

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

Vibrant, Relevant, Meaningful. . .and Orthodox

November 28-29, 2008 • 2 Kislev, 5769 • Shabbos Parshas Toldos
Candlelighting 5:03 PM • Shabbos Ends 6:06 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Abigail, Yoni, Shira & Aliza Ruttenberg in honor of the November Family Birthdays. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Aryeh Leib Shmukler in memory of his grandfather, Yaakov ben Aryeh Zev HaLevi (Royzengurten). Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

November 28th

- » Candlelighting–5:03 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–5:05 PM

November 29th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–Cancelled
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–4:35 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–6:06 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–5:05 PM

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Second Annual Father/Son Overnight:** All fathers and sons who are members and friends of CTC are invited to spend a Motzei Shabbos and Sunday (December 6-7) in front of a roaring camp fire, staying up really late, eating pizza, roasting marshmallows, playing football, frisbee, jumping off a hayloft, and visiting with some of the cutest cows you have ever seen. Great bonding time, great food (big BBQ on Sunday afternoon just before we leave for home), and a great price (\$15 per person). Call Shalom Abrams at (903) 918-9650 to reserve your spot today.

■ JEWISH HALL OF FAME: BY RABBI LABEL LAM

And HASHEM said to her, “Two nations are in your womb; two regimes from your insides will be separated; the might shall pass from one regime to the other, and the elder shall serve the younger.” (Breishis 25:23)

How do we make sense of this story? Why was the negative prophecy about Essau revealed to only one parent? Why did Rivka not inform her husband about the future difficulty? How could Rivka allow her husband to be continually tricked by Essau? Why did she wait for the very last moment before intercepting the blessing aimed at Essau? How could Isaac be so deceived? Who was it that Isaac thought was in the room when he felt the hands of Essau and yet heard the voice of Jacob?

The Rambam states a principle that a negative prophecy need not be realized. The classic example was with Yona and his mission to Ninveh. Once they got the message and responded appropriately then the threat of imminent doom was eased. If a doctor warns his patient not to eat a certain food because it may have hazardous consequences then as long as doctor’s orders are followed tragedy need not occur.

Similarly, if Essau would have adopted a healthier and more submissive attitude toward Jacob; if he would have internalized the Torah he learned; if he could have transcended his ego, then both Jacob and Essau would have been co-equal founders of the Jewish Nation. Jacob would have been as the roots of the tree mining deep water of council and Essau would have been as the branches that bear the message to the world.

How did Isaac remain blind towards Essau’s faults and why he was kept in the dark until the very- end? The story is told about a school teacher who received an apology from the principal in the middle of the school year, “I’m sorry for sticking you with the slow class.” The teacher was shocked. “Slow class?” he wondered aloud. Taking out the original roster, he pointed to the numbers next to each name, “134, 125, 142, 151...This is the brightest academic group I have ever had the privilege to teach! Look at these IQ scores!” The principal took a long look at the page and declared,

“These are not the IQ scores. These are the locker numbers!”

Sometimes it’s important that only the administrator know what’s in a student’s file while the teacher remains blissfully unaware, if a child is to grow beyond limiting expectations. However the administrator is watching carefully to see that by the time diplomas and licenses are handed out the credentials are there.

Isaac was bribed by a parental desire to see that his child makes it. Any slight display of progress and effort is already a foreboding of success. There’s a part of every parent that never gives up on his child, and rightfully so! Even at the last moment he had a hope that Essau would adjust himself to be more compatible with Jacob. So when he felt “the hands are the hands of Essau” while “the voice is the voice of Jacob” he naturally assumed that Essau had finally softened and “got it”.

Rivka understood that by that time it was too late and dramatic intervention was necessary. Rivka did her job as the administrator waiting patiently, while Isaac worked with his son Essau hoping continuously and bribed daily by the desire not to lose his child. Rivka was anxious too for Essau to display more than a manipulative pandering to Isaac, getting the grades to please the system but never getting the real message.

In the end only Essau caused Essau to fail. By feeding lies to his father he tricked himself, playing into the illusion of success without ever having honestly changed. While he toyed with his father’s hope he actually betrayed his trust. Even though Essau continually faults Jacob for his own failures, there is really only one person to blame why he remains a character of infamy and why his uniform was not enshrined in The Jewish Hall of Fame!

■ RECOLLECTION AND RECOGNITION

For \$18 you can sponsor a greeting in memory of a loved one, in honor of a deserving friend or family member, or in recognition of an outstanding achievement. Please call Rabbi Rich at 972-248-1324 by Thursday afternoon to place your greeting.

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■ ONGOING CLASSES

The Shabbos Kitchen: Tuesday, 8:00-9:00 PM

There are literally thousands of halachic questions than can arise on Shabbos. Mastery of these laws is necessary to have a proper and meaningful observance of Shabbos. But, managing them all, especially with respect to Shabbos observance in the kitchen, can be daunting. This class will teach you step-by-step how to keep a halachically correct Shabbos kitchen. You will not only learn what to do, but why as well. Understanding the logic behind the observance makes keeping Shabbos easier and more meaningful. *Beginning October 28, 2008 and running every Tuesday, 8 PM at Congregation Toras Chaim, for men and women, adults and teens. The teacher will be Rabbi Yaakov Rich. There is no cost to attend this course. Congregation Toras Chaim is located at 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252. Please call 972-248-1324 for more information. Members and non-members of the shul are invited and encouraged to attend.*

