

KOL MEVASSER

Jews and War

by Rabbi Benjamin Blech, aish.com

The miracle of Hanukkah wasn't performed by God alone. The Maccabees played a crucial role in defeating the Syrian Greeks on the battlefields. It was a partnership of human courage and Divine guidance. Matisyahu and his sons prevailed because they were wise enough to recognize that although Jews revere peace, we acknowledge that there may be a time that demands we go to war.

And that was not an easy thing for our people to admit – neither then, nor today. Psychologists tell us there are basically two ways in which we can cope with the world: fight or flight. Encountering any difficulty, one can either attempt to cope, grapple and wrestle with an issue and overcome it, or one can flee and give up at the outset.

Some may rationalize flight as the correct religious response. Let me not do anything, and if God really desires a certain outcome, let Him handle it to His satisfaction.

As I heard Rabbi Soleveitchik once explain it, this was the way of Jacob, even from the time he was in the womb. Jacob had actually been conceived first. He should've been the one to be born before his brother. Techni-

cally, he was the eldest, with all the attendant privileges of primogeniture. His brother Esau, however, pushed himself forward and forced himself over Jacob. "And after that came forth his brother and his hand had hold on Esau's heel and his name was called Jacob" [Genesis 25:26]. The very name Jacob comes from the Hebrew word related to heel. Jacob was holding on to his brother's heel; he begins his life trampled upon, unfairly deprived by force of his rights.

Jacob's life continued to unfold, guided by the unspoken philosophy that "nice Jewish boys don't fight." His twin brother Esau fooled father Isaac into thinking that he was the more pious and deserving son--and were it not for the intervention of his mother, Jacob would not have said a word in the face of this injustice.

When Jacob fell in love with Rachel only to have his father-in-law switch brides and trick him into a marriage with Leah, his response was to quietly accept the obligation to work for yet another seven years in order to earn the hand of the woman that was already rightly his.

Passivity in the face of evil and the silent acceptance of ill treatment defined Jacob's theology. Jacob eventually realized his

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KJ Schedule Parashat Miketz

Erev Shabbat /Hanukka Third Night Friday, November 29th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 6:30 am
Shir Hashirim4:10 pm
Hanukka Candlelighting before Shabbat candles
Use long lasting Hanukka candles (1 hour +)
Shabbat Candlelighting4:25 pm
Minhah/Arbith4:25 pm

Shabbat / Parashat Miketz/Hanukka Fourth Night Saturday, November 30th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit4:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah5:29 pm

Hanukka Fifth Night/ Sunday, December 1st
Shaharit 7:30 am
Light Hanukka Candlesjust after dark

Erev Rosh Hodesh & Hanukka Sixth Night Monday, December 2nd

Shaharit 6:30 am
Light Hanukka Candlesjust after dark

Rosh Hodesh Tevet & Hanukka 7 & 8th Nights Tuesday, December 3rd & 4th

Shaharit 6:15 am
Light Hanukka Candlesjust after dark

Thursday & Friday, December 5th & 6th

Shaharit 6:30 am

Erev Shabbat

Friday, December 6th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer 6:30 am
Shir Hashirim4:10 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting4:25 pm
Minhah/Arbith4:25 pm

Mazal Tov

Jacalyn & Asher Shalom

on the occasion
of your

First Wedding Anniversary

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in honor of

The First Wedding
Anniversary

of

Jacalyn & Asher Shalom

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for November 30th to December 7th, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

27 Kislev / Shabbat, November 30th

Yosef Rahamim ben Yaacov Shalom

28 Kislev / Sunday, December 1st

*Joseph Jacob Yosef Rahamim ben Yaacov Shalom
Habiba bat Aziza*

29 Kislev / Monday, December 2nd

*Ralph Isaac Raful ben Yehezkel ben Mulla Rahamim
Simcha Ezra Isaac Simcha bat Masooda*

30 Kislev / Tuesday, December 3rd

*Joseph Azar Yosef Sion ben Yaacov
Gorjeh Youssefzadeh*

1 Tevet / Wednesday, December 4th

*Saul Mizrahie Shaul ben Eliyahu Mordechai
Jack Sassoon Yaacov Yoseph ben Sasson
Victoria Saul*

2 Tevet / Thursday, December 5th

David ben Ezra

3 Tevet / Friday, December 6th

*Rebeca Benbeniste Rebecca bat Dudu
Isaac Jacob Itzhak ben Yaakov
Vicky Messiah Rahma Victoria bat Khatoon*

4 Tevet / Shabbat, December 7th

Seemah Meyer Simha bat Azizah

Hannukah Candles & Blessings

Families usually light their Hanukkah menorah directly or soon after nightfall. If Hanukkah begins on Shabbat eve, the Hanukkiyah should be lit just before sundown with candles that last until after dark. To light, **place candles in the rightmost position on your menorah**—one for the first night, two for the second, etc.—plus the shamash, the helper candle. Now recite the blessings.

Two Blessing for All Eight Nights of Hanukkah

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech
HaOlam, asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav
v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner Hanukkah.*

Blessed are You, O Lord Our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who has sanctified us with Your commandments and commanded us to kindle the lights of Hanukkah.

*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech
HaOlam, she'asah nisim l'avoteinu,
ba'yamim hahem ba'zman hazeh.*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the Universe, Who made miracles for our forefathers in those days at this time.

