

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM WISHES YOU A WONDERFUL

Shabbos Parshas Vayishlach

FRIDAY NIGHT, DEC 13

- » Mincha/Kabalas Shabbos/Maariv 5:05 PM
- » Candles 5:03 PM
- » Sunset 5:21 PM

SHABBOS DAY, DEC 14

- » **NEW EARLIER TIME: Shacharis followed by Kiddush 8:00 AM**
- » 15-min Pirkei Avos Shiur for Women following Kiddush Canceled
- » Women & Children S"SS 5:00-6:30 PM
- » Mincha 4:50 PM
- » Sunset 5:22 PM
- » Maariv 6:04 PM
- » Shabbos Ends (50 min) 6:12 PM
- » Rabbeinu Tam (72 min) 6:34 PM

A WISE MAN WOULD SAY: "INVESTING IN YOUR HEALTH WILL PRODUCE ENORMOUS BENEFITS."

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Men

- » Hillel ben Simcha (Jeff Lubin)
- » Daniel Ze'ev ben Miriam (Brother of Josh Rothstein)

Women

- » Bayla Gittel bas Lefsha (Grandmother of Shmuel Rothberg)
- » Devorah bas Heni (Friend of Aviva Bass)
- » Michal Leah bas Devora (Daughter of Devorah bas Heni)
- » Sipke Grune bas Lillian (Mother of Jeff Luftig)
- » Shoshana Gittel bas Chaya Leah (Sister of Naomi Goldberg)
- » Naama bas Devorah Miriam (Granddaughter of Rabbi & Rebbetzin Rich)
- » Chana bas Hendel (Friend Of Yael Bodenheimer)

SHABBOS KIDDUSH SPONSORED BY

- » the members of the Guarantee Kiddush Club

CTC SCHEDULE OF SHIURIM/TEFILLAH (Week of Dec 15, 2024)

- » Gemara Zevachim, Mon - Fri, 6:00 - 6:30 AM
- » **Shacharis, 6:30 AM**
- » Amud HaYomi Sanhedrin: Sunday - Friday, 12 - 1 PM, On Zoom with Rabbi Yaakov Rich. Email Rabbi Rich for the link.
- » Mishnayos Shabbos 7:30 PM
- » **Maariv 8 PM**
- » Gemara Bava Basra 8:15 - 9:00 PM

- » CTC Nightly for women: Rabbi Avigdor Miller's sefer on Emunah nightly S-Th from 9:30-9:40pm. Feel free to join as often as you like. Here's the call in information: (605) 313-5857. Access code: 8607470 #
- » Parsha Shiur for women with Rabbi Michael Bodenheimer at the Rich Home, 7119 Bremerton Ct., Dallas 75252, Sundays 8 PM.

REBUILDING PROJECT by Marshall Lestz.

(We are excited to share this column with you each Shabbos in the spirit of helping to repair our relationships and thereby contribute to rebuilding the Beis HaMikdash.)

FROM SNORE TO ROAR

The beginning of the first section of the Code of Jewish Law (Shulchan Aruch) states, "One should strengthen oneself like a lion to get up in the morning to serve his Creator..."

I've always loved the imagery of waking up with the energy and power of a lion. I find it aspirational since waking up in the morning like that can be elusive for me on occasion (that occasion being... every day.)

But then it dawned on me--wait a second, lions sleep for something like 16 to 20 hours a day! What were our Rabbis thinking?! At first I was worried, "Didn't they know this? Did they choose the wrong animal? Did they not have the Discovery Channel?" Hmm... I couldn't help but think that the lion is definitely NOT the animal to emulate for waking up. Maybe for SLEEPING, but not waking up. But I was sure I was wrong so I thought about it some more and it hit me...

Since lions are sleeping and napping for a huge part of the day, they're probably incredibly sluggish and groggy when they wake up. They probably require TREMENDOUS strength and "willpower" to break free from those massive bonds of sleep!

So of course our Rabbis had it right. The lion IS INDEED the best animal to emulate for waking up. In fact, it's clear from the Code of Jewish Law's statement above--it says we should "STRENGTHEN" ourselves like a lion. The lion isn't just strong because of his ability to overpower other animals, but for his ability to overpower his own inclination to keep sleeping.

