



The Greater Washington Community Kollel SHABBOS DELIGHTS

TORAH MINUTE

IN MEMORY OF RABBI KALMAN WINTER ZT"L

Lunar Qualities

Presented by Rabbi Moshe Sadwin, Kollel Adjunct

"This month shall be for you the beginning of the months..." (12:2)

Before the Jewish nation left Egypt, they were commanded with a number of *mitzvos*. The very first *mitzvah* that they received as a nation was *Kiddush Hachodesh* - the unique manner whereby Jews reckon the passage of time and the cycle of the yearly festivals by marking the new lunar month. While the secular world's yearly basis for time is the journey of the earth around the sun, ours is the journey of the moon around the earth.

There are numerous ideas and symbolisms in the different manners of time calculations.

Rav Pam points out how Jewish history is replete both with periods of tremendous growth and tragic decline, similar to how the moon itself waxes and wanes every month. In fact, in the *Kiddush Levana* prayer that is recited each month, we say, "Those who are supported by Hashem... will be rejuvenated, just as the moon goes through its monthly renewal." This is a source of comfort, for no matter how low our nation has sunk, we know that the situation will soon improve.

In addition to being a source of national comfort, this can provide comfort on the individual level as well. Even if a person goes through a spiritual decline, where they may feel unaccomplished in their service to Hashem, they should know that every single person, no matter how far they have sunk, has the ability to pick themselves up and rejuvenate themselves.

Wishing you a Good Shabbos!

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TABLE TALK

Point to Ponder

It was midnight and Hashem smote every first born in Egypt... Pharaoh arose at night, he and all his servants and all of Egypt, and there was a great outcry in Egypt because there was not a house where there was no corpse. Pharaoh called to Moshe and Aharon at night and said, "Rise up, go out from among my people..." (12:29 – 31)

From the sequence of the verses, it seems that B'nei Yisrael left after the plague of the firstborn. The order of events mentioned in *Ezras Avoseinu* in Shacharis is the opposite. It says, "From Egypt we were redeemed and from the house of slavery we were emancipated; all their firstborns You killed and Your firstborn You saved." However, in Maariv the order of events is like it is in the verse. In *Ve'emuna* it says, "He smote all the firstborns of Egypt and took out B'nei Yisrael for eternal freedom." Why in Maariv are the events mentioned in the order of the verse, while in Shacharis they are mentioned out of order?

Parsha Riddle

What did the Plague of Blood have in common with the Plague of Darkness?

Please see next week's issue for the answer.

Last week's riddle:

Why is the fifth cup of wine at the Seder called Kos Shel Eliyahu?
Answer: 1) The fifth cup represents the Final Redemption which will be heralded by Eliyahu. 2) The Sages debate if there is an obligation to drink a fifth cup. Since it is an unresolved dispute, which will be decided by Eliyahu (Teiku), the fifth cup is called the cup of Eliyahu (Vilna Gaon).

HATORAH V'HAMITZVAH

HALACHA INSIGHTS FROM THE PARSHA

In *parashas Bo* (12:22-23), Moshe relay Hashem's instructions to the Israelites regarding the night of the plague of the firstborn:

... and as for you, no man shall leave the entrance of his house until morning. Hashem will pass through to smite Egypt ... and Hashem will pass over the entrance and He will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses to smite.

The Talmud (*Bava Kamma* 60a) explains: **What** is the meaning of that **which is written: "and as for you, no man shall leave the entrance of his house until morning?"** If the plague was not decreed upon the Jewish people, why were they not permitted to leave their homes? **Once permission is granted to the destroyer to kill, it does not distinguish between the righteous and the wicked.**

The Maharil (*Shut*. 41) was asked about the propriety of flight (from urban areas) during an epidemic. His correspondent had argued that this should be forbidden, as an attempt to frustrate Hashem's designs, but the Maharil firmly rejects this perspective, and marshals various statements of our Sages that indicate that not everything that occurs in the world reflects Hashem's will. One of his sources is the aforementioned idea that destruction, even when initiated by Hashem to punish sinners, ultimately does not distinguish between the righteous and the wicked. Maharil explains that "for this reason we are accustomed to flee," i.e., since the epidemic will afflict the populace indiscriminately, and we cannot assume that all its victims have been so designated by Hashem.

Another of the Maharil's sources for this theological perspective is the following remarkable Talmudic passage: **When Rav Yosef reached this verse, he cried: "But there are those swept away without justice" (Proverbs 13:23). He said: Is there one who goes before his time and dies for no reason? The Gemara answers: Yes, like this incident ... The Angel of Death said to his agent: Go and bring me, i.e., kill, Miriam the raiser, i.e., braider, of women's hair. He went, but instead brought him Miriam, the raiser of babies. The Angel of Death said to him: I told you to bring Miriam, the raiser of women's hair. His agent said to him: If so, return her to life. He said to him: Since you have already brought her, let her be counted toward the number of deceased people. (Chagigah 4a).**

PRESENTED BY
RABBI YITZHAK GROSSMAN, ROSH CHABURAH

KIDS KORNER

Who Am I?

#1 WHO AM I?

1. Wrap me.
2. To remember the exodus.
3. One for one.
4. Four for one.

#2 WHO AM I?

1. I am the first.
2. I am the sixth.
3. I am not an Altimu.
4. Hachodesh heralds me.

Last Week's Answers

#1 Dam/Blood (I am not for beavers, Don't confuse me with money, I am life, I killed the fish.)

#2 Frogs (I was one yet many, We were baked in a pie, I caused hitting, It was hopping.)

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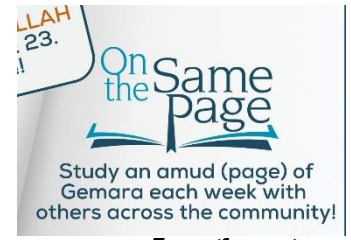
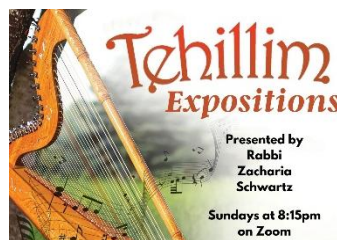
Sundays with GWCK



9:30am at YISE (for men)



7:30pm at KMS (for men & women) 8:15pm on Zoom (for men & women)



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