



Ohr Yerushalayim News

פרשת מטות מסעי - כ"ח תמוז תשע"ג - 6th July 2013 - Volume 6 - Issue 2

LATEST NEWS ... LATEST NEWS ... LATEST

Special Guest

We are pleased to welcome Mr Alan Finlay, president of the Federation of Synagogues. We would like to take this opportunity to once again express our appreciation for all his efforts over the years on behalf of the Shul.

Children's Shabbos Group

The children's Shabbos group takes place this week.

Kiddush

There will be a Shabbos Mevorchin Kiddush after Davenning which as yet has no speaker - any interested parties are asked to contact Avi.

Sunday Shiur

We are delighted to welcome once again Rabbi Dovid Kaplan who will be giving a Shiur on Sunday night, see the back page for further details.

Girl's Rosh Chodesh Group

Girls in year 5 and up, please join us on Sunday from 5.00-6.00pm at our Rosh Chodesh group. Come and have fun with Devorah Bernstein and join our special guest Mrs Zipi Ebbing whilst we enjoy pizza and nash. Cover charge £1.50.

Last Chance for Shtenders

A last chance reminder to anyone wishing to order a Shul Shtender. Cost is £100 each, only for use in Shul. Please text whether you require large or small to 07813 326 423.

LATEST NEWS ... LATEST NEWS ... LATEST

What to Make of My Summer Break? Rabbi Label Lam (Torah.org)

"These are the journeys of the Children of Israel that went out of the Land of Egypt according to their legions under the hand of Moshe and Aaron." (Bamidbar 33:1)

There are the journeys of: Why are these journeys recorded? This is to make known the kindnesses of the Omnipresent... (Rashi)

And they journeyed from Chashmonah and they camped in Mesorot. They journeyed from Mesorot and they camped in Yakan. (Bamidbar 33:30-31)

And He said to Avram, "Know with certainty that your offspring shall be aliens in a land, not their own-and they shall serve them and they will oppress them four hundred years. But also the nation that they will serve, I shall judge, and afterwards they will leave with great wealth." (Breishis 15:13-14)

What is the implied kindness of traveling from place to place? Why does the Chumash tell where they traveled from each time? Of course they traveled from the same place they last traveled to. Why is the record of the travel related to having left Egypt?

More than 25 years ago when I was still a youngish Yeshiva student we took a long journey from New York to Florida where we set up shop

learning Torah in North Miami Beach for a week. For the long trip home we had four cars that traveled loosely together. We arranged to meet in Savannah, Georgia where we were all generously treated to a big Sunday brunch.

At that meal one of the senior students spoke up and delivered a most fascinating Dvar Torah. He spoke about the mystical notion that as we travel from one place to another learning, praying and doing acts of kindness we are like a magnet attracting and elevating hidden sparks of holiness that have been embedded in this dark and lowly realm of existence.

We may have little real idea of the impact of our deeds at the time but there are many sublime sparks that wait anxiously for some righteous individual or group to release them from the imprisonment of those husks that bind. It was certainly an interesting thesis and I'm sure I was not the only one who didn't understand completely what he was talking about at the time.

We made our after- blessings and got back on the road. We met at an agreed upon exit along the way to pray the afternoon service and then set our sights on the next meeting place where we would convene for the evening prayer service.

All four cars in our caravan came together that evening within a few minutes of each other. We found a large empty parking lot where under a concrete canopy we congregated briefly to pray. On the far side of the parking an ice cream shop was open and a small cluster of people and cars were gathered but we had no near contact with anyone there in that Virginia shopping mall, before getting back on our long and merry way home.

We arrived early in the morning and later that exhausted day it was discovered that a phone call was made to the Yeshiva outreach division and a message was left inquiring about Torah classes and believe it or not this call had come from, of all places on the planet, that small off the beaten path Virginia town where our modest group had stopped to

The Week Ahead

פרשת מטות מסעי

Mincha & Kabbolas Shabbos

שבת מברכין אב

7.30pm

Candle Lighting

7.54pm - 8.00pm

Seder HaLimud

8.40am

Shacharis

9.00am

סוף זמן ק"ש

9.00am

Mincha 1st Minyan

6.00pm

Mincha 2nd Minyan

9.49pm

Followed by a Shiur by the Rov on the Halachos of the 9 days

Motzei Shabbos

10.53pm

Sunday

7.15am / 8.20am

Monday ראש חודש

6.30am / 7.00am

Tuesday Wednesday / Friday

6.45am / 7.20am

Thursday

6.45am / 7.10am

Mincha & Maariv

7.45pm

Late Maariv

10.40pm

Mincha & Maariv Next Shabbos

7.30pm

pray just the night before.