**Light candles from the newest to the oldest,
moving from left to right.**

Thank You

Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph

for planning, organizing,
and beautifully hosting
the Sisterhood's Annual
Children's Hanukkah Party

for KJ families
and young members

Refuah Shlemah

Vera Levi

Joseph Sharaf / Yossef ben Jamila

Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha

Tilda Levy / Tilda bat Miriam

Pnina Herzbrun / Pnina bat Esther

Michael Herzbrun / Michael Baruch ben Sarah

Meir ben Farha

Rahel bat Marsel

*Please renew each name listing every two weeks. If
you would like to add a member name to the list call
310-474-0559 or e-mail dafna@kahaljoseph.org*

Readings: Shabbat Miketz

Torah: Genesis/Sefer Beresheet

Hertz edition pages 155 to 166

Haftara Melachim /Kings, pages 167 to 168

Happy Hanukkah & Shabbat Shalom

*Wishing you a peaceful Shabbat
and a joyful, light-filled Hanukkah*

(Continued from page 1)

error in the dramatic story that so altered his perception that it was responsible for a change of name, a change that acknowledged that his newfound insight literally turned him into a new person.

Left alone and attacked by a mysterious assailant the commentators identify as the evil representative of Esau, Jacob realizes he has no alternative but to fight. At the end of a long night of battle, Jacob is left limping but nonetheless receives a blessing. He is now no longer the stepped-upon Jacob, but from this time forward is Israel – “because you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed” [Genesis 32:29].

Jacob may have suffered a blow, but he won the greater battle – the battle over his unwillingness previously to engage in combat. Jacob won the greatest victory of all – he finally managed to conquer himself. And, explain the commentators, if he was left limping, what of it? That would simply mean he would never again be able to run away from anyone or any place, not even from himself.

The name change of Jacob to Israel differs from that of Abram to Abraham. Once Abram became Abraham he would never again be called by his original name. Abraham identified his new mission as “the father of many nations,” the first one to bring monotheism to the consciousness of the world. That name change was exclusive.

However even after Jacob became Israel, when the pacifist became the fighter, we still find him at times referred to by his earlier name. The reason is obvious. It is what was stated beautifully by Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes: “There is a time for peace and there is a time for war.” Both names are to be used, both modalities are to be employed.

Peace is the ultimate goal. But until the messianic era, war remains an unfortunate necessity.

We wish we would only have to imitate the way of Jacob who sat peacefully in his tent dedicating his life to study. But as long as there remain those like Esau who threaten our existence we know we must assume the identity of Israel and do battle with our enemies.

The Maccabees understood this. While they surely would have preferred to lead the peaceful life of priests, they recognized the responsibility placed on them by the threat of a Greek-Syrian army bent on their destruction.

Of course nice Jewish boys don't want to fight. That is not our way. But the world needs to know that we are the nation of Israel, defending the land of Israel. And like our forefather Israel, we will fight for survival. Like the Maccabees, Israel will go to war when it's necessary. That's because we love peace so much that we are ready to fight for it. And that is one of the contemporary messages of Hanukkah.

An Evening of Hanukkah Celebration
Wednesday December 4th, 2013
Plummer Park's - Fiesta Hall
7377 Santa Monica Blvd. West Hollywood, CA 90046
The performance will begin at 7:30 p.m.



**Kol Sephardic Choir
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Iraqi Jewish Archives

JIMENA is collecting a database of the rightful owners of personal documents in the Archives. Owners of documents or heirs to these owners can demand that their original documents, and therefore the Archives, be kept where they are accessible to the Iraqi Jewish community in the diaspora. If you find a document of yours or of your family's or if you recognize a document belonging to someone you know, please contact JEMINA at sarahlevin@jimena.org or call 847-514-7015 . To search the National Archives website go to:

www.ija.archives.gov

Information at: www.KahalJoseph.eventbrite.com

An Evening of Qanoon, Klezmer Wine, and Desserts

Graciously Hosted at The Refoua Penthouse on Sunset

December 3rd

The seventh Night of Hannukah

From 8PM – 10PM

Tickets - \$35

Tickets for Two - \$60

On-Site Valet Parking Included with Ticket



FOR TICKETS

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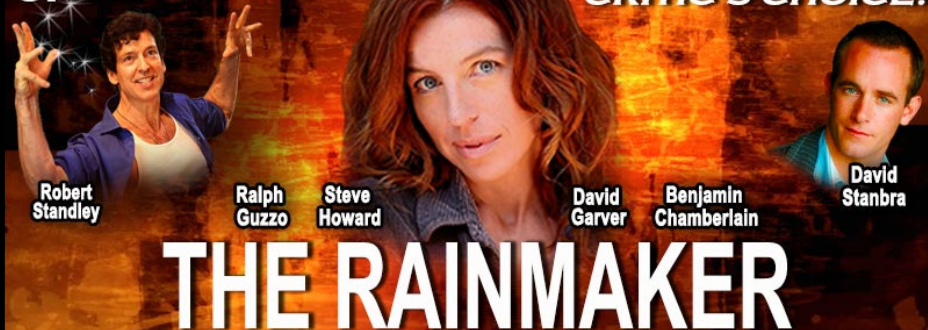
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Complimentary Tickets to Kahal Joseph Members

Sunday, December 8th at 4:30 pm

Tickets may be reserved by e-mail dafna@kahaljoseph.org or by calling the office at 310.474.0559. This play is suitable for older teens and adults. Advance reservations are required to attend.

Edgemar Center for the Arts, 2437 Main Street, Santa Monica CA 90405

Thank you to the Edgemar Center for providing these tickets to our community through a generous grant.

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