

So... What's Nu ? Mazeltov!

Barmitzvah

Daniel Cohen son of Heath Cohen and Mandy Cohen on the occasion of his Barmitzvah and grandson of Rod and Evelyn Waner

Carmella Leah Tehillim Group

Will meet on Sunday morning at 9am in the Youth Centre

Sandton Shul Magazine

If you would like to sponsor a greeting or place an advert in this year's magazine, please e-mail magazine@sandtonshul.co.za

Blood Drive

Date: 12 August 2018

Time: 09h00 - 14h00

Venue: Manor Medical Centre, 189 Kelvin Drive, Gallo Manor

Welcome Rabbi Dr Akiva Tatz

Popular Torah lecturer, Founder and Director of the Jerusalem Medical Ethics Forum. Author of many books. Rabbi Tatz will address the community on Friday night, Shabbos Day, after the Kiddush and at the Seudah Shlishit

Date	Earliest time for Tahit & Tefillin	Latest time for Shema	Sunset
10 August	5:53:57 AM	9:26:56 AM	5:45:27 PM
11 August	5:53:15 AM	9:26:29 AM	5:45:55 PM
12 August	5:52:31 AM	9:26:00 AM	5:46:23 PM
13 August	5:51:47 AM	9:25:31 AM	5:46:51 PM

Got a Halachic Question?

Need a quick answer?
Sms or WhatsApp Rabbi Shaw on
0726966535 or e-mail
davidshaw@sandtonshul.co.za

Our Sandton Jolly Seniors Club

Join Rabbi Shaw every Wednesday morning for a fun filled inspirational morning!

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

Time: 10h00

Venue: Games Room

Seats for Rosh Hashanah

Main Shul – Are you looking for a temporary seat in the main Shul for a family member or a friend? Contact Harelle on e-mail harelle@sandtonshul.co.za

MiCommunity Hall Minyan – Bookings for the Hall minyan have opened. Contact Devorah between 12h00 and 14h30 or e-mail micomcommunity@sandtonshul.co.za to book your seat

SECURITY

CSO Security / Medical Emergency & Information Number: 086 18 000 18

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Make the Connection

ד"ב

11 August 2018

30 Av 5778

Candle Lighting: 5.27pm

Parsha: Re'eh

Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Elul

Mincha: 4.45pm

Havdalah: 6.18pm

Haftorah: Daniel Cohen



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SandtonShul

Parashat Re-eh: A summary

This week is a jam-packed portion. It begins with a choice:

"I set before you a blessing and a curse. The blessing: if you obey the commandments of God...; the curse if you do not ... and you follow other gods."

The portion continues with rules and laws for the land of Israel primarily oriented towards staying away from idol worship and the religions in the land.

One of the indications of the existence and necessity of the Oral Torah - an explanation and clarification (later redacted as the Talmud) of the written Torah (The Five Books of Moses) - comes from verse 12:21:

"You will slaughter animals ... according to the manner I (God) have prescribed."

Nowhere in the Torah are we instructed in the manner of *shechita*, ritual slaughter. One might conclude that there was a very sloppy editor. Or, one might conclude that there are additional teachings clarifying and amplifying the written Word.

The source of the Chosen People concept is brought this week:

"You are a nation consecrated to God your Lord. God has chosen you from all nations on the face of the earth to be His own special nation ..." (Deut. 14:1-2)

We are chosen for responsibility, not privilege - to act morally and to be a *"light unto the nations."*

The portion then gives instructions regarding: permitted and forbidden foods, the Second Tithe, remissions of loans every 7 years, treatment of those in need (to be warm-hearted and open-handed), a Jewish bondsman, the three pilgrimage festivals, Passover, Shavuot, Sukkot.

Dvar Torah: Rabbi Zelig Pliskin

The Torah states:

"... and He will give you mercy and be merciful to you..." (Deuteronomy 13:18)

The Talmud (Yevamot 79a) cites this verse to show that being merciful is one of the basic traits of the Jewish people. (The Almighty deals with us in the way that we deal with others. Therefore, if He is merciful with us, it is because we are merciful with others.) The essence of compassion is being able to imagine yourself in someone else's situation. It is the resulting softness of the heart that makes one sensitive to the suffering of others - and allows one to strengthen his free-will to help others, though there might be a cost in personal welfare or comfort.

The last time Rabbi Yitzchok Elchonon Specter went to St. Petersburg for an important meeting, he was aged and weak. He had to leave his home very early in the morning to catch the only available train. There was not sufficient time to eat breakfast, so his family prepared for him a warm drink. Precisely at that

moment a poor man knocked on the door. Rabbi Specter's assistant opened the door and informed the man that the Rabbi was extremely busy and couldn't attend to him.

The man at the door pleaded, "I am going penniless to Koenigsburg to see some doctors and I have come to ask Rabbi Specter for a letter of introduction to the rabbis of the city."

"I'm sorry, but you're too late," said the assistant. "Rabbi Specter is already late for his train."

