise us on the path we should take to fulfill our mission in life. Parshas Masei describes the forty two places the Jewish people traveled to in their journey to Eretz Yisroel. The Nesivos Shalom describes at length the specific reason for each stop and the length of time spent in each place, which was dependant on how much needed to be accomplished there. That is the analogy of our lives. To survive intact throughout this journey we need to

remain focused on our long-term goals. All our materialistic possessions and jobs were given to us to serve as vehicles for sanctification of Hashem's name in this world, which is our true goal in life. Let us learn from the mistake of the Tribes of Gad and Reuven, and never forget what is primary in life and what is secondary.

The question to be asked now is –how? The Kuzari teaches that it is not only our social environment that affects our thought processes, it is even the physical environment, the land we live in that can change the way we think. This too, we can propose, is the symbolic lesson of the forty two different places where the Jewish nation camped. How are we to maintain clarity when we are so vulnerable?

The Nesivos Shalom answers that the solution lies in the seemingly superfluous words found in the first verse of this week's Parsha. The verse states, "These are the journeys of the Bnei Yisrael... under the hand of Moshe and Aaron." Why is there a need for the verse to point out that the traveling was done under the auspices of Moshe and Aaron? Isn't that obvious? The Nesivos Shalom explains that the verse teaches us a valuable lesson. If one wants to grow through the travails of life, one must constantly consult the Torah leaders of his generation. May we always view with respect the Torah leaders of our generation and seek their advice in all life matters, and thus provide us with the clarity we need to keep our priorities straight and sanctify Hashem's name in this world.



## DVAR HALACHA

### Laws of the Three Weeks

part 3 By Rabbi Yochanan Eskenazi

It is prohibited to wear new or freshly laundered clothing, in order to show signs of mourning. This prohibition applies to men, women, and children who have reached the age of *chinuch* [i.e. can understand the concept of mourning]. This includes all outer clothing [e.g. shirts, pants], coats, towels, tablecloths, and bed sheets. According to Harav Moshe Feinstein, *zt"l*, one may wear freshly



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laundered undergarments (oral ruling, Shu"t Rivivos Ephraim 3:340). One may give fresh linen for a guest sleeping at his home (Laws of Daily Living, The Three Weeks, pg. 88).

One may wear any clothing that is not freshly laundered. Therefore, if one wore clothing before the Nine Days, he can wear it during the Nine Days. There is a dispute amongst the *Poskim* how long one needs to wear them. Harav Y.S. Eliyashiv, *zt"l*, holds for 30 minutes (Laws of Daily Living, The Three Weeks, pg. 85). Harav Shmuel Kamenetsky, *shlit"a*, holds that it is not dependent on how much time one wears them, rather as long as while he was wearing them he is not thinking about that he is wearing a freshly laundered shirt (Koveitz Halachos, Bein Hamitzarim, 11:27). Wearing many pairs of clothing at once does not help, unless he is sweated up (Koveitz Halachos, Bein Hamitzarim, 11:28).

There is a *machlokes haposkim* if one who did not prepare enough clothes beforehand, does the option of switching his clothing [numerous times] on *Shabbos* [when it is permitted to wear freshly laundered clothing] so that he may wear those clothing during the week. According to Harav Shmuel Kamenetsky, *shlit"a*, one may do so. It is not considered *hachanah* (preparing on *Shabbos* for weekday) because he is benefiting from wearing the clothing at the time (Koveitz Halachos, Bein Hamitzarim 11:29).

Another option available is to place your clothing on a floor which is not freshly cleaned [but does not have to be definitely dirty] (Koveitz Halachos, Bein Hamitzarim 11:30). Additionally, one may step on his clothes or sleep on them,

or place them together with dirty laundry [e.g. in a hamper] to make the clothing not fresh (Laws of Daily Living, The Three Weeks, pg. 87).

Bathing, swimming, and showering for pleasure, even in cold water, is prohibited. Refraining from these activities and being a little uncomfortable is in order to remind ourselves about the destruction of the *Bais Hamikdash* (Shulchan Aruch & Rama 551:16).

One who showers daily, and finds it very difficult not to shower, may possibly take a non-hot shower with soap (Koveitz Halachos, Bein Hamitzarim, 14:4). One does not have to have an exclusively cold shower; one may add some hot water in order to take away the chill. One who normally takes a hot shower every *Erev Shabbos* (Friday) may take a hot shower on *Erev Shabbos* of the Nine Days (Halachos of Three Weeks [Rabbi Shimon Eider, *zt"l*] pg. 13, # 7).

Swimming for pleasure is prohibited even for very young children (Laws of Daily Living, The Three Weeks, pg. 96). However, they may play in a sprinkler (Koveitz Halachos, Bein Hamitzarim, 14:3).

Construction or decorating should be postponed until after the *Nine Days* (Shulchan Aruch 551:2). Included is planting for pleasure, or buying plants for decorative purposes. Building for basic dwelling purposes, to prevent damage, and basic upkeep of a house or for a *mitzvah* is permitted. Therefore, one may plant, etc. for regular upkeep is permitted (Laws of Daily Living pg. 97- 98).

## Kollel News

### Friday, July 25:

8:03 p.m.: Candle Lighting

8:21 p.m.: Shkiya/sunset

### Shabbos, July 26:

8:15 a.m.: *Shacharis*

8:54/ 9:30 a.m.: Latest Krias Shema

*Rabbi Eskenazi's Ramban Shiur*

Kiddush this week is sponsored by **The Greene Girls, in honor of Alex Greene's Birthday!** Happy Birthday!

5:15 p.m.: *Rabbi Biberfeld's Business Ethics Shiur*

6:00 p.m.: Mincha

8:20 p.m.: Shkiya/ Sunset

9:15 p.m.: Ma'ariv.

9:32 p.m.: 72 minutes

**1. Business Ethics This Week: Carpet Bombing: A Halachic View:** *Should the IDF/IAF be cautious in avoiding civilian casualties, or they should they carpet bomb so as to not endanger their own?* 5:15 - 6:00 followed by Mincha

**2. Shmira Project:** As we join Klal Yisroel in our concern for our brethren in Eretz Yisroel, after each tefilla at the Kollel, we will recite the Perakim of

Tehillim 83, 130 & 142 apropos for the situation. Please consider joining this initiative. [www.shmiraproject.com](http://www.shmiraproject.com) Endorsed by Rav Aaron Feldman shli"ta of Ner Yisroel.

**3. Find Meaning in the 3 Weeks- Special Programming:** Join us at the Kollel during the Three Weeks for three uniquely inspiring events that will help you find great meaning and opportunity for growth during this solemn time on our calendar. **1. Rabbi Biberfeld's Shiur on the Ten Lost Tribes-** Wednesday, July 16 - 18th of Tamuz, 5774 **2. Yizkereim Documentary - Strike On Heaven-** Wednesday, July 23 - 25th of Tamuz, 5774 **3. Project Geula-** A lecture from Rabbi Peysach Krohn on the Yearning for the Geula.- Wednesday, July 30 - 3rd of Av, 5774 **4. Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation** Pre-Tisha B'av Video for Children LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS...

### Community News:

**Condolences to:** Mr. Alex Greene and family on the passing of his dear grandfather, Harry Greene, Herschel ben Eliyahu z"l.

Rabbi Dovid Wachs and family on the passing of his father, Dr. Hirsch Wachs, Tzvi Hirsch ben Yisroel z"l.

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