

KOL MEVASSER

We Have the Answer!

By Rabbi Hagay Batzri

In our parasha this week, we have the famous story of Balak and Bilaam, two very powerful people who try to destroy the Jewish people when they have just started to develop as a nation. In the Sinai desert, Balak, the king of Moab and the great prophet and magician, Bilaam, try to attack Israel's spiritual foundation. The parasha gives us a great drama, filled with detail that describes the place, the time, and all the devices Bilam and Balak use. But Hashem says, in effect, 'The Spirit of Israel is part of my spirit, beyond time and space. I'm the King forever, my nation exists forever.'

Given God's position, the only place that our enemies can attack us, and even then only some of us, is through our physicality or through ethics. For example, our enemies may be able to put in front of us temptation in a manner similar to how the snake deceived Adam and Eve. At the end of the story, that is what the Midianites did. The Midianites said to themselves, 'If we cannot destroy them all spiritually, then at least we can attack as many of them as possible.' The Midianites made their daughters behave immorally in order to tempt some Jews to choose, little by little, to assimilate. In this way, if not by force, then through love, part

of the Jewish people would distance themselves mentally and physically from Judaism and from God.

Today, here in America 2012, our young generation stands before some of the biggest temptations ever. These are some of the greatest temptation offered any human being ever in the history of the world. In daily life, our young adults face things that we can't even imagine, things that, as adult and educators, we can't begin to understand. The implication for our young adults, the effect of what they experience on their emotions and spirit, is hard to comprehend. We are out of touch with their reality. Today young adults have infinite choices. They watch every form of media they want in seconds. They eat, at almost any time of day, the food of their choice. Mind-altering substances are available for them on almost any street corner. We need to face the situation head on. We need to acknowledge the truth in front of our eyes.

Yes, I admit that I myself am out of touch with the younger generation. And, I welcome all grandparents and parents to be heroic and admit the truth: we failed! We sold our values bit by bit. We allowed ourselves a little more freedom, a little more permissiveness. We felt we were, ourselves, under control. But, we lost control of our children.

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KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat Balak Friday, July 6, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir HaShirim	6:45 pm
Minhah/Arbith	7:00 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting	7:49 pm

Saturday, July 7, 2012

Shabbat Shaharit/Morning Prayer ...	8:30 am
Guest Speaker, Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan from UCLA Hillel	during services
Women's Tehillim	6:00 pm
Rabbi's Class	6:45 pm
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvith	7:15 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah	8:53 pm

Fast of the 17th of Tammuz Sunday, July 8, 2012

Fast Begins	4:19 am
Shaharit/Morning Prayer	7:30 am
Minha with Sefer Torah, Birkat HaCohanim and Arvit	7:30 pm
Fast Ends for Sepharadim	8:29 pm

Monday through Friday July 9-13, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
<i>Women's Tehillim Group Monday@10:30 am</i>	

Erev Shabbat Pinchas Friday, July 13, 2012

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir HaShirim / Minha	6:45 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting	7:49 pm

High School Teens Shabbaton Saturday, July 14th 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

**Welcome KJ Guest Speaker
Rabbi Aryeh Kaplan
from UCLAHillel**



*Thriving not Surviving:
An Intimate Look at
Jewish Campus Life*
Shabbat Day
Saturday, July 7th, 2012
during morning services
(approx. 10:45 am)

**Rabbi Batzri's
Hotline**



Plan Your Next Shabbat Dinner ...

Discuss your Jewish home and learn the secrets that create a Jewish environment. Rabbi Batzri offers explanations of our halakhot and Jewish matters for young families and the entire family. Call him directly at 310-717-8707 or write hbatzri@gmail.com.

Now, let's set your table ...

Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of
Morad Rafie, z"l

by Farshaad Frank Rafie
and Family

Condolences

We offer our deep condolences
to the family and friends of

Isaac Joseph, z"l

especially to his wife, Diana
May Hashem comfort them together with
all the mourners of Tzion

*Kahal Joseph Congregation
Legacy of Kindness
Gala Tribute Dinner*



*Honoring
Rylla & Benjamin H. Elias*

SUNDAY, THE NINTH OF SEPTEMBER, TWO THOUSAND & TWELVE
SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING
ERROL LEVI BALLROOM AT KAHAL JOSEPH
RSVP BY AUGUST 22ND ♥ 310.474.0559

Bobby Refoua



KJ Member of the Week

He not only helped the Rabbi with the Torah reading, and taking care of his twins but helped arrange the kiddush with Rosa on vacation. He always brings energy to the synagogue with a smile. *Neil Sheff, VP Religious Affairs*

