



Ohr Yerushalayim News

5th September 2015 - Volume 8 - Issue 9 – פרשת כי תבוא – כ"א אלול תשע"ה

News This Week

מזל טוב

Mazel Tov to the Rov and Rebbetzen on the birth of a granddaughter, born to Rabbi & Mrs Moshe Chaim Cohen in Israel.

Kiddush This Shabbos

Colin & Tsippy Rich together with Chanan and Zoe Fishman invite the Kehillah to a Kiddush to celebrate the birth of their respective daughters Tali and Shira at 67 Park Road, Prestwich from 11.30am

Hakomas Matzeivo

The Hakomas Matzeivo for the late Mrs Rhona Bursk will take place this Sunday at 2pm at Failsworth Beis Olam followed by a L'Chaim at Holy Law Shul

Pre-Yom Tov Ladies Shiur

All ladies are invited a pre-Yomim Noroim Shiur taking place on Tuesday at 8.30pm at the Rov's house, 48 Waterpark Road. Ladies are asked to bring a Rosh HaShana Machzor.

Girls Group

Girls in Year 5 girls AND UP - We look forward to meeting all our old and new friends at our Achdus get together this Sunday from 1 to 2pm. Come join us as we have fun at our clay modelling and bagel lunch. Donation £3.50

Pruzbul

Pruzbul forms are available from the Rov or on request by emailing office@ohryerushalayim.org.uk and need to be completed and forwarded to the Beis Din **no later than Sunday**.

Yom Tov Seats

As in previous years, to ensure that everyone is allocated with a specific seat it would be appreciated if you could either email office@ohryerushalayim.org.uk or text 07779 681 354 or speak to either Avi Stern or Oshi Wilks to confirm whether or not you will be Davening with us, **by no later than Sunday**.

Rov's Annual Collection

All donations to Rov's annual Yom Tov collection for local needy families will be gratefully received. Cheques or charity vouchers should be made payable to Ahavas Chesed.

Out Of Bounds

The Rov reminds all men that the ladies Shul behind the Mechitza is out of bounds to all men during the times of Davening.

Correction

The email address for the siyum is siyum@ohryerushalayim.org.uk NOT as stated on the letter sent out.

The Need To Be Forgiven

Rabbi Pinchas Winston (Torah.org)

You have confirmed today that G-d is to be your G-d, and to walk in His way, to keep His statutes... (Devarim 26:17)

We will begin saying "Selichos" this Motzei Shabbos, b"H. Well, at least the Ashkenazim will; the Sephardim have been saying Selichos since the beginning of the month of Elul. Coming at the end of the Shabbos that we just read Parashas Ki Savo, it should be a little easier to be real with the need to say Selichos.

If you think about it, we kind of have it wrong, and I'll prove it.

Most of us, thank G-d, have never had to beg for our lives. We're living in a time period that, for the most part, has been very good for the Jews. As the Malbim predicted would happen, the Jewish people went from being disgraced and horribly abused to top positions in the gentile world.

Just 70 years ago it was far different. Seventy years ago Jews had to constantly beg for their lives, usually to no avail. This wasn't a new thing. It had been happening already for thousands of years, certainly as long as the Jewish people have been in exile.

During those times there was little or no doubt about what the gentile population wanted to do to the Jewish population for no reason other than they were Jewish. And, there was little or no doubt that we were, for the most part, at their mercy and had to act the part, apologizing for things for which owed no apology and begging for things that were rightfully ours.

How much more so has this been the case when people are caught doing the wrong thing. Drug smuggling is a serious offense in all countries, but in some countries the punishment after being caught is execution. Some people may go quietly, but most people beg in whatever manner they can to stay the execution. They know that it is not a time to stand on pride.

