

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message



Whenever we open up the Sefer Torah for display in our service, we designate someone special, often a child or the person who opened the doors of the Ekhal, to point out where the Parasha begins. Assuming that the Torah has been rolled to the correct column, it is often fairly straightforward to find: a matter of locating the paragraph in which the eponymous word of the Parasha can be seen.

Indeed, a Midrash on Parashat Vayikra explicitly claims that the division of the Torah text block into paragraphs was intentionally designed by God as a visual aid to help us find our place:

“And if his offering be of the flock’ – beginning this verse with the conjunction ‘and’ shows that it continues the topic discussed in the previous verse. So why does a paragraph break separate them? To help Moses to distinguish between each Parasha and each subject. And [if Moses needed this,] how much more so for the simplest of the uneducated!” (Lekah Tob on Lev. 1:10)

The fact that this thoughtful idea really works is always thrown into relief at Parashat Vayhi, which alone among the 54 Parashiyot of the year begins in the middle of a paragraph, with no separation from the surrounding text. To find it, one must start at the only division within that column

and go back four verses, often eight or nine lines up.

Many commentators in Jewish history have noticed this and tried to suggest reasons why it should be so. Perhaps the most commonly known answer was made famous by Rashi, who argues that Jacob’s death marks the psychological beginning of the Israelites’ enslavement. Although Joseph prevented their physical captivity during his lifetime, their eyes and hearts began to close with affliction at the passing of their last true patriarch, and this defensive immurement of our souls is mirrored by God sealing off the beginning of the Parasha.

While Rashi cites this answer and a second alternative from an ancient Midrash (Beresheet Rabba 96:1), he omits the third explanation that appears in his source text. According to that Midrash, the Parasha begins from a closed point because “all the troubles of the world were now closed for Jacob,” meaning that he knew true happiness during the last seventeen years of his life as his family was reunited and he could enjoy a relationship with his grandchildren (cf. Gen. 48:11).

What a difference in outlook! Where one version frets at the beginning of the end before it has even started, another is content to watch Jacob taste a joy that his soul had long thought unattainable (cf. Gen. 47:9). May the merit of this happy ending reassure us at the “closed places” of our lives, so that we can turn an apparent dead-end into our next resounding triumph!

Parashat Vayhi
End of Beresheet; MLK Weekend
Torah: Gen. 47:28–50:26, 85 Pesukim
Hertz 180–191; Stone 268–289
Haftara: I Kings 2:1–12
Hertz 191–192; Stone 1145–1146
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, January 13th

Shaharit..... 6:25 am
Candle lighting4:47 pm
Minhapromptly at 4:45 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit 5:15 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, January 14th

Shaharit / Morning Prayer 8:30 am
Keri’at HaTorah 10:15 am
Musaf 11:45 am
Women’s Tehillim..... right after kiddush

Minha 4:15 pm
Se’uda Shelisheet 5:00 pm
Arvit 5:35 pm
Havdala 5:51 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
In loving memory of

David Jacob, z"l

by
his family

(Continued from page 1)

Weekdays

Sunday, January 15th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Talmud Torah..... 9:45 am

Monday to Friday, January 16th to 20th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Next Shabbat

Friday & Saturday, Jan 20th & 21st

Shabbat Candlelighting 4:53 pm
Friday Mincha 4:45 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Mincha 4:15 pm
Havdala 5:58 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from January 14 to 21, 2017. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka & attend Shabbat services.

