



Ohr Yerushalayim News

ט"ו סיון תשע"ט – שלח – 29th June 2019 - Volume 11 - Issue 50

News This Week

מזל טוב

Mazel Tov to Charles and Lucy Bursk on the occasion of Saul's Bar Mitzvah this Shabbos in Holy Law followed by a kiddush after davening in the Henry Seaberg hall.

Kiddush This Shabbos

There will be a Kiddush after Davening this Shabbos jointly sponsored by Rafi Green and Michael Freedman on the occasion of the yahrtzeits of their respective fathers next week. Chaim Aruchim.

לחיים ולשלום

We wish farewell to Ben and Batsheva Blackston on their move to Los Angeles. We wish them much Hatzlocho with the move!

Going By Foot

Dov Brysh

I like to learn Tanach. One of the problems I encounter when engaging in this pursuit is that fairly often people in Tanach do things that appear inexplicable; their actions can be, on the face of it, perplexing in the extreme. Other times their actions appear to have very simple but unfortunately unflattering explanations which we instinctively try to dismiss as untrue. In these situations, I like to play what I call the 'al tadin' game: imagine what it would be like to be in the story – the historical, geographic, social and political realities of the time – what would you think? What would you do? How would you perceive what was going on? It's a useful tool (and one that mefarshim like the Malbim and Abarbanel make exceptional use of) but when we apply it to the Bnei Yisroel in our parsha we encounter a bit of a problem: it works too well. If we try to see the situation from the point of view of one of the Bnei Yisroel it's difficult to see what they did wrong.

They are approaching a land that they have no knowledge of, except for the fact that it is inhabited by 7 of the most powerful nations in the entire region. Therefore, they ask Moshe to check with HKBH if they can send a few men to have a look around, check the terrain, see what's what. And HKBH says yes. And so they choose the 12 best, holiest men, the Gedolei Hador if you like, to go. And 40 days later the psak comes back: the vast majority of Gedolim all say not to go. Yes, there are 1 or 2 who are cholek but they're yechidim and don't count really, not when the Gedolim have paskened.

From our vantage point in the audience we're well aware of the change that has happened to the meraglim, and there are plenty of fascinating explanations as to why they behaved the way they did but they are not the focus of this little scribbling. However, the Bnei Yisroel at the time had no idea; to them these were the same tzadikim that had left a month and a half previously. Can we really blame them for reacting the way that they did? And yet this is such a dreadful sin that it costs them entry into Eretz Yisroel, a death sentence in the desert and is a contributing factor in all our troubles since. So, what gives?

Rav Yissochor Shlomo Teichtal in his magnum opus Eim Habonim Semeicha offers a solution that is both extremely simple and extremely powerful. Where the Bnei Yisroel went wrong is that when HKBH is offering you Eretz Yisroel on a plate, telling you that He will fight your wars of conquest and all you need to do is walk in, you don't prevaricate. You don't go "well let's see if we can make it work". It matters not one jot

the stature of the people saying "don't go". You don't ask to check it out first. You just go. When HKBH has rolled out the red carpet and put up the big flashing "welcome home" neon sign you just go.

History is peppered with people who have been moser nefesh to rectify this. The letters of the Bartenura describe the intense storms he experienced on his journey just across the Mediterranean from Italy to Eretz Yisroel. R' Yehuda Halevi looked at what he wrote at the end of the Kuzari, dropped everything and immediately set off for Yerushalayim. Historians are divided as to whether he ever even made it such were the difficulties he encountered. More recently, this week marks the 50th anniversary of the incarceration of a young Russian man named Boris Kochubiyevsky who was sent to Siberia for the heinous crime of applying for a visa to go to Israel. After his 'trial', he sent a letter to Leonid Brezhnev, then leader of the USSR, in which he wrote the following:

"As long as I live, as long as I am capable of feeling, I will do all I can to be able to leave for Israel. And if you find it possible to sentence me for it, then all the same, if I live until my release, I will be prepared to go to the homeland of my ancestors, even if it means going by foot."

"Even if it means going by foot." As perfect a riposte as possible to the meraglim – those who went by foot.

Get The Message?

Rabbi Pinchas Winston (Torah.org)

Send out for yourself men who will scout the Land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Children of Israel... (Bamidbar 13:2)

A FRIEND OF mine told me a story the other day about a friend of his. He told me that when his friend came home from yeshiva for a visit, his father asked him, "Are you learning mussar?"

"Of course, Abba," the boy answered.

"No," the father pressed, "Do you have a SEDER in mussar and learn it seriously?"

The son was taken aback by his father's insistence. In all his years, his father had NEVER shown that much concern about his learning mussar. Why all of a sudden? So he asked, and his father explained.

"Today I was with someone I consider to be a BIG talmid chacham, and for whom I have had a LOT of respect over the years. But then he started going on and on about something that happened to him, and how he was not shown adequate kavod—honor. It REALLY bothered him."

The Week Ahead

שבת פרשת שלח

Mincha
Candle Lighting
Shacharis
סוף זמן ק"ש
Children's Group
1st Mincha
2nd Mincha
3rd Mincha
Rov's Shiur
Motzei Shabbos
Sun
Mon
Tues / Fri
Wed / Fri Rosh Chodesh
Mincha & Maariv
Late Maariv

מברכין תמוז

7.30pm
7.56pm - 8.00pm
9.15am
8.57am
10.45am
2.00pm
6.00pm
9.54pm
Following
10.59pm
7.15am / 8.20am
6.45am / 7.10am / 8.00am
6.45am / 7.20am / 8.00am
6.30am / 7.00am / 8.00am
7.45pm
10.50pm

