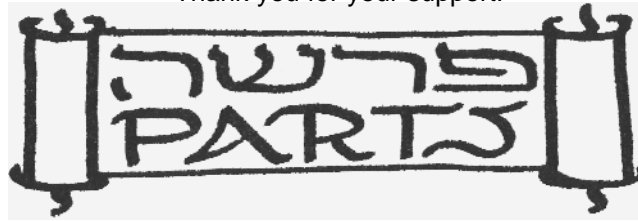


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Lech Licha

לך לך

Volume 1 - Issue 3 13 Marcheshvan 5767

And Hashem said to Avrom, get up and go (Bereishis 12:1)

In the previous Sedrah, when the Torah mentions Noach, it spoke of his righteousness before Hashem addressed him. The posuk (Bereishis 6:9) calls him a complete Tzaddik immediately. Why doesn't the Torah say Avrohom was a Tzaddik and a G-d fearing person before Hashem spoke to him?

Had the Torah done this, there would have been an implication that Hashem chose Avrohom and his children because they were righteous. If, G-d forbid, K'lal Yisroel became less than meritorious, Hashem would undo His having chosen them, Chalila. Chazal say (Avos 5:19), "Any love that is dependent on something vanishes when that thing is gone". This posuk, therefore, does not speak about Avrohom's righteousness right away. This is to teach us that Hashem chose Avrohom because that was His Will. This choice was permanent and unconditional. Yisroel will forever be Hashem's Holy People, even if they sin.

--The Maharal of Prague

And I will bless those that bless you and those that curse you, I will curse (Bereishis 12:3)

Why does the posuk reverse the order of words? Why doesn't it say, "And I will curse those that curse you" like it says, "I will bless those that bless you"?

There is no comparison between pouring something from an overflowing vessel and pouring something from a nearly empty vessel. We find in Bircas Kohanim (the priestly blessing) the posuk, "So shall you bless B'nei Yisroel...say to them". The Chazzan says each word of the

brochos first. He is a conduit between HaKodosh Boruch Hu and the Kohanim. He says each word first and brings down the Heavenly Effects by way of the Spiritual Pipes. This allows the Kohanim to be 'filled' with the brochos of Hashem. The Kohanim then 'pour' from this 'overflowing vessel' on to K'lal Yisroel. This enables the brocha to really take hold. It is coming from someone who has truly received brocha. Someone who is not blessed cannot bless others. Therefore, the posuk says, "And I will bless those that bless you". Before they bless you, I will bless them so that they will be a vessel filled with My brochos. They will 'pour' brochos upon you from an overflowing vessel. This concept does not apply to cursing, however. The posuk therefore says, "And those that curse you, I will curse". *After* and not before.

--K'li Yakar

...And see from the place where you are (Bereishis 13:14)

A person follows his thoughts. Wherever his thoughts are is where he is. A person could be standing in Shul davening but his mind wanders to the edges of the Earth and he thinks about his business ventures. It's as if he is there conducting business and not in the Shul. This is the lesson of this posuk. **See** - see with a spiritual sense of sight, from your soul. **From the place where you are** - don't let your mind wander to other locations and become distracted from what you're doing.

--The Baal Shem Tov

Not a thread or a shoelace (Bereishis 14:23)

In Masechta Chullin (89a) it is stated, *Rava said, "In reward for Avrohom Avinu's statement, "Not a thread or a shoelace", his children merited two mitzvos. The first is the thread of T'cheilis (in tzitzis) and the other is the straps used in Tefillin".* Perhaps this is why K'lal Yisroel wear their Tefillin and Tallis during Shacharis instead of Mincha. The Gemara in Brochos (26b) says that Avrohom established the Shacharis davening and these two mitzvos came in his merit.

--Meshech Chochmo

Zemanim and Halachos

לך לך

Zemanim are for Milwaukee, WI	Krias Shema	Tefilla
According to the Vilna Gaon	9:02 AM	9:53 AM
According to the Magen Avrohom	8:26 AM	9:29 AM
Sunset Friday: 4:41 PM	Sunset Saturday: 4:40 PM	

Hilchos Chanukah - Laws of Chanukah

A woman who is not able to make her own brochos and light the Menorah and she has no husband to do it for her can fulfill her obligation through another man even if he had fulfilled his own obligation already. The woman must stand there during the brochos and the lighting.

--Bach and Magen Avrohom 676

A person in mourning during the 1st year since the passing of a parent or within the first 30 days since the passing of another relative makes the Shehecheyanu on the first night of Chanukah.

--Mishnah Berurah SA 671:44

Kids' Korner

Last week's answers

1. The Mabul, which began on 17 Cheshvan, was postponed 7 days for the Shiva of Mesushelach, making his Yahrzeit the 11th of Cheshvan. (see Rashi 7:4)
2. Noach married Naama, the daughter of Lemech. (Bereishis Rabbah 23:3)
3. Sichon was born in the Taiva. (Yalkut Reuveini 53, see Rabbeinu Bechaye Chukas 21:34)
4. Nimrod offered to fill Terach's home with gold and silver in exchange for Avrohom's life. Terach hid Avrohom in a cave for 13 years to save his son. (Yalkut Reuveini 180/Rabbeinu Bechaye Lech Licha 15:7)
5. Haran was eight years old when Sara was born to him. (Sanhedrin 69b)

PARSHA QUIZ

1. How long did Lot live?
2. By what other name was Nimrod known and why?
3. Why were Avrom's and Yaakov's names changed but not Yitzchok's?
4. Name Avrohom's 3 wives.
5. By what name is Mei Meriva called in this week's Parsha?

Answers next week!

Upcoming Events in Milwaukee, WI

Community events and announcements can be listed here at *no cost*. Please send them to info@parshaparts.com

The **Milwaukee Kollel Center for Jewish Studies** located at **5007 West Keefe Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216** offers classes for all levels of Jewish Education. Please call **(414) 447-7999** for more information

Anshe Sfard Kehillat Torah Gemara class after weekday Maariv, 7:00 PM. **6717 N Green Bay Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53209**. Please call **(414) 228-9296** for more more information

October 30th 7:00-8:00 PM, **Judaism Without Walls** presents The Four Misconceptions Jews Have About Judaism with Rabbi Michael Stern. **6789 N Green Bay Ave, Glendale, WI 53209, (414) 228-7870**.

October 30th 7:00-8:00 PM, **Judaism Without Walls** presents The Ten Commandments with Rabbi David Begoun. **6789 N Green Bay Ave, Glendale, WI 53209, (414) 228-7870**.

October 30th 8:00-9:00 PM, **Judaism Without Walls** presents Mystical Judaism with Rabbi Benzion Twerski. **6789 N Green Bay Ave, Glendale, WI 53209, (414) 228-7870**.

October 31st 7:00 PM at **Lake Park Synagogue** join Rabbi Shlomo Levin for classes on the weekly Parsha. **Lech Licha**: "Why was Abraham singled out by God and chosen? Maimonides' history of the world's decline and Avraham's re-awakening." **3207 N Hackett Ave, Milwaukee WI 53211, (414) 962-5508**

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