16 Tevet / Shabbat, January 14th

Khasna bat Rahel

17 Tevet / Sunday, January 15th

Ezekiel Menashe Ekaireb *Yehezkel ben Moshe*
David Jacob *Haskel Hai ben Yaacov*
Victoria Reuben *Victoria bat Chahla*
Farha Shamash *Farha bat Masooda*

18 Tevet / Monday, January 16th

David Davoudian *David ben Yehezkel*
Esperance Mathalon Shaaya *Esperance bat Simcha*

19 Tevet / Tuesday, January 17th

Yeheskel Goury *Yeheskel ben Shaul*
Solomon Raymond *Shlomo ben Rahamim*

20 Tevet / Wednesday, January 18th

Ronnie Kelly *Raphael ben Saleh Moshe Kadoorie*
Joseph Hayeem *Messiah*
Ruby Mussry *Reuven ben Yaacov Saleh Mussry*

21 Tevet / Thursday, January 19th

Solomon Reuben *Shlomo ben Reuven D'loomy*
Yehudah Behejohn *Behejohn bat Yehudah*

22 Tevet / Friday, January 20th

Matooka Girgiyr *Matooka bat Farha*

23 Tevet / Shabbat, January 14th

Kovkah Cohen *Kovkah bat Yaacov Hacohen*
Pinchas Khalili *Pinchas ben Nissan*
Emma Moses *Amuma bat Farha*

Refu'a Shelema

Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
Haskell Avrahamy • Sylvia Cohen • Simcha bat Rooha
Mordechai Cohen • Esther Duke • Sassoon Ezra
Lev Hakak • Yoel Iny • Tilda Levy • Florice Newberry
Maurice Ovadia • Grace Tizabi • Katie bat Farha
Miriam bat Yetta • Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria
Adam Moshe Chaim ben Olga

Mazal Tov to Eitan Jalali on his Bar Mitsva

Besiman Tov
to his parents
Hazan Saeed Jalali &
Molly Jalali, KJ's
Talmud Torah Director

to his sisters
Eliana & Adina
and to the entire family



Ladies!

Knead a little love?



Make challah dough to take home and bake

Learn about challah & why we make it

Bring your girlfriends & meet new people



Challah Making * Sunday, January 29
12:30 PM at Kahal Joseph



\$18 per person

\$180 Gold Sponsor

\$72 Silver Sponsor

\$360 Women's Circle



RSVP to Louise at 818-884-0120
by Sunday, January 22

Thank You

Kahal Joseph Congregation
thanks our beloved member and friend, Louise Elias
for organizing KJ's Tallit Project and its supporters
We invite you to read her personal letter of appreciation

To my dear friends,

Sylvia and Leon Zekaria
Saul Levy

Ruth and Edmond Hagooli

Viva and Charles Rabbie

Jacques Mashih

Michelle and Stan Kurtz

Diana and Ed Sabin

Reggie Judah

Evelyn and Fred Salem

Sunny Sassoon

Doris and Shaoul Moshi

Audrey and Vlady Cornateanu

Ruby and Joe Samuels

Desi Aghalar

Jacob Aghalar

Letizia and Ron Einy

and best friend David Elias

Thank you again for your willing and generous support in purchasing the new tallitot for our Kahal Joseph. I am grateful for the confidence and trust you displayed in me. May you be blessed for all the good you share with happiness and good health for you and the ones you love.

With humility,

Louise



TU BISHVAT COMMUNITY HIKE

Join our community and the
Talmud Torah for a meaningful
walk in the wild

Sunday, February 12
More details coming soon!

RSVP to Jessica at
Jessica@kahaljoseph.org



Purim Extravaganza!

COMING SUNDAY, MARCH 12!

Carnival * Morning Megillah
Board elections

SAVE THE DATE

Purim Baking!

Sunday, March 5 * 10:00 AM

Bake traditional Iraqi treats
with friends for the KJ Purim
baskets. It's a mitzvah!

Monetary donations to the Purim Baskets may be made to the Kahal Joseph office.



MOMMY & ME

Winter Session

Thursdays - Music & Movement

10:00 - 11:00 - 18 to 24 months

11:30 - 12:30 - 9 to 16 months

1:15 - 2:15 - 8 to 14 months

Fridays - Shabbat

10:00 - 11:00 - 18 to 30 months

11:30 - 12:30 - 11 to 17 months

8 sessions starting January 19 * \$225 per child per session

Questions? Jessica@kahaljoseph.org

To register www.playcreationskids.org