

KOL MEVASSER

Prayer and Action

Mrs. Lori Palatnik, torah.org

Prayer. How do we relate to prayer? Is it something only children do at bedtime? Is prayer reserved for services in synagogue? Why do we pray? Should we pray? Why is prayer considered one of the fundamental pillars of Judaism? Many questions. Let us look at this week's parsha and try and derive some answers.

In VaYishlach, we find Yaakov receiving the news that his wicked and vengeful brother, Esav, (who, in last week's parsha, threatened to kill him), is planning to arrive with 400 of his men. Rashi, a foremost commentator on the Torah, points out that upon hearing the news, Yaakov has three choices: to appease Esav through gifts; to prepare for war with him; and to pray.

Yaakov chose to utilize all three options, but the order in which he chose to implement them is significant-- especially, when he chose to use prayer. Rashi notes that clearly Yaakov chose to prepare for battle first by dividing his people, only then did he pray, and then he sent gifts. It seems surprising that Yaakov, one of the Fathers of The Fathers of The Jewish People, who was connected with The Almighty and fully understood the power of prayer, would not immediately turn to G-d for help.

Another familiar story where the Jewish People do turn to G-d first, is the at the splitting of the Sea of Reeds. Remember, the Egyptians were behind them and the sea was in front of them.

What did they do? They prayed. They asked G-d to help them. And what did He answer?

"Speak to the Children of Yisrael that they should move on." The Midrash relates that Nachshon Ben Aminadov began to walk into the sea. He walked deeper and deeper. Before the sea engulfed him, it dramatically split.

And in this we find an important insight into what prayer is all about. G-d responds to us based on our choices. Belief in the power of prayer is also the belief in our responsibility to make the supreme effort. Prayers are meaningful and effective when preceded by serious action and intent. G-d creates a situation where we are faced with a choice, because through that conflict and choice we have the ability to grow and realize our true potentials. Yes, we need His help, but to sit around and pray for everything in life, without ever making our effort in all areas, is to misread why the situation happened in the first place.

Prayer is also the confirmation of the Jewish concept of The Almighty as a personal G-d. Relating to Him should be a daily part of one's life, and not just reserved for a special occasion or a pressing situation. One doesn't have to be in shul, and it doesn't have to be in Hebrew. Prayer is talking to G-d. It can be in English, Chinese, Spanish, or whatever language one feels most comfortable. G-d understands and wants to hear our prayers. Don't make the mistake of going to synagogue and saying hello to friends, neighbors and rabbi, and walking out, having forgotten to say hello to The Creator.

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KJ Schedule Parashat Vayishlah

Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 15th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim	4:15 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting	4:31 pm
Minhah/Arbith	4:31 pm

Shabbat / Parashat Vayishlah

Saturday, November 16th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit	4:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah	5:34 pm

Weekdays

Sunday, November 17th

Shaharit	7:30 am
KJ Kids Sunday School	10:00 am

Monday to Friday, November 18th to 22nd

Shaharit	6:30 am
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Erev Shabbat

Friday, November 22nd

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim	4:15 pm
Shabbat Candle Lighting	4:27 pm
Minhah/Arbith	4:27 pm

Readings: Shabbat Vayishlah

Torah: Genesis/Sefer Beresheet

Hertz edition pages 122 to 134

Haftara Obadia / Ovadia

Hertz edition pages 137 to 140

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Yet G-d does not need our prayers. He doesn't need anything. He has no needs; He can only give. No, G-d doesn't need our prayers, but we do. Through prayer we recognize our Creator and come close to Him. And, being close to G-d is the ultimate pleasure.

When we pray, we focus on the fact that G-d is our Father, Giver of all. We ask for whatever we aspire to in life; whatever we need. Nothing is too big, and nothing is too small. We are not bothering G-d, and we are not using up His attention.

Rabbi Noah Weinberg once asked someone if they ever prayed. He said, "Rabbi, I pray every day." "Really," replied Reb Noah. "Did G-d ever answer your prayers?" "Are you kidding? He answers **every** prayer!" said the man. "Sometimes the answer is yes, and sometimes it's no."

When G-d answers, "No", we should ask ourselves, what is G-d telling me? What am I to learn from this? What is the message? And keep asking. We should fill our prayers with praise and thanks for all that G-d gives us, and ask for things for our own lives, and for the lives of others.

But never forget the lesson of Yaakov. We must also make *efforts* in our own lives and know that G-d is there, protecting us, sustaining us, and watching over us with love.

David S. Kelly KJ Youth Choir
Rabbi Hagay Batzri, Director
will reconvene, b"n, in January 2014



The Sisterhood of Kahal Joseph

invites the children of our community to a

Hanukkah Celebration

Sunday, November 24th 2013 at 11:00 am
featuring wonderful entertainment



Clown & Balloon Art

Magician Extraordinaire!

Sweets & Treats for the Children

Fun for the Whole Family

RSVP Requested

Elsa at 323.934.3439

Louise 818.884.0120

Rita 310.839.4206

Hannie 310.247.0220

Hag Sameah! ♥ Happy Hanukkah!



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

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

Thank You

To all who gave such generous support to provide new tallitot / prayer shawls for KJ

Jacob and Desiree Aghalar
Amos and Faye Aharonov
Edmond and Ruthie Hagooli
Fuad and Evelyn Salem
Joe and Ruby Samuels
Moussa and Sholeh Shaaya

and special thanks to Louise Elias
for organizing the tallitot project

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for November 16th to 23rd, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

13 Kislev / Shabbat, November 16th

Eliza Maslavi *Eliza bat Tifaha*

14 Kislev / Sunday, November 17th

Helen Levi *Habiba Havah bat Farha*

15 Kislev / Monday, November 18th

Nora Isaac Ives *Naima bat Simcha*

Sassoon Menashe Sassoon *Sassoon ben Menashe*

17 Kislev / Wednesday, November 20th

Naim Lavi *Naim ben Moshe*

Moshe ben Moosa

18 Kislev / Thursday, November 21st

Raphael Emquies *Raphael ben Salomon*

20 Kislev / Shabbat, November 23rd

Alec Jacob Jonah *Avraham ben Yaacov*

Moshe Nissan *Moshe ben Hayim Nissan*

♥ **Shabbat Shalom** ♥

Wishing You a Peaceful Shabbat