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

Placing food on the hotplate or blech / Setting up the slow cooker / Wrapping and storing hot food / Heating the water / Opening the wine bottle / Opening tin cans, soda cans. / Opening food packets and boxes. / Serving the soup / Using a wet ladle. / Serving from a pot on the gas range. / Returning the soup to the hotplate. / Putting challa into the soup. / Putting soup nuts into the soup. / Making

tea / Making tea on Shabbos / Pouring hot water into a cholent / Washing the dishes / Using a sponge to wash the dishes. / Using soap and liquid soap. / Preparing the Shabbos day meal / Setting the table / Peeling the eggs / Mashing the eggs / Cutting up the onions / Mixing the eggs with oil and mayonnaise / Taking food from the freezer before the meal / Moving muktze in the freezer / Cleaning up / Sweeping the floor / Moving the garbage can / Cleaning the table / Wiping the counters / Loading the dishwasher / Loading dishes into the dishwasher / Cleaning for after Shabbos / Putting food back in the fridge / Preparing for seudah sh'lishis / Spilling oil from tuna / Mixing the tehinah / Tidying up the table

Path of the Just: Wednesday, 8:00-9:00 PM

Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzato, better known as the RaMCHaL, authored a book on spiritual and character development that is widely considered to be the quintessential book of its kind. This is the class to attend as a couple for both husband and wife to learn and grow together. Wednesdays, 8 PM for men and women at Congregation Toras Chaim, 17912 Hillcrest Rd., Dallas, TX 75252.

Women’s Chumash: Sunday, 8:00-9:00 PM

There is no cost. All Hebrew is read from the original source and translated. Various commentaries are presented, primarily Rashi’s, and a lively discussion ensues, as we try to understand the profundity of the text. For women beginner to advanced. Please bring a chumash that contains at least the text of Shemos (Exodus) preferably with Rashi’s commentary.

■ PARSHA Q&A: PARSHAS TOLDOS

QUESTIONS

- 1. Why was it important that Yitzchak look like Avraham?
- 2. Why does the Torah stress that Rivka was Betuels daughter and Lavans sister?
- 3. What are the two differences between Tamars pregnancy and Rivkas pregnancy?
- 4. Why was Esav named Esav?
- 5. Who gave Yaakov his name?
- 6. How did Esav deceive his father?
- 7. Why was Esav faint when he returned from the field?
- 8. Why are lentils a food for mourners?
- 9. What was the birthright that Yaakov bought from Esav?
- 10. Why was Yitzchak not permitted to go to Egypt?
- 11. Why did the Philistines plug up the wells?
- 12. Why did Yitzchak lose his sight? (three reasons)
- 13. At what age should one anticipate his own death?
- 14. Why did Rivka ask Yaakov to bring two kid goats?
- 15. Why did Esav leave his special garments with Rivka?
- 16. What fragrance did Yitzchak detect on Yaakovs garments?
- 17. What was the “fat of the land” promised to Esav?
- 18. When will Esav be freed from subjugation to Yaakov?

- 19. What inspired Esav to marry the daughter of Yishmael?
- 20. Knowing that Machalat was Yishmaels daughter, its self-evident that she was the sister of Nevayot. Why, then, does the Torah state that Esav married “Yishmaels daughter, the sister of Nevayot?”

ANSWERS

- 1. 25:19 - So everyone would agree that Avraham was indeed his father.
- 2. 25:20 - To praise her, that even though her family was evil she was righteous.
- 3. 25:24 - Rivka gave birth at full term to two children, one righteous and one wicked. Tamar gave birth after seven months to two righteous children.
- 4. 25:25 - He was born fully developed. The name Esav is based on the Hebrew word for “made”.
- 5. 25:26 G-d.
- 6. 25:27 - Esav deceived Yitzchak by asking questions that suggested that he was very strict in mitzvah observance.
- 7. 25:29 - From having murdered.
- 8. 25:30 - They are round like a wheel and mourning is like a revolving wheel that eventually touches everyone.
- 9. 25:31 - The right to bring sacrifices.
- 10. 26:2 - Through the akeida he had attained the status of a korban and was forbidden to leave Eretz Canaan.
- 11. 26:15 - They felt that either marauders would attack to capture the wells, or, if attacking for other reasons, they would use the wells as a water supply.
- 12. 27:1 - a) From the smoke of the incense offered by Esavs wives to their idols; b) From the angels tears which fell into Yitzchaks eyes at the time of the akeida; c) In order for Yaakov to receive the blessings.
- 13. 27:2 - When he reaches five years from the age his parents were when they passed away, until five years after.
- 14. 27:9 - One for Yitzchak and the other to offer as a korban Pesach.
- 15. 27:15 - He suspected that his wives might steal them.
- 16. 27:27 - The scent of Gan Eden.
- 17. 27:36 - Italy.
- 18. 27:40 - When the Jewish People transgress the Torah.
- 19. 28:7 - Seeing that his father despised his current wives, he resolved to take a wife from his father’s family.
- 20. 28:9 - To indicate that Yishmael died between her betrothal and her wedding, and that it was Nevayot who gave his sister in marriage to Esav. Knowing the date of Yishmaels death, we can determine the date of Esavs marriage and thus Yaakovs age, 63, at the time of his flight from Esav.

Good Shabbos

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■WEEKLY CLASSES

- » **Amud Yomi:** Gemara for men with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (M-Fr, 6-6:35 AM)
- » **Chumash** for women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Sunday 8:00-9:00 PM)
- » **The Shabbos Kitchen** for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Tuesday 8:00-9:00 PM)
- » **Path of the Just** for men and women with Rabbi Yaakov Rich (Wednesday 8:00-9:00 PM)
- » **Chumash** for men and women (Shabbos one hour before Mincha)

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are in the shul.