



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT" L

In an extraordinary departure from the Torah's usual concise style, the verses summarize the entire journey the nation traveled, beginning from the Exodus until the nation's arrival at the banks of the Jordan River. Many commentators question the need for the lengthy review of the nation's itinerary, with many answers offered. I would like to share with you an answer from the Alter of Kelm.

When someone sets out on a journey for business or pleasure, the trip itself serves no purpose other than as a means to reach the intended destination. If the destination is never reached, or the anticipated objective not achieved, the journey itself was a wasted effort. That is not true in the spiritual realm. Here, every step is precious and worthy. All of our efforts serve to bring us closer to our true mission, lovingly counted and measured by G-d Himself. As a result, each desert encampment is specified, referenced and eternalized for all time.

In our personal journey of spirituality, in our quest to become kinder, wiser, and more G-dly, we invariably encounter obstacles and difficulties. And on a national level, our journey is constantly beset by travail and tribulation. Yet, on this journey, even in the darkest of times, we carry in our hearts the knowledge that G-d is our constant companion, lovingly leading us to our ultimate destination.

Have a wonderful Shabbos!

Rabbi Menachem Winter

TABLE TALK

POINT TO PONDER

Moshe commanded Bnei Yisrael saying, "This is the Land that you shall divide...which Hashem has commanded to give to the nine and a half tribes" (34:13).

Two and a half tribes took their portion on the other side of the Yarden. The remaining nine and a half would divide Eretz Yisrael proper. This implies that the tribe of Shimon must also have taken a portion in Eretz Yisrael.

Shimon did not receive a portion in Eretz Yisrael, as Yaakov said regarding Shimon (Vayichi 49:7) "I will disperse them in Yisrael" (Rashi Divrei HaYomim 1:4, 27).

Did Shimon receive a portion of land in Eretz Yisrael or not?

PARSHA RIDDLE

When is Tisha B'Av not Tisha B'Av?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last issue's riddle:

Then you shall be clean from Hashem and from Klal Yisrael (32:22).

How do you know from here that first and foremost a person must be concerned with what Hashem thinks, and then to be concerned what people think?

Answer: From the fact that Hashem is listed before Klal Yisroel.

TIMELESS WISDOM

Suddenly the Master will come... (Malachi 3:1)

One Erev Shabbos the Arizal asked his followers if they would like to go to Yerushalayim to accept Shabbos. Having some unfinished work in Tzefas, the disciples asked for some time to wrap things up.

Disappointed, the Arizal told them, "I knew that it was a favorable time to bring Moshiach. If we would have gone immediately, we would have brought Mashich, and an end to the sufferings of Bnei Yisrael. Now, who knows how much suffering we will need to endure before Moshiach will come!"

Rav Sholom Vallach points out, as we are in the midst of mourning for the Churban, and we eagerly await its rebuilding, we need to prepare ourselves to be able to drop everything and run to Mashich. If we merit the opportunity to have Mashich come, everything else should pale in comparison.

If we have this outlook, perception, and excitement for Mashich we will hopefully merit celebrating Tisha B'Av this year.

KIDS KORNER

WHO AM I?

All children 13 and under who answer a "Who Am I?" correctly will be entered into a raffle to

Win a super prize

Mazel Tov to Liam Ratner, who has won this cycle's prize, a pogo stick!

Stay tuned for the next raffle date!

Answer as many as you can because each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chance of winning!

#1 WHO AM I?

1. My death is prayed for.
2. I must remain holy.
3. I was anointed.
4. I have more clothes.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I start being sad.
2. I later become happy.
3. I will become a time for rejoicing.
4. I am the eleventh.

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS

#1 Mateh (I became a snake for Moshe; I am to lean; you sleep on me; there were 12 of me.)

#2 The Three Weeks (I am named for my duration; I started this week; time of destruction; I start and end with a fast.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Gabriel Mellman

Please see next week's issue for the answers to this week's questions.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

This coming week, the Kollel will begin the summer intersession for the month of Av.

All Kollel programming will be on break beginning Monday, July 28th.

Please join us for the Elul Semester, beginning Sunday, August 31st!

Have a great summer!