

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM

Vibrant, Relevant, Meaningful. . .and Orthodox

January 2-3, 2009 ■ 7 Teves, 5769 ■ Shabbos Parshas Vayigash
Candlelighting 5:15 PM ■ Shabbos Ends 6:19 PM

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by Simo Rom and Shai Solomon. Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Josh & Shoshana Chana Jacobs.
Please contact Shalom Abrams at 903-918-9650 if you are interested in sponsoring kiddush or shalosh seudos in the future.

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- » Shacharis (followed by Kiddush)–8:30 AM
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■ WEEKDAY SCHEDULE:

- » Sunday Shacharis–8:00 AM
- » Weekday Shacharis–6:40 AM
- » Mincha/Maariv–5:05 PM
- » Tuesday, January 6–Fast of 10th of Teves Shacharis–6:25 AM (Fast Begins: 6:18 AM)
- » Tuesday, January 6–Fast of 10th of Teves Mincha–5:00 PM (Fast Ends: 6:16 PM)

■ WHAT’S NU AT CTC

- » **Dallas Welcomes Rebbetzin Tzipora Heller: Kedusha...It’s Not Just For Shabbos: Seeing Hashem’s Presence In Our Day-To-Day Lives.** For Women Only (Suggested Donation: \$10.00). Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 8:00 PM | Congregation Ohr HaTorah | 6324 Churchill Way, Dallas, TX 75230. (From the North Eruv: Take Hillcrest south past 635 to Churchill Way. Make a right, and half a mile down the street it will be on the left.) Individual Sponsorships are Available (Minimum Sponsor: \$100). Sponsors are invited to a luncheon with Rebbetzin Heller on Tuesday afternoon. If you are interested please contact Susan Geller at (972) 503-7070 or susan@susanbherishpc.com. Sponsoring Organizations: Congregations Ohev Shalom, Ohr HaTorah, Toras Chaim, DATA, Mikvah Israel.
- » **Aishes Chayil Sisterhood Meeting:** Please join us at the shul on Sunday, January 11, 2009 at 10:30 AM for the next Aishes Chayil Sisterhood Meeting. Dr. Noa Hemstrom, PhD, Nursing, will dialogue with us about health and health related issues. Her goal at this meeting is to learn from us what topics in particular we are interested in. She has so graciously volunteered to share her expertise with us in special health series to be presented one Sunday morning each month. Thank you, Noa! Important planning for our shul will also take place at this meeting.
- » **Fast of the 10th of Teves: History:** It falls out either seven or eight days after the conclusion of Chanukah, depending on whether Rosh Chodesh of Teves that year is observed for one day or two. The Tenth of Teves commemorates the onset of the siege that Nevuchadnezzar of Babylonia laid to Jerusalem, an event that ultimately led to the destruction of the First Temple and Babylonia’s conquest of southern Israel’s Kingdom of Judah. The text in II Kings (25:1-4) tells us that on the 10th day of the 10th month (which is Teves when counting from Nisan, the “first month” in the Torah), in the ninth year of his reign, (588 BCE), Nevuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king, began the siege of Jerusalem. Three years later, on the 17th of Tammuz, he broke through the city walls. The siege ended with the destruction of the Temple three weeks later, on the 9th of Av, the end of the first Kingdoms and the exile of the Jewish people to Babylon. The Tenth of Teves can thus be considered part of the cycle of fasts connected with these events, which also includes: Tzom Gedaliah (3rd of Tishrei); Shivah Asar B’Tammuz (17th of Tammuz) and Tisha B’Av (9th of Av). The first mention of the Tenth of Teves as a fast appears in Zechariah (8:19) where it is called the “fast of the tenth month” (Teves). Other references to the fast and the affliction can be found in Ezekiel 24:1-2 (the

siege) and Jeremiah 52:4-6. According to tradition, as described by the liturgy for the day’s selichos, the fast also commemorates other ignominious events that occurred throughout Jewish history on the tenth of Teves and the two days preceding it: On the eighth of Teves one year during the 200s BCE, a time of Hellenistic rule of Judea during the Second Temple period, Ptolmey, King of Egypt, ordered production of the Septuagint, the translation of the Hebrew text of the Torah into Greek. This was seen as a debasement of the divine nature of the Torah and a subversion of its spiritual qualities. Ezra the Scribe, the great leader who brought the Jews back to the holy land from the Babylonian exile and who ushered in the era of the Second Temple, died on the ninth of Teves.

Observances: As with all minor Jewish fast days, the Tenth of Teves begins at dawn and concludes at nightfall. In accordance with the general rules of minor fasts, and in contrast to Tisha B’Av, there are no additional physical constraints beyond fasting (such as the prohibitions against bathing or of wearing leather shoes). Because it is a minor fast day, halachah exempts from fasting those who are ill, even if their illnesses are not life threatening, and pregnant and nursing women who find fasting difficult. A Torah reading is added at both the Shacharis and Mincha services, and a special Haftorah reading, and a special prayer in the Amidah (the Aneinu), are added at the Mincha services. At Shacharis and Minchah, Avinu Malkeinu is also said. The fast can occur on a Friday resulting in the unusual event of a Torah and Haftorah reading at the Mincha service right before Shabbos. No other Jewish fast day can occur on a Friday in modern times (with the exception of the Fast of the Firstborn, on which the Torah and Haftorah reading at Mincha do not even occur). The Tenth of Teves has been chosen as a “general kaddish day” for the victims of the Holocaust, many of whom lack identifiable yahrtzeits.

■ REFUAH SHELAIMA

- » Tehilla bas Soroh (Tehilla Vanfossen)
- » Michal Zev ben Esther Shaindel (Risa Solomon's nephew)

■ THE ALEPH-BEIS OF RELATIONSHIPS BY RABBI LABEL LAM

And now it was not you who sent me here but G-d; He has set me as a father to Pharaoh... (Breishis 45:8)

As a father: As a friend and as a patron. (Rashi)

The Maharal from Prague explains why Rashi includes both roles of “friend” and “patron”. If he would have said “friend” alone then we would have been left with the misimpression that his relationship with Pharaoh was limited to being some kind of coequal. Therefore the term “patron” is employed which implies that he guided Pharaoh the way a father guides his child. The term “patron” is insufficient because that would signal that he, Yosef had some kind of authority over Pharaoh. Pharaoh was in fact the King and Yosef was his subject. The power of his influence was due to his “friendship” rather than legal authority. Therefore the description “patron” also needs also to be tempered by the term “friend”.

In trying to understand the meaning of Rashi we may also have stumbled upon a clear definition and a reliable job description. What is the task of a father?

The Chovos HaLevavos writes the following unqualified “if” “then” formula for success in relationships: “If a person has a wife or relatives or friends or enemies he should rely on G-d that he will be saved from being overly busied and troubled by them. He should try to fulfill his obligations to them and satisfy their needs

with a full heart, and he should not put his burdens upon them. He should be concerned about things that are good for them and he should be reliable to them in all their matters. He should teach them good and correct conduct in matters of Torah and matters of the world, that which will help them in the service of The Creator... And these good things that he does for them should not be so that he will receive a reward for this and not with the intention that they will help him when he will need their help, and not because he loves honor and he seeks the praise they will give him for this, and not to rule over them but rather his intention should be only to fulfill the

Mitzvos of his Creator, to keep His Torah, and to carry out his obligations to them. Anyone who is busy with their needs for any of these agendas will not achieve what he hopes to achieve in this world and his efforts will have been in vain and he will lose his reward in the next world. However, if he benefits others only with the intention to serve G-d, then G-d will help him so that goodness will redound to him in this world and He will place his praise in their mouths and He will increase his esteem in their eyes and he will have earned a great reward in the world to come.”

It was 21 years ago that I asked a Rebbe of mine the secret of raising a wonderful Jewish family. He told me, “Don’t get personally involved!” His words mystified my wife and me for a long while. We had one little baby at the time and he was the apple of our eye. Every gurgle was poetry. We had taken hundreds of rolls of film in the first few months alone. (We have no pictures of his brother, our second child, at that age.) Are we to be cold and distant? It took years to appreciate the profundity of his words.

Sometimes a parent has to be like a judge. Coolly banging the gavel and declaring, “Motion denied!” What about emotions!? Are they denied? No! I have a phrase, “Feelings are real to the feeler, but they don’t rule.” The good parent has to float like a boat. The boat is in the water, touching the waves, but not being pulled down into the water. If a boat is not equipped to be a submarine and it becomes submerged in the swirl of emotions, it’s lost. The best part of the boat must float securely above the cries, focusing on what’s best for the child. “I know you want xyz dear! The answer is still “NO!”

We can learn practically from Rashi’s definition of an AV (Aleph-Beis). Yosef was both a friend to Pharaoh, and a guide. His ability to direct Pharaoh was not based upon legal leverage. He didn’t have that type of authority. Rather it’s an outgrowth of trust that develops when one senses that somebody is doing things for his good. Simply that’s what a father does. It’s also the Aleph-Beis of relation

■ 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 9th Birthday to Nechemya Rich who celebrated his English birthday this past December 13th and his Hebrew birthday 5th of Teves — *Tatti & Mommy*

■ PARSHA Q&A: PARSHAS VAYIGASH

QUESTIONS

1. What threatening words did Yehuda say to Yosef?
2. Why did Yehuda say his missing brother died?
3. Why was Yehuda the one to plead for Binyamin?
4. What do we learn from Yosef telling his brothers "Go up to my father"?
5. What two things did the brothers see that helped prove that he was really Yosef?
6. Why did Binyamin weep on Yosef’s neck?
7. Why did Yosef send old wine to Yaakov?
8. What did Yosef mean when he said "Don't dispute on the way"?
9. What happened to Yaakov when he realized Yosef was alive?
10. Why did G-d tell Yaakov, "Don't fear going down to Egypt"?
11. "I will bring you up" from Egypt. To what did this allude?
12. What happened to the property that Yaakov acquired in Padan Aram?
13. Who was the mother of Shaul ben HaCanaanit?
14. When listing Yaakov's children, the verse refers to Rachel as "Rachel, wife of Yaakov." Leah, Bilhah and Zilpah are not referred to as Yaakov's wives. Why?
15. Yosef harnessed his own chariot instead of letting a servant do it. Why?
16. Why were shepherds abhorrent to the Egyptians?
17. Why did Yosef pick the weakest brothers to stand before Pharaoh?
18. What blessing did Yaakov give Pharaoh when he left his presence?
19. Yosef resettled the land of Egypt, moving the people from city to city. What were his two motives for this?
20. Whose fields were not bought by Yosef?

ANSWERS

1. 44:18 - He threatened that Yosef would be stricken with leprosy, like Pharaoh when he took Sarah from Avraham; alternatively, Yehuda threatened to kill Yosef and Pharaoh.
2. 44:20 - Yehuda feared that if he said his missing brother was alive, Yosef would demand to see him.
3. 44:32 - He was the one who took "soul" responsibility for him.
4. 45:9 - We learn that Eretz Yisrael is higher than all other lands.
5. 45:12 - He was circumcised like they were, and he spoke lashon hakodesh.
6. 45:14 - Binyamin wept for the destruction of Mishkan Shilo built in Yosef’s territory.
7. 45:23 - Elderly people appreciate old wine.
8. 45:24 - He warned that if they engage in halachic disputes, they might not be alert to possible travel dangers.
9. 45:27 - His ruach hakodesh (prophetic spirit) returned.
10. 46:3 - Because Yaakov was grieved to leave Eretz Canaan.
11. 46:4 - That Yaakov would be buried in Eretz Canaan.
12. 46:6 - He traded it for Esav's portion in the Cave of Machpelah.
13. 46:10 - Dina bat Yaakov.
14. 46:19 - Rachel was regarded as the mainstay of the family.
15. 46:29 - Yosef wanted to hasten to honor his father.
16. 46:34 - Because the Egyptians worshipped sheep.
17. 47:2 - So Pharaoh wouldn't see their strength and draft them.
18. 47:10 - That the waters of the Nile should rise to greet Pharaoh.
19. 47:21 - In order to remind them that they no longer owned the land, and to help his family by removing the stigma of being strangers.
20. 47:22 - The Egyptian priests.

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.