

KOL MEBASSER

Rabbi's Message



Why would God set up a situation that He knew could turn out to be a fiasco? Why send spies into Erets Yisrael if their testimony could turn the nation's hearts against the narrative that they had been following up to that point? Wouldn't it be simpler to just stay in charge and make things turn out the way He planned all along?

Lehabdil alfe habdalot – intending no meaningful comparison between God and mortal man – we have heard similar questions asked of British Prime Minister David Cameron this past week. Why set up a Brexit referendum if he believed that the United Kingdom should remain part of the European Union? Why allow his cabinet to campaign against his own publicly stated views if he could have played a stronger hand and actually gotten what he wanted?

The answer to both might be that when it comes to our national story, it is worth forming public policy around the choices of the people even if they set a course that goes against the informed judgment of those at the top.

God hoped that the spies would be invigorated by what they saw of Erets Kena'an, and inspire Bene Yisrael to settle there. Instead, most of them advised an attitude of hopelessness, setting Jewish sovereignty back four decades. Yet God went along with the reconnaissance plan because the people's hearts were set upon it. Our free will was more important than His vision!

For his part, Cameron hoped that the Brexit referendum would return in his favor and allow him to claim a mandate for his policies. Instead, he was defeated by a slim majority that ultimately cost him his job. Yet he too went along with it because, in his words, "the British people have made a very clear decision."

This notion of giving high consideration to people's will is built into the very words of the commandment from which our Parasha takes its name. God does not tell Moshe to simply *shelah anashim*– "send people" to spy out the land–but rather *shelah lekha anashim*–"send people **for yourselves**," from your own initiative.

According to the Midrash Tanhuma, this extra word shows that Bene Yisrael had not believed God when He told them of the good qualities of Erets Kena'an. Instead, they gathered around Moshe and demanded that he appoint spies to verify the facts for themselves.

In the face of this clear message from the people, God could have refused point blank, but He gave them the space to find their own way. In this case the consequences were disastrous – much as the Brexit fallout is being foretold by the Remainers – but in both stories the people were allowed to steer the ship.

Ultimately, Bene Yisrael's choice helped them feel more invested in their country. The sacrifices that they had to make emerged from their own decisions, and so they appreciated it more sincerely when they eventually got what they wanted. This was sealed in their hearts much more powerfully than if they had simply followed someone else's orders, which was probably more effective in the long haul.

Parashat Shelah

Independence Day Weekend

Torah: Num. 13:1–15:41 , 119 Pesukim

Hertz 623–634; Stone 798–819

Haftarah: Josh. 2:1–24

Hertz 635–637; Stone 1184–1185

Tefillot: Morid Hatal, Hakhrazat Tammuz (Wed-Ths)

KJ Schedule

Ereb Shabbat

Friday, July 1st

Shaharit 6:25 am

Shabbat Candle Lighting7:50 pm

Minha 6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, July 2nd

Shaharit / Morning Prayer 8:30 am

Keri'at HaTorah 10:15 am

Musaf 11:30 am

Women's Tehillim 5:45 pm

Minha 7:15 pm

Se'uda Shelisheet 8:00 pm

Arbit 8:40 pm

Habdala 8:53 pm

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No matter what the fallout of Brexit is, I wish that this may be the outcome for the UK. With voter turnout at historic highs, may they feel ownership over a future that they freely chose, no matter what it may hold for them.

KJ Schedule (continued)

Weekdays

Sunday, July 3rd

Shaharit..... 7:30 am

Monday, July 4th

Shaharit 7:00 am

Tuesday, July 5th & Friday, July 8th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Rosh Hodesh Tammuz

Wednesday & Thursday, July 6th & 7th

Shaharit..... 6:15 am

Ereb Shabbat / Friday, July 8th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:49 pm

Minha..... 6:30 pm

Women's Tehillim

5:45 pm Sat. before Minha

Thanks to our member Miriam Shadi, the tehillim group is getting new life. Join your fellow Kahal Joseph sisters for coffee, community, and reciting the Book of Psalms.

All women are welcome to participate, and whoever arrives first is invited to say the Yehi Ratson & begin reading. When more arrive, we can share the text until we have finished all 150 Psalms. What a great spiritual lift on Shabbat!



Kahal Joseph sends our love to the victims in Eretz Yisrael and Istanbul.

In Memoriam

We remember yearzeit anniversaries from July 2 to 9, 2016. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

26 Sivan / Shabbat, July 2nd

Daniel Rojhani

George Sassoon *Khadoory Hai ben Ezra*

Samha Zelkha

27 Sivan / Sunday, July 3rd

Abdallah Joseph *Abdallah Faraj ben Isaac*

Yoseph

Maurice Mathalon *Moshe ben Avraham*

28 Sivan / Monday, July 4th

Rostame Eliassi *Mordecai ben Habib*

Aziz Daniel Pourati *Aziz ben Daniel*

29 Sivan / Tuesday, July 5th

Eric Jacob Jonah *Ezra ben Yaacov Yona*

Abraham Mashaal *Abraham ben Yehezkel*

30 Sivan / Wednesday, July 6th

Ester Meyer *Ester bat Sofi*

1 Tammuz / Thursday, July 7th

Selina Jacobs

Ezra Kemareh *Ezra Yaacov*

Maurice Morris *Moshe ben Abdullah*

Lulu Moshi *Lulu bat Simha*

Abraham Posmentier *Abraham ben Isser*

Nadhim Sarraf *Yitzhak ben Haim*

2 Tammuz / Friday, July 8th

Isaac Amron

Eugene Cornateanu

Simha Goury *Simha bat Lulu*

Meyer Edward Nathan *Meyer ben Ezra Natan*

3 Tammuz / Shabbat, July 9th

Joseph Moses *Yoseph ben Aharon Moshe*

Habibollah Rokhsar *Habib ben Mordecai*

Refua Shelema

Abe Abraham

Moselle Amron

Sally Amron

Sylvia Cohen

Mordechai Cohen

Esther Duke

Sassoon Ezra

Lev Hakak

Tilda Levy

Doris Moshi

Florice Newberry

Maurice Ovadia

Gracie Tizabi

Katie bat Farha

Miriam bat Yetta

Aliza bat Victoria

MOMMY & ME

Join our next session of Mommy & Me in partnership with PlayCreations Kids! For questions or to register contact Jessica@kahaljoseph.org.

Regular Class, 8 Thursdays starting June 23 at \$215

We will spend time exploring our 5 senses through new and unique sensory play and art activities each week! We will also engage in music, instrument play, scarves, parachute time and more! For the older kids, we add in science projects!

Toddlers (18m - 2.5 years) - 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Babies (12m - 18m) - 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Shabbat Class, 8 Fridays, starting June 24 at \$215/\$225

Kids explore the miracles of Shabbat! Each week we will sing, play and create a sensory/art project such as decorating Shabbat candle holders, making Shabbat dinner with play dough, baking fresh and delicious Challah and much more! We will end each class with our weekly Shabbat blessings, challah, juice and snack! Connect your little ones with their Jewish roots through this fun, interactive class!

Babies (12m - 18m) - 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Toddlers (18m - 2.5 years) - 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM