



Message from the Rav

יהזקאל צבי גרינברג רב קהילת בית ישראל מיניאפוליס מיניסוטה

Attaining Closeness with Hashem

The end of this week's Parsha (and much of next week's Parsha) has numerous Pesukim that end with words "Ani Hashem," or "Ani Hashem Elokeichem," much more than usual.

The story is told of an Israeli Kiruv Rabbi, fluent in both Hebrew and English, who delivered a speech to a crowd of Baalei Teshuva in New York. He spoke passionately about our purpose in life and creating a relationship with Hashem. After the speech, one attendee praised his ability to translate everything he said into perfect English. "However, there was one word you kept on forgetting to translate: 'Hashem.' What does that mean?!"

Unlike the story above, the following story wasn't just told; it actually happened. R' Yisroel Belsky and his Bais Din were Megayeir (converted) a young woman who then married and settled in the Philippines. When their daughter was to be Bas Mitzva, R' Belsky and his wife made plans to join them in the Philippines for the occasion. A week before the event, the Belsky's daughter had quadruplets, three boys and a girl, and the next day their daughter-in-law had a boy. R' Belsky could have served as Mohel for four grandsons in the span of two days; however, they had already committed to join the Bas Mitzva, and they chose to honor that commitment and missed all the Brisos. Years later, R' Belsky's daughter commented that perhaps her father was granted four more years of life after suffering a life-threatening esophagus rupture because he gave up four Brisos for the sake of gladdening a Ger Tzedek.

Our job in this world is to do things because Hashem wants us to, and through that to build a relationship with Him. When we desire to do what is right, we hopefully merit Hashem's help to make the right choices. The key is the desire and the yearning, and the willingness to do whatever is necessary to be able to forge that relationship.

The Parsha this week discusses the Kohen Gadol's yearly entry to the Kodesh Kadashim (Holy of Holies) to perform in solitude the holiest service of the year. The Meshech Chachma notes how we find many times in the Neviim that the nation gathered in Yerushalyim on Yom Tov when they came to be Oleh Regel. But we never find in the Navi that they gathered in the Bais Hamikdash on Yom Kippur. However, in Chazal and in our Tefillos we see that they did come in large numbers to observe the Kohen Gadol's Avoda on Yom Kippur. The Meshech Chachma explains that the Navim were during the first Bais Hamikdash, while the Chazal are referring to the second one. Why did they come on Yom Kippur only during the later period?

He explains that the Shalosh Regalim are times when we are supposed to join the Klal in the Bais Hamikdash. (cont. —>)

Davening Times

Fri, Erev Shabbos Parshas Acharei Mos, May 3

Shacharis 6:30, 7:30 & 8:30 AM
Early Mincha 6:35 PM, CL 6:52-7:00
Reg Mincha 8:05 PM, CL 8:04 PM

Shabbos Mevorchim, May 4

Shacharis 8:30 AM
Latest Shema (MG"A/GR"A) 8:58/ 9:34
Latest Shemona Esrei (GR"A) 10:46
Bnos 3:15 PM

BOYZ Shabbos Afternoon Schedule

5:20 PM: Avos Ubanim.
6:20 PM: Boys' Learning, 5th & 6th w/ R' Stoll,
7th & 8th w/ R' Lichtman.
6:50 PM: Mincha for 5th-8th grade.

Pirkei Avos, Rabbi Greenberg 7:15 PM

Mincha 7:50 PM

"The Sanctity of Shabbos" Review 8:54 PM

Shabbos Over 9:14 PM

Sunday May 5

Shacharis 7:00 & 8:30 AM
1st Mincha 2:00 PM
Mincha/Maariv 8:10 PM
2nd Maariv 9:20 PM

Monday – Thursday May 6-9

Wed & Thurs, Rosh Chodesh Iyar
Shacharis 6:30 & 8:30
1st Mincha (M-W) 2:00 PM
Mincha/Maariv 8:10 PM
2nd Maariv 9:20 PM

Friday Erev Shabbos Parshas Kedoshim, May 10

Shacharis 6:30 & 8:30 AM
Early Mincha 6:40 PM, CL 6:58-7:05
Reg Mincha 8:15, CL 8:12 PM

NEWS

As noted above, the boys' program schedule will be a bit different than before. Avos Ubanim will start each week about three hours before Shkiya and go for an hour, followed by half hour learning for 5th-8th grades, followed by the boys' Mincha. Then Pirkei Avos and regular Mincha.