The Midrash says that after Adam HaRishon ate from the Aitz HaDa'as Tov v'Ra, he sat and waited for the end of the world (Avodah Zarah 8a). He had been given the gift of life and he had sinned. It was only logical, he thought, that he be judged and found guilty and removed from Creation. He was shocked to find out from Kayin, who had just been judged by G-d for murdering his brother Hevel, that there was a concept of "teshuvah." Divine mercy was possible. He spent the next 130 years repenting (Eiruvin 18b).

He had been right. Really, a single sin of any nature should be enough to

The Week Ahead

פרשת כי תבוא

1st Mincha	6.15pm
Candle Lighting	Not before 6.29pm
2nd Mincha	7.30pm
Candle Lighting	No later than 7.37
Seder HaLimud	8.40am
Shacharis	9.00am
סוף זמן ק"ש	9.45am
1st Mincha	1.45pm
Ovos uBonim	5.00pm
2nd Mincha	6.00pm
3rd Mincha	7.36pm
Rov's Shiur	following
Motzei Shabbos	8.41pm
Sunday	6.00am / 7.30am
Monday / Thursday	6.00am / 6.45am / 7.45am
Tuesday / Wednesday / Friday	6.00am / 6.55am / 7.45am
Mincha & Maariv	7.30pm
Late Maariv	10.00pm

severely punish the perpetrator. Even accidental sins are not as "light" as we think they are. The only reason why we sin so freely and then walk around like it's not such a big deal, and can fly through the Viduy—Confessional Prayer—on Yom Kippur is because G-d is incredibly patient and merciful. We deserve what we deserve and only don't get it because He gives us a chance to do teshuvah.

Like children though who go against their parents' will and get away with it each time, we have come to believe that as bad as we act there will always be a tomorrow. Only the people for whom tomorrow will not come wake up to the foolishness of such an approach to life, albeit too late. Most people should be begging for their lives daily, not living them as if they have nothing for which to apologize.

Furthermore, we have no idea what awaits on the "other side." Sure, we're having a good time now, but who knows if that is because of what is coming up after death. Gehinom has seven furnaces, each one "hotter" than the previous one. Does anyone know which level is relevant to him or her?

Sunscreen barely helps in this world. It sure doesn't help in the next one. The "other side," as this week's parshah indicates, is not necessarily after life in this world. It can very much be in this world. Ten year ago this might have been a harder sale. Today it should be easier, given the direction that history is moving.

It works just like illness. A person can feel great today even though there is a virus secretly at work in his body, taking over his cells and working on taking down his body. He can go a whole week before actually noticing any signs of illness, or in the case of more serious sicknesses, decades. Had he known earlier what was taking place deep within his body, he might have been able either to prevent or at least slow down the illness.

About six years ago I herniated a disc. The pain was incessantly excruciating. I could not find a comfortable position, and strong pain killers helped me very little. I spent a month in bed and accomplished little or nothing. Thank G-d my sons were able to get our house ready for Pesach that year.

The day before it happened I felt perfectly normal and was in relatively good shape, b"H. I exercised regularly, and had no reason to assume that I was vulnerable to any back problems, not more than most people at my age.

In fact, the problem began after folding up our treadmill after a workout. Apparently I had not been standing correctly as I lifted the heavy bottom piece, and I pulled what I thought was a muscle in my lower back. It hurt, but I had done it many times before and in the past it had usually started to get better the next day.

Not this time. I exercised the next day and the pain was still there. Within an hour it was becoming impossible to sit in one position for any length of time. Not only did the pain not lessen, it continued to get worse. By Thursday I was becoming quite concerned that something else had happened, though I still thought it would go away soon.

Friday morning I could barely make it home from shul. Standing was an effort and I went right for the sofa when I got home. Within an hour the pain became excruciating and I forced to scream when I got up from the sofa. When I thought I would pass out from pain I called an ambulance.

Within a half hour the ambulance had come, but because of the size of the stretcher and the shape of our living room it was impossible to ease from the sofa to the stretcher. I had to get up from the sofa and ease myself into the stretcher in a sitting position, a level of Gehinom in itself. I only agreed to do it if I was allowed to scream as loud as I had to. I could not imagine living with such pain the rest of my life, G-d forbid.

