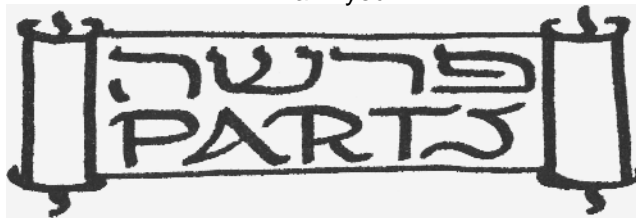


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Chayei Soroh

חיי שרה

Volume 1 - Issue 5 27 Marcheshvan 5767

And the life of Soroh was...and Avrohom came to eulogize Soroh and to cry for her (Bereishis 23:1-2).

Rashi says that the Parsha of Soroh's death is juxtaposed to the Akeidah because through the Soton's (Evil Inclination) announcement of the Akeidah, Soroh died. She heard that Yitzchok was ready for slaughter and died before she heard that he was saved. This presents a difficulty. Why is the Soton given power to kill people for no reason? His purpose is to entice people to sin. Why did he need to tell Soroh about the Akeidah knowing that she would die from this news? Another question is why is the letter "Kuf" in the word *V'leevkosoh* (and to cry for her) written smaller than the other letters?

The way of the Soton is to work with all his strength to cause people to sin and to prevent them from doing Mitzvos. If the Soton is not successful in preventing the person from doing a Mitzvah, he then tries all types of tricks to cause this person who did the Mitzvah to regret having done it. Regretting having done the Mitzvah will nullify the performance of the Mitzvah. This is what the Soton did with Avrohom. First he tried to prevent Avrohom from performing the Akeidah and passing the test. When he was unsuccessful at this, and Avrohom Avinu had passed this test, the Soton tried a new method of attack. He told Soroh about the Akeidah in order that she should die through this knowledge. This would certainly cause Avrohom to regret having performed this Mitzvah. Avrohom would think that knowing about the Akeidah killed his righteous wife. The Soton's toil, however, was in vain. Avrohom was not regretful. In order to show that he did not regret the Akeidah, he only cried a little at the death of his wife. The "Kuf" is small for this reason.

--Kehillas Yitzchok

400 measures of silver ready to be spent anywhere (Bereishis 23:9).

Why did Avrohom give silver which could be spent anywhere? The Rambam poskins (determines a law) that it is forbidden to give silver or gold pieces to non-Jews because they may form them into an idol for worshipping. Coins from gold and silver that are spendable currency are allowed to be given. There is no suspicion that the non-Jew would melt down the coins and make an idol. Therefore, Avrohom gave Efrohn silver coins that were ready to spend and not pieces of silver or gold.

--Rabbi Yonoson Eybshutz

And Avrohom was old. He came with his days (Bereishis 24:1).

Pirkei D'Rebbi Eliezer states that before Avrohom, no one aged. For people whose lives are based on the physical, youth is certainly sweeter than old age. When one is young it is possible to enjoy the delights of this world. When Avrohom Avinu came onto the scene and showed people that the foundation of life is spirituality and serving Hashem, they began to recognize that old age is better than youth. The Gemora in Tractate Shabbos (152a) states that as Talmidei Chachamim (Torah scholars) age, their minds are more settled and their wisdom increases.

--HaDrash V'HaIyun

And the servant ran to greet her (Bereishis 24:17).

Rashi explains, He saw that the water rose to greet her (Rivka). The Ramban comments, The Medrash that Rashi quoted learned this from the following posuk, "And she drew water for all the camels". The posuk didn't speak about drawing before. Seemingly, she didn't need to draw beforehand because the water came to her. This is difficult. Why, when she was getting water for the camels, did the water not come to greet her? The Gemara in Tractate Pesachim (114b) says that the Mitzvos require proper intention in order to fulfill them. The main thing in the performance of Mitzvos is the thought that we are doing the Will of The Creator. The first time that Rivka drew water was for herself. The water, therefore, came up to her so she wouldn't have to get it for herself. The second time, when the intention was not for herself, but in order to bestow kindness by giving water to Eliezer's camels, the water did not come up to her. When a person does a Mitzvah, it is greater when he does the action. That action being done for the sake of a Mitzvah, makes the Mitzvah greater.

--Kedushas Laivi

Zemanim and Halachos

חיי שרה

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Zemanim are for Milwaukee, WI | Krias Shema | Tefilla |
| According to the Vilna Gaon | 9:12 AM | 10:00 AM |
| According to the Magen Avrohom | 8:36 AM | 9:36 AM |
| Sunset Friday: 4:26 PM | Sunset Saturday: 4:25 PM | |

Hilchos Chanukah - Laws of Chanukah

If olive oil is not available, use any oil that burns with a clear and pure flame. Wax candles are acceptable as well since their flame is clear and pure like olive oil.

--Shulchan Aruch 673:1

The best way to perform this Mitzvah is with wicks made of cotton or linen.
--Shulchan Aruch 673:2, Mishna Berurah

Kids' Korner

Last week's answers

1. Yishmael married and divorced Adisha and then married Patina (Targum Yonoson 21:21)
2. Avrohom was sitting at the entrance of his tent to see if anyone was travelling by that he could invite inside (Rashi 18:2).
3. Hashem remembered that although Lot knew that Soroh was Avrohom's wife, he did not reveal this to Paroh in Egypt. Hashem took mercy on Lot because of Lot's concern for Avrohom's well-being (Rashi 19:29).
4. If Yitzchok was born at Pesach time, Soroh became pregnant with Yitzchok in Tammuz. The Gezeira that she would have a baby occurred on the prior Rosh Hashana. (Gemara Rosh Hashana 11a. See Maharsha there. Also see Tosfos Bava Kamma 92a).
5. Yishmael and Eliezer accompanied Avrohom as he brought Yitzchok to the Akeidah (Rashi 22:3).

PARSHA QUIZ

1. How long did it take Eliezer and Rivka to travel from Choron to Chevron?
2. What was Avrohom's daughter's name?
3. How did Besuel die?
4. In what 3 ways was Rivka like Soroh?

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.

November 20th 7:00-8:00 PM, **Judaism Without Walls** presents *The 10 Commandments* with Rabbi David Begoun. **6789 N Green Bay Ave, Glendale, WI 53209, (414) 228-7870**

November 20th 7:00-8:00 PM, **Judaism Without Walls** presents *The ABCs of Judaism* with Rabbi Michael Stern. **6789 N Green Bay Ave, Glendale, WI 53209, (414) 573-9668**

November 20th 7:00-8:00 PM, **Judaism Without Walls** presents *Creating a Relationship with Prayer* with Betzalel Karan. **6789 N Green Bay Ave, Glendale, WI 53209, (414) 573-9668**

November 27th 7:00-8:00 PM, **Judaism Without Walls** presents *Trust, the key to building a healthy, mature, and permanent relationship* featuring Rabbi Michael Stern. **Please call (414) 573-9668 for more information.**

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