Rabbi Stoll's group will be starting Maseches Tamid this week. (cont. —>)

(→ cont.) Everyone has a Mitzva to be Oleh Regel and bring Karbanos. But Yom Kippur was not like that; it was mostly the personal Avoda of the Kohen Gadol. No one else was involved; rather they stayed put and focused on their own Avoda of fasting and Teshuva. So why was it different during the second Bais Hamikdash? Says the Meshech Chachma, the Kohen Gadol was on a high spiritual level during the Avoda of Yom Kippur. He entered the holiest place on earth, a place that even Malachim could not go, and even merited a level of Nevuah (prophecy). During the first Bais Hamikdash, Nevuah was more common as many people attained that level, so in and of itself wasn't a reason for anyone to come and observe the Kohen Gadol on Yom Kippur. However, soon after the second Bais Hamikdash was built, Nevuah stopped, and from then on, the only ability we had to connect to at least some level of Nevuah was to observe the Kohen Gadol on Yom Kippur. So throngs of Yidden who yearned for a connection to Hashem gathered each year to try and connect with the Kohen Gadol when he'd reach that level of Nevuah.

Rabbi Binyomin Stoll a few years ago in *Ohr HaTzafone* vividly described the awesomeness of the Kohen Gadol's entry into the Kodesh Hakadashim, and then cited the **Nefesh Hachaim** who says that in fact, every Yid experiences this every moment of their lives. Our bodies are a microcosm of the Bais Hamikdash, with the heart representing the Kodesh Hakadashim, and our thoughts and emotions are the service being performed there. If our thoughts are proper and directed to Hashem, we are like the Kohen Gadol on Yom Kippur performing the holiest service.

If the only remnant of Nevuah in the second Bais Hamikdash was in the Kodesh Hakadashim on Yom Kippur, today it's in the Batei Medrashos and Batei Kenesios, as Chazal teach that Eyn Lo L'Hakadosh Boruch Hu Ela Daled Amos Shel Halacha Bilvad. As we discussed this Yom Tov prior to Yizkor, we need to realize what we have. We have a Shul that is not just a place to daven, but it is the beacon of light for all Devorim Sheb'kedusha in the entire Kehilla. Bais Yisroel is able to have that Hashpa'ah (influence) because we are a Ke-

NEWS (cont.)

There has been some interest expressed in continuing the 7:30 am Shacharis, or perhaps 7:20 am. If you are interested in committing to such a Minyan, please contact Rabbi Greenberg.

In a very unusual twist for Minneapolis, this year B"H the fruit trees are already blooming in Nissan and the yearly Brachas Ha'ilanos may be recited. There are numerous trees around the neighborhood, including two in the Schloss' front yard, 2630 Raleigh Ave. S., two in the Shurpin's front yard, 2722 Salem Ave. S., and one alongside the Yeshiva building, on the Ottawa Ave. S. side.

Chometz products may be purchased from our area food stores. We aren't aware of any with issues of Chometz She'avar Alav HaPesach.

There are many **liquor stores** in the area that are owned by Jews. Merwin Liquors sold their Chometz, as did Aviv and Bellboy (a supplier). Top Ten Liquor is Jewish owned, as is Chicago Uptown Liquors, and I'm not aware of their selling their Chometz. Liquor Boy is no longer Jewish owned.

Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to Rabbi & Mrs. **Bentzion & Esty Schachter** on the birth of a boy, and to grandparents Rabbi & Mrs. **Yosef Aryeh & Chana Rochel Schachter**.

Mazel Tov to Mr. & Mrs. **Amichai & Shira Masha Cohen** on the birth & bris of their son **Noam Dov Ber**, and to grandparents Mr. & Mrs. **Arnie & Hindy Frisman** and to GREAT-grandmother Mrs. **Florence Miller**.

Mazel Tov to Rabbi & Mrs. **Nissin & Shira Delmoor** on the birth & bris of their son **Avraham Nofa**, and to grandparents Mr. & Mrs. **Tom & Ramie Delmoor**.

Mazel Tov to Rabbi & Mrs. **Moishele & Sori Uhr** on the birth of their daughter **Esther**, and to first time grandparents Mr. & Mrs. **Dovi & Sefie Uhr**, and to GREAT-grandparents Rabbi & Mrs. **Yanky & Leah Roberts**.

hilla who are Chareidim Lidvar Hashem, we yearn to do what Hashem wants of us in order to be able to forge a relationship with Him. As we embark on the physical renovation of the Shul, let us keep in mind the ultimate purpose, which is to be"H be able to continue sharing and spreading the word of Hashem.