Women's Tehillim Group



With Rabbanit Orly Batzri
Mondays at 10:30 am
Shabbat before Mincha, 6:00 pm
Bring a friend to the KJ Library

Refuah Shlemah

Gerry Shapiro • Yocheved bat Rachel • Rachamim ben Sarah • Hinah Titzza bat Itah • Yitzhak ben Abdullah • Mazal bat Malka • Dan Herdoon

SHABBAT TORAH PORTION

Parashat **Balak** 669 to 682
Haftara 682 to 685

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversary of passings, for July 7 to 14, 2012. It is customary to light a memorial candle and donate tzedakah. Family members are encouraged to attend prayer services in honor of loved ones the preceding Shabbat.

17 Tammuz / Shabbat, July 7

Abdallah Ezra *Abdallah ben Ezra Itzhak*

18 Tammuz / Sunday, July 8

Naamat Zelkha *Naamat ben Simha*

20 Tammuz / Tuesday, July 10

Rachel Pourati *Rahel bat Leah Nahid*

22 Tammuz / Thursday, July 12

Abraham Shamash *Avraham ben Elyahu*

23 Tammuz / Friday, July 13

Shalom Jacob *Yaacov Shalom ben Yeshaiah*
Lulu Farha Zekaria
Elias Joseph

24 Tammuz / Shabbat, July 14

Aaron David *Aharon David ben Avraham Haim*

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The Bilaams of our time, like the original sorcerer, have worked their magic and many of us find our kids far away, distant from any place we could imagine in their lives.

At the very least we should feel guilty! It's okay to feel guilt in this situation. It is not the type of guilt that will destroy our sensitivity; it's a positive guilt that will give us strength to create change.

I think the subject would be interesting to research, but here's the thing. We don't have time for research. The results we see and the feedback we get from our young ones leave us shocked and helpless.

Over the past two or three decades, uncounted "traditional" congregations have held Board meeting after Board meeting to discuss the same things: How can we attract the young generation to show up at synagogue? And, in fact, we have tried everything: powerful speakers, musical events, movies, fun celebrations, delicious food. But nothing is working. They don't like it!

Open your eyes! We have lost our connection to the younger generation.

So, here is my point. I discovered last week at Kahal, in the opening night of discussion during our young adult program that, believe it or not, young adults want what we don't want. They want exactly the opposite of what we do.

They want to know Torah exactly as our great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers learned Torah. They want to know the original Torah. They want to know the whole truth, all the truth. They want to live a life of Torah with no shortcuts, no more attempts to fit our religion to our desires, to imitate the Reform movement's "method." They don't want to live as hypocrites, the way they see some of their elders living.

In fact, they were very interested in the simplest things and they didn't want to hear it in fancy academic language that covers the essence of things. They want the inside, the soul, the truth. For example, why do we do kiddush on Friday night? Why do we use wine? Why do we pour the wine into a silver cup? Why do we use challah? Why do we light candles? Why are candles lighted by the women in a household? Why do we place salt on the Shabbat table? And guess what questions made me wonder the most?

Rabbi, can you teach us how to make Kiddush? Rabbi, we want to know how to pray. We want ... we want... why... we want... Oh! My God!

We have found the answer! We have the answer to what the younger generation wants!

Let's repair ourselves, correct our faults. Let's create a new connection to the life of our children.

I love you Kahal. Shabbat Shalom

The Maqam System & Maqam Bayat

Did you ever go to a Sephardic synagogue on Shabbat morning and wonder why the Rabbi and Hazzanim pick the melodies and tunes that they do? These melodies and tunes are not chosen at random. Each week when the hazzan appears on the teva (bima), he has prepared which melodies he is going to use based on the maqam system.

A 'maqam,' which in Arabic literally means 'place,' is a standard melody type and set of related tunes. The melodies used in a given maqam express the emotional state of the reader through the prayers.

There are hundreds of different maqamat, but we only use about ten of them regularly. As a general rule, the same maqam will not be used two weeks in a row to avoid the redundancy of hearing the same maqam repeatedly.

Which maqam is chosen depends on either the theme of the Parasha (weekly portion of the torah reading) or on whether there is an upcoming holiday during the next week.

Maqam Bayat has been selected by Rabbi Batzri for this week's Shabbat Song, Semah Bni. Maqam Bayat is the most common of the maqamat. More songs are classified under this maqam than any other. This maqam has a mellow mood to it and therefore is used for Arbit Motzei Shabbat and Motzei Yom Tob when the mood of ending the day is such.

