



Ohr Yerushalayim News

כ' אב תש"ע – פרשת עקב – 31st July 2010 - Volume 3 - Issue 5

T NEWS ... LATEST NEWS ... LATEST

מזל טוב

Mazel Tov to Mr & Mrs Jonny Berkovitz on the engagement of their son, Avishi to Sorelle Kampf of London.

Earlier Time For Mincha Erev Shabbos

Please note that this Shabbos we will be Davenning Mincha & Kabbolos Shabbos at the earlier time of 7.15pm. Next week we revert to the normal time.

Security Warning

Can we please ask anyone using the building during the day or evening (ie outside the regular Minyanim times) to ensure the front doors are closed behind them.

Holiday Minyanim

Tisha B'Av is behind us to we're officially in Summer holiday season. As many people will be going away, can we please ask those members in town to support the Minyanim.

T NEWS ... LATEST NEWS ... LATEST

That's Heavy! Rabbi Label Lam (Torah.org)

A Land that HASHEM your G-d investigates; the eyes of HASHEM your G-d are constantly upon it from the beginning of the year to the year's end. (Devarim 11:12)

What's so alluring about Israel? Here's the one piece of real estate in the middle-east without oil, yet it is the jewel of the region and the object of desire for the entire world.

Rabbi Mendel Weinbach welcomed a group of American college students most of whom were visiting Israel for the first time. He related a story in the Talmud that describes how a sage traveling from Babylon to the Land of Israel would try to determine when he had actually crossed the border. As he approached Israel, he would stop and take some rocks in his hand. He repeated the procedure until finally while sampling some stones he sensed by their weight that he had arrived.

Rabbi Weinbach explained that the Talmud certainly did not mean to imply that there are measurable geological differences between the rocks outside as opposed to the rocks inside of Israel. What was being told over here is that there are certain kinds of rare and intense experiences that can be gained in Israel in a short period of time that it may take years in the Diaspora to achieve. There is a discernable spiritual density to even pedestrian life in the Holy Land.

A friend of mine had just returned from his first trip to Israel. I could see on his face that look I like to call the "inner tan". He was serious and focused. "How was it?" I asked.

"Terrible!" He said. "Nothing went right! From the moment we stepped off the plane there was nothing but set backs. Cars broke down. Hotel reservations fell through. Things got lost. We

got lost. Almost nothing worked out the way we wanted. I spent a lot of time planning every detail of the trip and I met with nothing but frustration." It sounded like he had a bad experience yet his face shone with a deep seriousness that I had never seen on him before. Israel had impacted him but not in the way he expected.

Jerry was a hip hop American kid who came with us on one of those trips to Israel. We went to Kosel together and he was approached by a man to put on Tefillin for the first time since his Bar Mitzvah and offered 100 Shekels (about \$20 then) if he would take off his earring. He happily agreed and accepted the 100 Shekels. Days later he regretted his decision and wanted to put the earring back. It had been a fixed part of his identity. He went back numerous times to the Kosel but the man was not to be found. Jerry had the honesty not to put the earring back in. Years later, Jerry, now "Rabbi Yaakov..." is a fine young scholar who has influenced hundreds young people. I believe that brief encounter at the Western Wall was a turning point, a life event that could not have happened for him on the college campus in four years or more.

Sefer Charedim compares the statement by King David "I place HASHEM opposite me always" to the verse describing the classic role of a wife as a "help mate opposing him". When he is worthy she actively assists him but when he is not she lovingly thwarts him.

Similarly we are warned before entering the Holy Land that not all behavior is tolerated at the "center stage" of history. The lights are extra bright. The camera eye is trained upon our every deed. Even small things are amplified. And so we are accordingly either frustrated or encouraged by the experience of being there. They may look like ordinary stones but they're not and that's heavy!

