



MENUCHAV'SIMCHA

Candle Lighting 8:08 PM

Vol. 17 Issue 25

OUR AMAZING OPPORTUNITY

By Rabbi Levi Berg

Parshas Shelach

At the very end of this week's parsha, we are introduced to the Mitzvah of tzitzis. On the four corners of our garment we are given the commandment to tie fringes. The Chinuch explains the idea behind the mitzvah as follows: Just like when two friends, or a husband and wife, will give each other an item such as a ring or bracelet in order that they are constantly on each other minds, so too Hashem gave us something on our clothing so that we are constantly thinking and reminded of Him. In other words, tzitzis is Hashem's "bracelet" to us. This shows how much Hashem loves and desires us that He wants us to constantly think about Him.

The Meshech Chachma gives a different explanation. He first explains the idea of the very first mitzvah a child is involved with when he enters this world - the mitzvah of Bris Milah. Why did Hashem need to create us with extra foreskin and then command us to remove it? Isn't G-d almighty? Could it be that He "messed up" and then had to command us to fix up His mistake?

The Meshech Chochma answers by introducing us to a beautiful idea. Hashem purposely made us imperfect and commanded us to perfect ourselves to instill in us from the very beginning the concept that it's our job and up to us to become complete!

The Sefer Haikrim is bothered by a question. If we take a look at the days of creation, after each creation - the moon, the stars, the animals etc. - it says, "and Hashem saw that it was good" except after one creation, the creation of man!

(The second day had its own reason why "it was good" and is not stated after, for that was when Hashem separated heaven and earth. Hashem was teaching us that separation is not a good thing.) The Sefer Haikrim asks, why was man singled out as the only thing not "good"? Isn't it the opposite? Isn't mankind the highest creation of them all!? We should be the most "good"! The Sefer Haikrim answers, there are two types of perfection in the world - those that were created perfect and those that attain perfection. The rest of creation Hashem said, "it is good", to indicate that it was good as soon as it came into existence. The good that they are capable of was attained and completed and no other good is expected of them. But when it comes to man, there is no statement that "it is good". This is to teach us that man wasn't created "good and perfect". Rather, it is necessary for us to work to achieve that perfection!



Continue on the other side

SAGE ADVICE WORDS OF WISDOM FROM OUR SAGES

BY RABBI AVRAHAM PENDRAK

וראיתם אתם

"AND YOU SHALL SEE THEM [TZITZIS]"
(BAMIDBAR 15:39)

We are commanded here with the Mitzvah to look at tzitzis. This is counted as one of the six hundred and thirteen mitzvos (independent of the mitzvah of wearing tzitzis).

[SM"K, Tashbetz]

It is good to look at the tzitzis at the time of putting the garment on.

[Shulchan Aruch]

One should be careful to fulfill what is said in the Shulchan Aruch regarding looking at the tzitzis at the time of putting them on. The tzitzis hint to all six hundred and thirteen mitzvos. Therefore, when looking at the tzitzis the person should sincerely accept upon themselves in their heart and in their thoughts to keep all the mitzvos. This is a fulfillment of the above pasuk which continues, "And you shall see them, and you shall remember all the mitzvos of ה' and you shall perform them."

[Yesod Veshoresh HaAvodah]

Menucha Vesimcha has been dedicated by **Kutest Kids Early Intervention Services**.

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MENUCHAV'SIMCHA

The Meshech Chachma notes that this too can be the reason behind tzitzis. He says that the fringes look like an unfinished garment - strings ready to be sown and woven together. This is to regularly remind us when we look at them that we too are unfinished and need to complete ourselves!

We were all put in this world for a reason. We were created unfinished and un-perfect, and it's our job to work on ourselves and elevate ourselves to completion! What a responsibility, but it is at the same time such an opportunity! When we work on ourselves and change ourselves to become better people, it's our personal growth! It is hard earned, with our own blood and tears! We were created selfish, self-centered, hot tempered and desire seeking, just to name a few, and we on our own become selfless, calm, etc! We weren't created angles, but have this amazing opportunity to make ourselves higher than angles! The same way when a body-builder looks in the mirror and sees his physical growth, it fills him with pride to see his achievement. So too when we see our growth in spiritual areas we should feel great pride!

This can also be the reason why when one enters a cemetery he should tuck in his tzitzis. Because when the

people who passed away "see" the tzitzis they remember the opportunity they once had which they no longer have and this causes great distress! They lost the ability to grow and elevate themselves! My father once told me in a cemetery to tuck in my tzitzis, and an uncle a while later told my father that the sight of that had such an effect on him that ever since then every time he puts on his tzitzis in the morning, he thanks Hashem for the ability to serve him. When we wake up in the morning and we put on the tzitzis, we should internalize this message of the opportunity of another day to grow!

We should note that we are living in the time period right before Mashiach, and the *yetzer hara* is throwing everything in his arsenal at us, because he knows this is the end! We face challenges that previous generations couldn't even dream of! Therefore, in our generation even the smallest change for the better is an awesome achievement! One of course should strive to perfect him or herself, but every little change and victory is nothing short of greatness! May we all take advantage of the opportunity and all merit to perfect ourselves!

THE WOMEN'S DIVISION OF
THE PHILADELPHIA
COMMUNITY KOLLEL
PRESENTS

A SHIUR WITH
**REBBETZIN RACHAEL
BIBERFELD**

WHY WOULD THERE BE A LADIES' SHIUR ABOUT TZITZIS???

Exploring the broader
meaning of this mitzvah

SHABBOS AFTERNOON, JUNE 5
PARSHAS SHELACH
4:45 PM

AT THE HOME OF
MRS. KINERET SHAKOW

409 SYCAMORE AVE
MERION STATION



PARSHAS SHELACH SHABBOS ZEMANIM

Friday, June 4

6:30 pm - Mincha/Maariv
6:53 pm - Plag Hamincha
8:08 pm - Candle Lighting
8:26 pm - Shkiya/Sunset

Shabbos, June 5

8:15 am - Shacharis
8:40/9:16 am - Latest
Krias Shema
6:00 pm - Mincha
8:26 pm - Shkiya/Sunset
9:21 pm - Maariv
9:38 pm - 72 minutes