Maqam Bayat symbolizes an **oath** between two parties (as is the case with Bar Mitzvah-an oath between man and God). It is also used on Motzei Shabbat due to its wealth of pizmonim.

*From pizmonim.merkaz.com/maqam.php?maqam=Bayat
and from <http://teruah-jewishmusic.blogspot.com>*

A Shabbat Song: Smah Bni

Be Happy, My Son, With Your Share

Performed by Rabbi Batzri at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmqJatyFZH8>

שִׂמַח בְּנֵי בְהֵלְקֶיךָ. לֹא תִקַּח גַּם אֶת שְׂאֵיךָ.

הַשְׂמֵחָה תִּתְּנֶיךָ. הָעוֹלָם לְפָנֶיךָ:

הוֹלֵךְ בְּרַגְלֶיךָ. מְנַעֵנֵעַ יָדֶיךָ. עֵינַיִם צוֹפִים לְךָ. הַלֵּב פּוֹעֵם לְךָ:

הַשְׂמֵחָה תִּתְּנֶיךָ. הָעוֹלָם לְפָנֶיךָ

מִי עָשִׂיר וְיָמִי שְׂמֵחַ. בְּעוֹלָם הָיָה אֹרְחִי. לֹא בְּתֵל וְלֹא בְּבֵית:

הַפְּנִינָן יְדֵיךָ לְךָ: הַשְׂמֵחָה תִּתְּנֶיךָ. הָעוֹלָם לְפָנֶיךָ

הַבָּטוּ וְשֵׂא עֵינֶיךָ. מִי נָתַן בְּלִיאָלָה לְךָ. גַּם בְּנִים לְשִׁלְחָנְךָ. אִם

תִּתְּנֶה רַק לְבוֹרְאֶיךָ. מִן חֲמִיד יְדֵיךָ לְךָ:

הַשְׂמֵחָה תִּתְּנֶיךָ. הָעוֹלָם לְפָנֶיךָ

Smakh bni b'khelkekha. Lo tikakh gam et shelkha. *Hasimkha tek-hayekha. Ha'olam le'fanekha:*

Holekh b'raglekha. Mena'ne-ah yedekha. Enayim tzofim lekha. *Ha'lev po-em bekha: Hasimkha tekhayekha. Ha'olam le'fanekha:*

Mi ashir u'mi same-akh. Ba'olam hazeh ore-akh. Lo b'khayil v'lo b'ko-akh. *Ha'mamon yihiyeh lekha: Hasimkha tekhayekha. Ha'olam le'fanekha:*

Habet v'sa enekha. Mi natan kol eleh lekha. Gam banim l'shulkhanekha. Im todeh rak l'vorekha. Ken tamid yihiyeh lekha: *Hasimkha tekhayekha. Ha'olam le'fanekha:*

Be happy, my son, with your share. Don't even grasp at what's yours. *Joy will give life to you. The world is before you.*

You are walking with your legs. You are swinging your arms. Eyes are looking at you. Your heart is beating inside of you. *Joy will give life to you. The world is before you.*

Who is wealthy and who is happy? He who is a guest in this world. Not with valor and not with force will worldly possessions be yours. *Joy will give life to you. The world is before you.*

Look and cast your eyes about. Who gave you everything? Even the sons at your table? If you only give thanks to He who created you, then you will always have [enough]. *Joy will give life to you. The world is before you.*

Rabbi Hagay Batzri presents

KJ Teens in High School *Fun Shabbat Program*

Next Week! Saturday, July 14th

9:00 am to 1:30 pm



*“Our Heroes Today”
Dvar Torah Talk for Teens*

Luncheon with Teens

*Interactive Workshop for Teens on
“Whose Life Comes First?”*

Rabbi Yosef Khakshoor

KJ Guest Speaker & Youth Leader
Mohel * Shohet * Sofer



Rabbi Yosef Khakshoor, a graduate of Ner Israel Rabbinical College holds a Masters of Talmudic Law. He also received his smicha (Rabbinic ordination) from the yeshiva.

A certified mohel, scribe and shochet, he has been involved in outreach and Jewish education for the past ten years. His goal is to make youth aware of their Jewish identity, instill in them a sense of pride, and reconnect them with their roots.

Through a unique program called SEED, Rabbi Khakshoor will be in the Westwood area throughout the summer, organizing events with congregations and Jewish youth, utilizing his training and skills in hands-on, fun, educational programs to bring Jewish teens closer to their heritage.