The Week Ahead

שבת פרשת עקב

Candle Lighting and Shabbos	Between 7.30 and 7.45pm
Mincha	7.15pm
Seder Halimud	8.40am
Shacharis	9.00am
סוף זמן ק"ש	9.18am
Mincha 1st Minyan / 2nd Minyan	6.00pm / 9.05pm
Rov's Mishnayos Shiur	9.35pm
Maariv & Motzei Shabbos	10.10pm
Sunday 1st/2nd Minyan	7.20am/8.20am
Monday / Thursday	7.10am
Tuesday / Wednesday / Friday	7.20am
Mincha & Maariv All Week	7.45pm
Mincha & Maariv Next Shabbos	7.30pm (Shabbos 8.41pm)

פרשת עקב

1. What are the **שבעת המינים** in the correct order?
2. Which animals inhabited the **מדבר**?
3. As **משה** descended **הר סיני**, describe the appearance of the mountain.
4. For which purposes was the tribe of singled **לוי** out?
5. In which way does the **תורה** show **ה'**'s humility?
6. How do the crops of Egypt obtain water?
7. Which river is destined to be the future border of **ארץ ישראל**?
- H. In the future, what roles will kings and their princesses play?

Parsha Wordsearch

מ	נ	ש	ו	ג	ע	ק	ב	ש	ג	ז
ש	א	ב	א	ה	מ	ד	ט	ה	נ	ק
ה	מ	ה	ת	ק	ז	ש	ו	ק	ג	י
ל	ד	ע	ח	מ	ו	ה	פ	ל	ק	ד
ג	א	ו	ב	ל	ז	מ	א	ט	ך	ד
ה	ת	צ	ן	צ	ו	א	ב	ו	א	ן
א	ה	ר	ן	ח	ת	י	ח	ר	ר	ו
ק	מ	א	י	פ	ר	ה	מ	ו	ב	א
צ	ר	ע	ה	ד	ל	ב	ר	א	ע	י
ו	ש	ב	ע	ת	ב	ו	ן	ה	י	א
י	י	ג	ע	ש	ל	מ	ח	ב	ם	ז
כ	ת	צ	ח	ב	ד	ע	י	ת	כ	צ

שמע	צרעה	ארבעים	משה
ואהבת	משפט	אהרן	לוחת
גדול	ושבעת	מזוזה	מרשית

DID YOU KNOW?

Reading Lessons?

We know that when a word ends with a patach and a ches, then the patach is pronounced before the ches. Thus **כח** is pronounced ko-ach. It may be less well known that the same principle applies when the last letter is a hei with a dogesh in it (a mapik hei). So we find in Shacharis

ובישענתך תרים ונתגביה קרננו:

ברוך אתה ה' המקדש את שמך ברבים

The word in large print is pronounced "vesagbi-ah" and not "vesagbi-ha".

Another example is on Yom Kippur, when during the vidui we say

"ועל כולם אלוה סליחות סלח לנו וכ"

The word in large print is pronounced "Elo-ah" and not "Elo-ha".

(Interestingly in the new Koren siddur such a patach is printed slightly to the right of the following letter a bit like this **וְנִתְגַבֵּי־הַ**)

We want our tefillos to be accepted so it's best to perform them correctly.
For details please ask the Rov **ר' אבי**

Abomination! D Fine (shortvort.com)

There is an especially enlightning Targum this week which is worth focusing on.

The Torah calls the idol worship and gold & silver of the (imoral) nations of the land "to'eva" - which literally means abomination. The Targum translates [/explains] this word with the word 'merachaka' - meaning that which creates a distance.

The idea is that those sins described as to'eva simply those which create greatest distance between us and HaShem - a bad thing.

The reason for this is that if one looks through the sins described as to'eva, one can see that they involve taking a power/strength which ordinarily is to be used for high spiritual output, and instead using it for bad.

Our example in our sedra involves taking the spiritual power of Eretz Yisrael and using it for negative - as places of avodah zarah, etc. This term to'eva is also used (gemarra shabbos 10a) to describe someone who uses tefillah to escape from their obligation of learning torah - again an example of using an immense spiritual power (tefillah) for bad.

pG we should use mitzvos as mitzvos and opportunities to get closer to HaShem. Amen!