Perhaps a thought we can take away from this is that our tradition attests to the extreme difficulty involved in getting out of bed in the morning. This means that waking up is a super humongous opportunity to reach extreme heights! Why? Because as Pirke Avos (Ethics of our Fathers) teaches us, "According to the difficulty is the reward." And waking up quickly can be REALLY difficult. So every time we're successful, it's an enormous victory! And we have this fantastic challenge and opportunity every single day!

May Hashem grant us the strength of a lion to rise quickly in the morning, and may that great accomplishment energize us with the desire to serve Him joyfully all day long.

Have an "uplifting" day, everybody,

Keep on Building! (And Keep on Rising!)

CONGREGATION TORAS CHAIM WISHES YOU A WONDERFUL

Shabbos Parshas Vayishlach

TIDBITS

Parashas Vayishlach • December 14th • 13 Kislev 5785

The final opportunity for Kiddush Levanah is this Motzaei Shabbos Parashas Vayishlach, December 14th.

Daf Yomi - Shabbos: The siyum on Daf Yomi - Bava Basra & Mishna Yomi - Bava Basra is this Wednesday; mazal tov! Bavli: Bava Basra 172 • Yerushalmi: Shabbos 18 • Mishnah Yomis: Bava Basra 9:9-10 • Oraysa: Next week is Beitzah 30a-32a.

Make sure to call your parents, in-laws, grandparents and Rebbe to wish them a good Shabbos. If you didn't speak to your kids today, make sure to connect with them as well!

Chanukah begins on Wednesday evening, December 25th.

Shabbos Chanukah is Shabbos Parashas Miketz, December 28th.

VAYISHLACH: Yaakov sends malachim to Eisav who is approaching with 400 men • Yaakov prepares for his confrontation with Eisav with gifts, prayer, and readying for war • Left alone on one side of the Yabok River, Yaakov battles and defeats the ministering angel of Eisav (see Taryag section) • Yaakov is given the name Yisrael • Yaakov encounters Eisav and they part in peace • Dina ventures out into the city of Shechem, and is assaulted by its leader's son, Shechem • The Shevatim are outraged and plan their revenge • Shechem and his people agree to be circumcised • Shimon and Levi annihilate the male inhabitants of the city of Shechem • Yaakov builds an altar in Bais-El • Rachel passes away during the birth of Binyamin • Reuven moves Yaakov's bed to Leah's tent • Yitzchak passes away at 180 years of age, and is buried by Yaakov and Eisav • The descendants of Eisav and the kingdoms of Edom.

Haftarah: Ovadiah (1:1-21) relates the prophecy about the rise and fall of the Kingdom of Edom, the descendants of Eisav. Ovadiah was himself a convert from Edom.

Parashas Vayishlach: 154 Pesukim • 1 Prohibition

It is forbidden to eat the Gid Hanasheh (the sciatic nerve) of a kosher animal.

Mitzvah Highlight: Yaakov was saved from the Malach of Eisav, escaping with just a wound to his thigh. This mitzvah reminds us that despite the constant and ongoing persecution by Eisav's descendants, our nation will ultimately be spared and redeemed (Sefer HaChinuch).

"And I acquired an ox and a donkey" (Bereishis 32:6)

Rashi explains that it is "Derech Eretz" to reference many oxen in a singular form. Rav Moshe Feinstein zt"l explains that when a person references his own possessions, it is proper to be modest and not needlessly boast about them. Thus, Yaakov modestly used the singular form "ox," although he had many oxen.

We find as well that Eisav proclaims to Yaakov "Yesh Li Rav," "I have an abundance," and Yaakov replies to Eisav, "Yesh Li Kol," "I have everything." An "abundance" is measured relative to what is common in society. Eisav looked to the world around him to measure his success and was only content when he exceeded societal standards. Yaakov, however, confidently proclaimed "I have everything," as he was satisfied that all his needs were met. Yaakov saw no need to boast about his

abundance, as he attached little importance to the status associated with material success and instead focused on everything he was given.

This concept can be illustrated by an incident which occurred in a ballroom in the United Kingdom. In attendance were many of the UK's dignitaries, including the Queen of England. Suddenly, a commotion erupted, as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher entered the hall. The reason for the commotion? Madam Thatcher was wearing a dress identical to the Queen's! The very next day, the Prime Minister's office sent a letter to the Queen expressing her apologies over the incident. The response from the Queen's secretary was curt and quick in coming: "The Queen of England does not notice what other people are wearing." Similarly, when we are aware of our own inherent importance and dignity, we are not threatened by the successes, possessions or achievements of others.