Recovery was slow and painful, and it included a cortisone shot into my spine, but b"H, I recovered. The MRI showed that the padding between certain discs had been wearing away for many years, probably from years of sports when I was younger, and years of jogging since I being older. I just didn't notice anything because there were no signs to speak of.

Or so I had thought. It turns out that all those times I had nerve problems in my legs over the years that they were early warning signs from the nerves in my back. They were become increasingly more clamped by the discs whose protective padding was wearing away as I got older. I

just thought, each time, it was a natural outcome of exercising, and took some Advil so I could sleep.

If I had paid attention to the early warning signs, had the MRI earlier, and altered my exercise program to suit my situation, I could have avoided herniating my disc and all the excruciating pain that came with it. I also wouldn't have to be so careful now with how I use my back, because it would be in better shape today. I am grateful for how much I did recover, b"H, but it was a lesson to take home and learn.

On a far greater and more tragic scale, the attack on the Twin Towers is another case in point. After it occurred all kinds of exposes came out tracing the attack back in time to see which events had been early warning signs of what eventually happened on September 11, 2001. It turns out there were quite a few.

True, none of the signs necessarily indicated that the Twin Towers were going to be a target of Arab terrorists. They were signs however that should have resulted in enough increased security at the national airports that the terrorists might have been caught before being able to execute their plan. In too many cases caution was thrown to the wind, signs went unnoticed or were ignored, and the 19 Arab terrorists were able to perpetrate the deadliest attack on American soil in recent times.

Israel is a good example of how we're supposed to look at life, but for the wrong reasons. Necessity is not only the mother of invention, it is also the inspiration for constant readiness. Israeli citizens may walk around oblivious to the reality of their lives but not the government. The people for whom the security of Israel is their chief concern know that there are thousands, if not millions of Jewish enemies who do little else each day other than plan and scheme to bring about the end to the Jewish state, G-d forbid.

Consequently, though life goes on as normal for its citizens, the country is constantly on high alert, at least behind the scenes. The assumption is that something is being planned and tremendous effort and expense is made to try and find out what before it can occur. For the Israeli government, securing its citizens means nipping terrorism in the planning stages.

This is the reason why Israel is so outspokenly against the Iran deal and the United States is not. For the US, security is being defined as being as friendly with the enemy as much as possible. The American philosophy has become to disarm the enemy with acceptance so that they won't have the drive anymore to harm Americans.

Israel doesn't have such a luxury. Her enemies hate her existentially. As Hitler, ysv"z, said, more or less, "It's either us or them," the "them" referring to the Jewish people. Even if the Americans become best friends with Iran or other terrorist states, the latter will still hate the Jews and plan their demise as much as ever before.

In truth, this is the case on a personal level as well. The Talmud states that everyday the yetzer hara gets up to kill a person (Kiddushin 30b). Sometimes it is physically true, other times it is spiritually true, and sometimes it is true on both levels. Either way, the Talmud tells us that, like the Israeli government, look out for the traps that may lay ahead during the course of our lives.

This is so central to Jewish living that the Talmud defines a wise person in the following way: Who is a wise person? Someone who sees what is being born. (Tamid 32a)

There are many ways to describe what constitutes a wise person, but honestly, this is not one that I would have chosen. The Talmud is saying what makes wisdom so valuable is not just the knowledge it represents. It is the ability to use that knowledge to plan an approach to your day, and your life, that will steer you through the potential mine fields that can damage you spiritually, physically, or in both ways. Someone who can see today what might come tomorrow, the Talmud teaches, is a wise person.

Let's now apply this to what was discussed at the beginning of this essay. We have to realize that though we don't see G-d's disappointment and anger about our approach to life today, we have to be concerned about what it might be tomorrow. Life is cause-and-effect oriented, but not every effect occurs immediately after the cause. We should assume that we're not perfect, and that we constantly require Divine forgiveness. Selichos at any time should be real to us.