

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

Toras Chaim means a Torah of life and a living Torah, a Torah which permeates every part of our existence, and is relevant to all that we do. It is vibrant, exciting and meaningful. The goal of Congregation Toras Chaim is to create a center for Jewish living that is built on these principles.

NOVEMBER 7-8, 2008 · 10 CHESHVAN, 5769 · SHABBOS PARSHAS LECH LECHA
CANDLELIGHTING 5:12 PM · SHABBOS ENDS 6:14 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Larry & Leah Rae Elewitz. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by the shul.
Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

■ SHABBOS SCHEDULE:

November 7th

- » Candlelighting–5:12 PM
- » Mincha/Kabbalos Shabbos–5:10 PM

November 8th

- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
- » Chumash Shiur (for men & women)–3:45 PM
- » Mincha/Shalosh Seudos–4:45 PM
- » Shabbos Ends–6:14 PM

■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–5:10 PM

■ OUT OF THIS WORLD: BY RABBI LABEL LAM

Then Abram said, “See to me You have given no offspring, and my steward inherits me...” Suddenly the word of HASHEM came to him saying, “That one will not inherit you. Only him that comes forth from you shall inherit you.” And He took him outside and said, “Gaze now, toward the Heavens, and count the stars if you are able to count them.” And he said, “So shall your offspring be!” (Breishis 15:3-5)

He took him outside: Simply, he took him outside of his tent to see the stars. The Midrash however learns that He told him to go outside the realm of his astrological limitations. (Rashi)

Why does Rashi need to offer a second explanation to Avram’s being taken out? What was deficient with the first simple understanding? Maybe it was not important enough to know that he was inside the tent to learn now that he taken out of his tent. The Torah is not a book of choreography. It becomes necessary then to know that he was taken out of the world. Also worthy of note, “Habet” means to look down on something. It seems Avram was told to gaze from outside the bubble of the physical universe to observe the stars for some as yet unexplained reason.

We can only imagine that this must of have been a moment of intoxicating joy for Avram. He was hoping and begging for a child and HASHEM, Master of the Universe informs him that his children will be numerous as the uncountable stars. Wow! There’s only small problem. In the ancient world before the innovation of telescopes, the naked eye is only capable of observing not more than 4,000 stars.

That’s not so many when talking about the creation of a great and influential nation over many thousands of years of history. The number 4,000 is not enough to swing the election in a small state. Big deal! So will be his seed? What did Avram perceive? The verse tells us that he was told to count if he was able. My five-year old can count to four thousand (with some help). Certainly Avram, one of the greatest original thinkers and investigative scientists of all time could make the count. Was this a moment of disappointment or joy? What did he see?

Amazingly, the Talmud Brochos (32B) writes the following: G-d said to the People of Israel, “I created twelve constellations, and for each constellation I created thirty hosts and for each host I created thirty legions and for each legion I created thirty divisions, and for each division I created I created thirty battalions and for each battalion I created thirty camps, and to each camp I have attached three hundred and sixty-five thousand –tens of thousands of stars, corresponding to the days of the solar year, and all of them I have created only for your sake!”

Let’s do the math! $30 \times 30 \times 30 \times 30 \times 30 \times 12 \times 365 \times 1,000 \times 10,000 =$

1,064,340,000,000,000 stars. As of 2003 astronomers estimated the number of stars in the universe to be 7 followed by 22 zeroes. The number offered by the sages is above 10 followed by 18 zeroes. Who’s right? It may not be an exactly countable number anyway, because stars are constantly being created and destroyed. Even Avraham Avinu failed to tally the total if in fact he stepped out of more than his tent and what he saw was from out of this world.

■ 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.

- » **Happy Birthday to Yoseif Meir & Shoshana Rich, who are both celebrating their birthdays today.**

—Love Tatti & Mommy

■ 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 LECH LECHA

QUESTIONS

1. What benefits did G-d promise Avraham if he would leave his home?
2. "And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you." What does this mean?
3. Who were the souls that Avraham and Sarah "made?"
4. What were the Canaanites doing in the Land of Canaan when Avraham arrived?
5. Why did Avraham build an altar at Ai?
6. What two results did Avraham hope to achieve by saying that Sarah was his sister?
7. Why did Avraham's shepherds rebuke Lot's shepherds?
8. Who was Amrafel and why was he called that?
9. Verse 14:7 states that the four kings "smote all the country of the Amalekites". How is this possible, since Amalek had not yet been born?
10. Why did the "palit" tell Avraham of Lot's capture?
11. Who accompanied Avraham in battle against the four kings?
12. Why couldn't Avraham chase the four kings past Dan?
13. Why did Avraham give "ma'aser" specifically to Malki-Tzedek?
14. Why didn't Avraham accept any money from Sodom's king?
15. When did the decree of 400 years of exile begin?
16. What did G-d indicate with His promise that Avraham would "come to his ancestors in peace"?
17. How did G-d fulfill His promise that Avraham would be buried in "a good old age"?
18. Why did the Jewish People need to wait until the fourth generation until they returned to Eretz Canaan?
19. Who was Hagar's father?
20. Why did Avraham fall on his face when G-d appeared to him?

ANSWERS

1. 12:1 - He would become a great nation, his excellence would become known to the world, and he would be blessed with wealth.
2. 12:3 - A person will say to his child, "You should be like Avraham."
3. 12:5 - People they converted to the worship of G-d.
4. 12:6 - They were in the process of conquering the land from the descendants of Shem.
5. 12:8 - He foresaw the Jewish People's defeat there in the days of Yehoshua due to Achans sin. He built an altar to pray for them.
6. 12:13 - That the Egyptians would not kill him, and would give him presents.
7. 13:7 Lots shepherds grazed their flocks in privately owned fields.
8. 14:1 - Amrafel was Nimrod. He said (amar) to Avraham to fall (fel) into the fiery furnace.
9. 14:7 - The Torah uses the name that the place would bear in the future.
10. 14:13- He wanted Avraham to die trying to save Lot so that he himself could marry Sarah.
11. 14:14 - His servant, Eliezer.
12. 4:14 - He saw prophetically that his descendants would make a golden calf there, and as a result his strength failed.
13. 14:20 - Because Malki-Tzedek was a kohen.
14. 14:23 - G-d had promised Avraham wealth, and Avraham didn't want Sodom's King to say, "I made Avraham wealthy."
15. 15:13 - With the birth of Yitzchak.
16. 15:15 - That his father, Terach, would repent and become righteous.
17. 15:15 - Avraham lived to see his son Yishmael repent and become righteous, and he died before his grandson Esav became wicked.
18. 15:16 - They needed to wait until the Amorites had sinned sufficiently to deserve expulsion.
19. 16:1 - Pharaoh.
20. 17:3 - Because he was as yet uncircumcised.

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.