To every place the Children of Israel traveled they brought an ever increasing treasure of holy sparks collected from the time of leaving Egypt. What's the ultimate value of all those gathered sparks? Writes the Ohaiv Yisroel, "When G-d sees portions of good and holiness are rescued from the hand of oppressors He has the greatest possible delight... These sparks rise from the deepest pit and are elevated to form a crown for G-d."

All this makes we wonder, "What to make of my summer break?!"

Travel Experience

Rabbi Label Lam (Torah.org)

The second of this week's two portions is named Masei, Travels. It begins by enumerating the various stops along the Jewish nation's forty year trek through the desert. The first verse opens the narrative. "These are the journeys of the Children of Israel, who went forth from the land of Egypt according to their legions, under the hand of Moses and Aaron" (Numbers 33:1).

The second verse seems to have a redundant and unclear clause. "Moshe wrote their goings on according to their journeys at the bidding of Hashem, and these were their journeys according to their goings on (ibid v.2). But the phrase seems to be juxtaposed differently at the beginning and at the end of the very same sentence. At first the Torah says "Moshe wrote their goings on (experiences) according to their journeys," and when the Torah begins listing each stop it precedes the listings by stating "these were their journeys according to their goings on (experiences)."

What does the Torah mean "journeys according to their goings on"? The word translated as "goings on" is motzoaihem, which means experiences. The Torah is relating not only the geographical destinations of the Jews as they wandered, but also the historically eternal implications of each rest-stop. Thus the Torah tells us more than the journeys. It tells us the journeys according to their experiences. Were the journeys listed according to the experiences or were the experiences listed according to the journeys?

The story is told about the Toldos Ahron Rebbe. He was sitting at his table with one of his Chasidim. After a very long while, the sexton brought a bowl of beautiful fruit to the table. It was quite appealing and the Rebbe noticed the sparkle in the eye of the hungry patron. The Rebbe invited his disciple to make a blessing over the shiny crimson apple.

The guest declared that such a beautiful fruit was worthy of a beautiful blessing and he resolved to make a blessing with all his heart one truly befitting this marvelous creation. The student stood up, held the apple in both his hands, and spent a few minutes contemplating the delicious fruit that Hashem had created. His eyes sparkled in anticipation, which enthused him even more. Carefully he annunciated every word of the blessing. Swaying back and forth he began, "Boruch Atah, Blessed art Thou..."

After what must have been the most eloquent blessing the man ever recited, he bit excitedly into the delicious fruit, and after swallowing, he once again praised the beautiful taste and appearance.

The man seemed to revel in his act of spirituality, and the Rebbe knew he had to explain something to him.

"You made a beautiful bracha my dear disciple," he began. "Now I will teach you the difference between your blessing and the blessing of a complete tzadik."

"You saw the fruit. You wanted to eat it. But alas, one is not allowed to eat a fruit without a blessing over it. And so you made a most beautiful blessing. It is truly commendable.

"A complete tzadik, however, does not have his mind set on fruit. He wants to bless Hashem for his beautiful handiwork. But alas, one is not allowed to make that blessing without partaking in the pleasure of His handiwork. And so he looks for a fruit. When he finds the fruit, he is now ready to make the blessing he had long waited to make."

Every meaningful experience is comprised of temporal circumstances and spiritual, philosophical or ethical ramifications. In the larger picture, in view of the greater picture one may ask: Was it the circumstance that

Ohr Yerushalayim
invites you to a Shiuir by



Rabbi David Kaplan שליט"א
'Rov at Ohr Sameach and international lecturer'

"Rebuilding the Human Ruins"

On Sunday 7th July
from 9.00pm - 10.00pm

Men & Women welcome

Ohr Yerushalayim, 470 Bury New Road
Salford, M7 4NU

Guest Speaker

is the foremost character of the experience, or was it the experience that makes the circumstances pale in retrospect.

The Torah tells us that Moshe wrote their goings on according to their journeys. That seems to say he wrote the occurrences, the various events, traumatic and otherwise, that occurred as a result of the journeys. After all, as a result of their journeys certain events occurred. Fate brought them to certain places and thus certain events occurred.

To our human eye that is what happens in life. We go places. We do things. Events occur. But the Torah itself announces these journeys with a twist.

It declares the journeys in a different light. It does not precede the events saying this is what happened as a result of the journeys. Just the opposite! It tells us "These are the journeys according to the experiences." The journeys were secondary to the experiences, the journeys were listed according to the experiences!

Maybe in life's journeys and the ensuing experiences, perhaps in all our actions it is worth reflecting. Do we bless to eat or do we eat to bless? Do we mark our experiences according to where we travel, or do we mark our travels according to where we have had our experiences?

It is critically important to understand what has occurred and its ramifications, perhaps more than the mere geographic vehicle that brought us to our life's true destination.

LAST CHANCE!

Shul Shtenders, £100 each - please text 07813326423 with your name and size required

