

KOL MEVASSER

Rabbi's Message

Last Shabbat, a congregant asked me why the first word in the Book of Leviticus ends with a diminutive Alef. As you can see in the facing collage of Kahal's Sefarim, the tradition of writing it this way is universal. These scrolls came to LA from Calcutta, Singapore, Surabaya, and Israel, and the Alef is reduced in every one.



Throughout Scripture, there are a handful of these ad-justed characters. Their purpose is not always clear, and we must rely on rabbinic literature to understand them. In this week's case there are many possibilities (cf. *Torah Shelema*, Vayikra vol. 1, p. 5 section 6 and ff.), but I will share two that struck a chord:

Midrash Otiyot Ketanot claims that the small Alef helps contrast two words that differ only by that letter. When God talks to Balaam (Num. 23:4), He uses *vayiker*, meaning an indirect form of address, yet when He talks to Moses, He uses the longer *vayikra*, meaning a direct address. From this, the Midrash infers the preeminence of the Jews, since God talked to our leaders like peers.

The opposite view is found in the Ba'al Haturim, who says that when Moshe was writing down the Torah and reached this point, he wanted to use *vayiker*, but God commanded him to honor himself with the Alef. Caught between his humility and a direct order from God, he wrote the contested letter smaller.

The existence of both explanations shows a healthy balance in our self-understanding. We have every reason to be proud of our tradition and everything that makes it special. Yet too far down that path can make us haughty and judgmental. Let us follow Moshe's lead and combine the confidence of *vayikra* with the humility of the small Alef!

The Little Alef In Kahal's Sefarim

Minor Reduction



Right: [No Dedication] – Portuguese, 1920s

Left: Nissim Mordekhai Khazoom – Babylonian, 1872

Half Size



Right: Yosef Haim ben Yehezkel – Babylonian, 1889

Left: Naim ben Efraim Mizrahi – Israeli Sephardi, 1995

Quarter Size



Right: Grace bat Toba Mussry – Old-style Ashkenazi, 1956

Left: Eliyahu ben Mordekhai Mizrahi – Portuguese, 1931

Eighth Size



Right: Avraham Haim Aharon David – Babylonian, 1930

Left: Salha Metana bat Matuka – Israeli Sephardi, 1991

Parashat Vayikra Shabbat Zachor

Torah: Lev. 1:1–5:26, Deut. 25:17-19

Hertz 410, 856; Stone 544, 1066

Haftara (§): I Sam 15:1–34

Hertz 995–998; Stone 1214–1216

Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Birkat Halevana

Summer Mincha – Fridays @ 6:00 pm

Every year from March to September, we read Mincha at a fixed time on Fridays. This year we are calling Mincha at **6:00 pm** each week, which is half an hour earlier than the past. Praying sooner will give us more time to celebrate Shabbat with our families.

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat

Friday, March 15th

Shabbat Candle lighting	6:42 pm
Mincha	6:00 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit	6:30 pm

Yom Shabbat

Saturday, March 16th

Shaharit.....	8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah.....	10:15 am
Sermon	11:20 am
Musaf	11:30 am
Women's Tehillim	5:00 pm
Mi Khamokha, full reading	5:45 pm
Mincha	6:00 pm
Seuda Shelisheet	6:45 pm
Arvit.....	7:30 pm
Havdala	7:46 pm

Sunday, March 17th

Shaharit.....	7:30 am
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KJ Purim Schedule

Baking for KJ Purim Baskets

Sunday, March 17th
10:00 am

Taanit Esther

Wednesday, March 20th
Fast begins 5:42 am
Shaharit 6:05 am
Minha w/Birkat Kohanim 6:15 pm
Fast ends 7:43 pm

Lel Purim

Wednesday, March 20th
Raffle with Prizes 7:00 pm
Megila Reading 7:45 pm
Light Dinner following Megila

Yom Purim

Thursday, March 21st
Shaharit & Megila 5:45 am

Shushan Purim

Friday, March 22nd
Shaharit 6:25 am

Simeni Rosh

A Piyut for Shabbat Zakhor

שִׁמְנֵי רֹאשׁ עַל כָּל אוֹיְבֵי. וְתִשְׁמַחְנִי.
כִּימִי מְרֻדְכִי בֶן יָאִיר. אֵל חֲנוּן וְחַנּוּנִי:

מָחָה תִּמְחֶהוּ לְאָדָם. הִכְהוּ אִם עַל בָּנִים:

לְבִשֶׁת מַלְכוּת לְהַדְסָה. וְהַצֵּלְתִּנִּי.

בָּקוּם הָמָן הָאָגָגִי. כְּתִנּוּן לְבִלְעָנִי:

מָחָה תִּמְחֶהוּ לְאָדָם. הִכְהוּ אִם עַל בָּנִים:

מִמְרוֹם רוּחַ שְׁלַחְתָּ. וְתוֹשִׁיעָנִי.