Overhearing the conversation, Rav Yitzchok Elchonon called out, "Mercy! Mercy!" He then motioned to the man to enter his home and calmly wrote him a warm letter of introduction. Immediately after giving the letter to the poor man, Rabbi Specter rushed out of the house to catch the train, leaving his warm drink untouched.

Some Food for Thought

Apple: The Trillion Dollar Company & Rosh Hashana Rabbi Benjamin Blech

How the most successful company in American history went from near bankruptcy to stunning achievement.

Apple Inc. recently achieved something never accomplished before in American history. It became the first publicly traded corporation to be valued at \$1 trillion.

It is a number so large that we can hardly begin to grasp its magnitude. It's a 1 followed by 12 zeros: 1,000,000,000,000. With that kind of cash, Apple could buy one billion people a \$999 iPhone X and still have a billion dollars left in the bank. Or Apple could give all 325 million people in the United States a check for \$3,076.92. To get a true feeling of how much money \$1 trillion is you might want to know that there's just over a trillion dollars currently in circulation in the entire United States.

Even more remarkable, in 1997 Apple stood on the brink of bankruptcy and was just a short step away from going broke. Steve Jobs later revealed that the company was about 90 days away from total insolvency.

There's a message here that needs to be constantly remembered, whether we're talking about a major corporation or our individual finances, whether we're concerned with failure of a billion-dollar business or family disasters which seem to doom us to personal ruin.

Steve Jobs himself verbalized that idea in such powerful manner that it is considered to be one of the most powerful and inspiring commencement addresses ever given.

In 2005 Jobs addressed the graduates of Stanford University. He chose to tell them what he called simple stories. They had one underlying theme: the blessings we can accrue from struggles with adversity.

Jobs told the students how he started Apple in his parents' garage when he was 20 years old. In ten years Apple grew from two founders into a \$2 billion company with over 4000 employees. And then, just after he turned 30, Jobs was fired from the company that he himself started. The Board of Directors sided against him and he had to endure public shaming, as well as, it would seem, the end of his career.

In retrospect, here is the essence of what Jobs told his audience of graduates:

I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life.

If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?

From there, Jobs turned to the theme of living with the realization of one's mortality, an idea that parallels the rabbinic exhortation to always remember "the day of death":

My last story is about death. When I was 17, I read a quote that went something like: "If you live each day as if it was your last, someday you'll most certainly be right." It made an impression on me, and since then, for the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: "If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?" And whenever the answer has been "No" for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something.

Steve Jobs returned to Apple years later and turned it into the giant it would become by way of his genius. He understood setbacks were merely stepping stones to greatness. Downfalls are not permanent; failures are trials meant to make us stronger. The first tablets containing the Ten Commandments, written by God himself, were smashed and did not last; it was the second set, the one illustrating human effort and unwillingness to give up after the first failure, which remained.

The story of Apple and its success is a story of life after failure. It is the victory of hope over despair, of courage over anguish, of optimism over despondency and depression. In a very real sense Apple can be an inspiration to every one of us as we struggle with seemingly insurmountable difficulties, as we face trials which appear insurmountable, as we are challenged by life's complications.

On Rosh Hashanah we dip an apple in honey as a symbolic reminder of our hopes and dreams for sweet success and blessing in the new year. The Jewish people are compared in to the apple: "As the apple is rare and unique among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved – Israel – amongst the maidens (nations) of the world" (Song of Songs, 2:3).

This year perhaps it may offer us yet another message: Apple, the company, was on the very precipice of ruin - yet today it is financially the most successful company in American history.

Faith in God, in the Jewish people, and in our dreams will hopefully also bring us through difficult days to years filled with blessings.

QUESTIONS FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE

To help you prepare for Rosh Hashanah, the Day of Judgment, I present questions for you to ask yourself and discuss with family and friends. Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf.

1. When do I most feel that my life is meaningful?
2. Those who mean the most to me -- have I ever told them how I feel?
3. Are there any ideals I would be willing to die for?
4. If I could live my life over, would I change anything?
5. What would bring me more happiness than anything else in the world?
6. What are my three most significant achievements since last Rosh Hashanah?
7. What are the three biggest mistakes I've made since last Rosh Hashanah?
8. What project or goal, if left undone, will I most regret next Rosh Hashanah?
9. If I knew I couldn't fail, what would I undertake to accomplish in life?
10. What are my three major goals in life? What am I doing to achieve them? What practical steps can I take in the next two months towards these goals?
11. If I could only give my children three pieces of advice, what would they be?

FUNNY THINGS: A Tough Customer

Mrs. Rosenbaum was known for being a difficult customer at the local grocery store.

"Give me two pounds of oranges," she asked the saleswoman, "But I need you to wrap every orange up in separate pieces of paper."

"And three pounds of cherries, and wrap up every one in a separate piece of paper, too." The saleswoman obliged.

"And what is that over there?" Mrs. Rosenbaum asked pointing to a bushel in the corner. "Those are raisins," said the saleswoman, "but they are not for sale!"