



The Greater Washington Community Kollel

SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"l

Presented by Rabbi Menachem Winter, Rosh Kollel
From our archives

The Jewish nation was on the march towards the Land of Israel - soon it would be theirs. Not content, however, with G-d's assurances of the conquest, the people insisted on a reconnaissance mission first. Twelve great men were chosen, one from each tribe, to travel to Canaan and return with a report. Upon the completion of their mission, the agents shared with the people a slanderous account of the land and related a demoralizing tale of the inhabitants' strength. The people believed them and, fearful and deflated, broke down and wept. In consequence, the spies were punished immediately by plague, and the nation was condemned to wander the desert for forty years. Only their children would merit entering the Land of Israel.

This tragic lack of faith in G-d is difficult to understand. These were the very people who firsthand witnessed the Exodus with its concomitant wonders and miracles. It was they who saw the great sea part, and it was they who had just stood at the foot of Sinai, amidst a celestial display of thunder and lightning.

It is the reality of the physical world in which we live that the spiritual experiences that we have and the inspirations that elevate us could vanish with hardly a trace. We must nurture our spirituality, making our inspirations concrete, and thereby ensure that they are more than a fleeting exaltation.

This truth is demonstrated by the Mitzvah of Tzitzis, given at the end of our Parsha: "... and you shall make fringes on the corners of your garments... and you will see it and remember all the Mitzvos of Hashem and perform them, and not stray after your heart and eyes..." This special garment, accompanying us constantly, reminds us of G-d and His Mitzvos. Spirituality requires constant attention and care. It is, however, well worth the investment.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

"For the Tribe of Efraim, Hoshea bin Nun." (13,8)

"For the Tribe of Yosef, for the Tribe of Menashe, Gadi ben Soosi." (13,11)

When the Torah mentions the Tribe of Menashe, he is connected to Yosef. However, when the Torah mentions the Tribe of Efraim, the connection to Yosef is deleted. Why?

Parsha Riddle

Why was Yehoshua called Yehoshua bin Nun and not Yehoshua ben Nun?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

A person should not go to the extreme with any trait... one should not be a glutton, nor fast every day; one should not be light headed nor be depressed. There is one trait that requires extremism and that is humility - one should not be haughty at all (Rambam Hilchos Dayos 2:3). Where is there a hint to this halacha in the Parsha?

Answer: Moshe was exceedingly humble (Behaaloscha 12:3).

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

The first half of parashas Shelach recounts the terrible sin of the spies and its aftermath. It is ironic, given the enormity of the sin, that its exact nature is not entirely clear, but one perspective on the sin, appearing in the Bible itself, is that it consisted of a rejection of the Land of Israel: "And they despised the desirable land, they had no faith in His Word." (Psalms 106:24)

R. Yaakov Emden indicts the Jewish people as having been chronically guilty of this fundamental sin during the millennia that have elapsed since then. He bemoans the fact that "not one in a thousand" Jews is moved to make aliyah, and he attributes "all the evils" that have befallen our people (the Spanish Expulsion in particular) to our having forgotten and neglected the Land of Israel and Jerusalem, to the extent that "it has seemed to us, in our tranquility in the Diaspora, that we have found a replacement Land of Israel and Jerusalem" (Sidur Beis Yaakov, Sulam Beis E-I, #6).

R. Emden's excoriation notwithstanding, other scholars have offered various justifications for the fact that historically, most Jews have not attempted to make aliyah:

- R. Meir of Rothenburg explains that the reason that the (Babylonian) sages of the Talmud did not emigrate to Israel was that the effort required there to make a living would have impinged upon their ability to study Torah (Shaarei Teshuvos 1:15).*
- R. Shlomo Kluger asserts that the fact that "the Chassidic Rebbes", who certainly had the wherewithal to make aliyah, did not do so indicates that normative halachah follows the view that in contemporary times there is no mitzvah to make aliyah (i.e., due to the reasons offered by earlier authorities, such as the perilousness of the journey - Shut. Ha'Elef Lecha Shlomo EH #118).*
- Various authorities understand that the mitzvah to live in Israel is not mandatory; although one who makes aliyah and lives in Israel fulfills a mitzvah, one who remains in the Diaspora does not thereby sin (Shut. Maharit Tzahalon #85; Shut. Igros Moshe EH 1:102; Shut. Tzitz Eliezer 14:72:7).*

PRESENTED BY

RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

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 Great Wall of China Lego Set



Congratulations to Alex and Ethan Blitz for answering last week's questions correctly!

Visit gwckollel.org to submit your answers.

Answer as many as you can.

Each correct answer will entitle you to another raffle ticket and increase your chances of winning!

#1 WHO AM I?

1. I remind you.
2. I should contain blood.
3. I am a knotty issue.
4. Cornered.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. We were 12 yet we created 40.
2. Two were different.
3. We asked for it.
4. No Levi'im.

Last Week's Answers

#1 The Manna (I was a riddle, I caused complaining, I was bottled, I revealed your piety.)

#2 The Menorah lights (We were tilted, We were all day, Step up for me, We caused a holiday.)

THE NEXT
RAFFLE WILL BE
July 16.

KOLLEL BULLETIN BOARD

Boys Sunday Summer Learning and Pizza

GWCK invites boys entering 5th and 6th grade to learning and pizza with Rabbi Chaim Biberfeld.

Sundays, June 30, July 7, 14 & 28 - 10:15-11:15am at Ben-Yehuda Pizza.

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