יִסֵּר יִסְרֹנִי יְיָ. לַמּוֹת לֹא נִתָּנִי:

מָחָה תִּמְחֶהוּ לְאָדָם. הִכְהוּ אִם עַל בָּנִים:

הָמָן חָשַׁב לְאַבְדֵנִי. וְלִהְשִׁמִּידֵנִי.

דָּחָה דְּחִיתִנִּי לְנֶפֶל. וְה' עֲזָרָנִי:

מָחָה תִּמְחֶהוּ לְאָדָם. הִכְהוּ אִם עַל בָּנִים:

חֲזִיק לֵב עֲבָדְךָ בְּקֹדֶם. וְאַמְצָנִי.

בְּזִכּוֹת יִצְחָק עֲקֹדָה. הַשִּׁיבֵנִי עַל פְּנֵי:

בְּזִכּוֹת אַבְרָהָם אֲהוּבָה. הַשִּׁיבֵנִי עַל פְּנֵי:

בְּזִכּוֹת יַעֲקֹב תְּמִימָה. הַשִּׁיבֵנִי עַל פְּנֵי:

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from March 16 to 23, 2019. We light memorial candles donate tsedaka & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

9 Adar II / Shabbat, March 16th

Victoria Levy *Victoria bat Hanina*

10 Adar II / Sunday, March 17th

Clara Solomon *Gala bat Masouda*
Menashe Solomon *Menashe ben Shlomo Reuven*

12 Adar II / Tuesday, March 19th

David Shapiro *Dovid ben Chaim*

13 Adar II / Wednesday, March 20th

Kodadad Tbibi *Kodadad ben Yair*

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron • Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke • Mehry bat Miriam Hakimipour
Tilda Levy • Yvonne Moalim • Florice Newberry
Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria • Arlette bat Rashel
Chaya Chana bat Batya • Katie bat Farha
Malka bat Rahel • Miriam bat Yetta • Miryam bat Malka
Moshe Ezra ben MazalTov • Simcha bat Rooha
Habiba bat Farha • Meir Ezra ben Rahel • Dina bat Rahel
Chaya Rachel bat Simcha • Rahel bat Ramah Regina
Eti Esther bat Fortuna • Karen bat Chana
Rabbi Eliahu Shalom ben Avigayil Ezran
Arie Yaacov ben Shlomo

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Sunday, March 17th (cont.)

Talmud Torah 9:45 am
Purim Baking 10:00 am

Monday-Tuesday, March 18th-19th

Shaharit 6:25 am

Wed-Thur, March 20-21—See Purim Schedule

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, March 22-23

Shabbat Candle lighting 6:47 pm
Friday Minha 6:00 pm
Shaharit 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 6:00 pm
Havdala 7:52 pm

Happy Purim

Wednesday, March 20

6:15 PM - Minha w/Birkat Cohananim

7:00 PM - Raffle with prizes

7:45 PM - Reading of Megilat Esther

Followed by

A light dinner with Hamantashen

Sponsors needed! Contact RabbiMelhado@kahaljoseph.org

Thursday March 21

5:45 AM - Shaharit & Megila

The Four Mitsvot of Purim

1. **Hearing the Megila** - hearing the whole story twice, once in the evening and once in the morning
2. **Mishloah Manot** - giving a gift with two ready-to-eat foods to at least one friend on Purim day
3. **Matanot Le'evyonim** - giving charity to two separate people on the day of Purim, either in person or through the rabbi.
4. **Seuda** - eating a festive meal on the day of Purim

Fast of Esther & Mahatsit Hashekel

There is also a custom of fasting the day before Purim, and giving ritual charity in memory of the Holy Temple

Purim Baking!

Sunday, March 17
10AM until the dough is done

Bake traditional Iraqi treats for the KJ Purim baskets, which are distributed to members of our congregation.

RSVP to Yvette at yvettedabby@gmail.com



Can't make it?

Make a dough-nation!

Send a check to the Kahal Joseph office, call 310-474-0559 or www.kahaljoseph.org/donate



GET YOUR COPIES IN TIME FOR PASSOVER!

"THE NEW IRAQI HAGGADA"

edited by Rabbi Melhado,
is now available!

\$15 a copy, or 4 for \$52

Featuring:

- A summary of Iraqi customs
- All traditional texts & instructions not found in other books
- A new, easy-to-read English translation by Rabbi Melhado

Order by Wednesday, April 10 by contacting Rabbi Melhado at rabbimelhado@kahaljoseph.org



Kahal Joseph's 14th Annual Purim Carnival

Thank you!

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Kahal Joseph's 14th Annual Purim Carnival

Thank you!

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