

KJ HAPPENINGS

Rabbi's Message

By Rabbi Natan Halevy

Bsd



In this week's Parasha, we read about the cryptic dreams of Pharaoh regarding the upcoming famine, preceded by seven years of plenty, in Egypt. However, no one is able to interpret Pharaoh's dreams correctly. Suddenly, Pharaoh's winemaker remembers the dreams he'd had in prison and that Joseph, the son of our forefather Jacob, correctly interpreted them. Joseph is rushed from prison and, indeed, gives Pharaoh the correct interpretation of his dreams as well as advice about how to handle the situation. Pharaoh is so grateful that he elevates Joseph from the status of slave and makes him the caretaker of Egypt.

We learn that Joseph spent nine years in prison. During all that time, he didn't give up or give in to bitterness. He kept working hard and providing value in the place he found himself. He knew that by keeping his spirits up, he was improving the situation in the best way possible. He knew G-d was in charge and had a plan for him. Through his patience and faith, he was able to come out of a horrendous situation, save Egypt, and prepare for the future salvation of his siblings, his father Jacob, and all their future descendants.

At times we all face challenges in life, and sometimes we want to give up. Our situation may feel hopeless. Or, giving up may seem easier. In the face of those impulses, this story teaches us the value of continuing to show up for ourselves and for our loved ones, despite the adversity we face. We must fortify our faith in Hashem. Our faith enhances our lives with grace and strength—the

knowledge that we're not giving up. Rather, we face our circumstances in the best way we can.

In the haftara, we read about King Solomon, also known as ha'Melech Shlomo. He began his reign as the King of Israel at the age of thirteen. Before he became king, Shlomo was visited by Hashem in a dream. He was asked, "What do you desire?" Hashem offered to fulfill Shlomo's deepest wishes. Faced with this opportunity, Shlomo didn't ask G-d for wealth, but rather for wisdom, so that he might judge His great nation correctly.

After becoming king, Shlomo's first case involved two women. They had recently given birth in the same home. One of the women's babies had died, and she had switched her dead infant with the living baby while the other mother slept. Now, both women had come before Shlomo, each one claiming the living baby was her own. Shlomo deliberated patiently. Then, he commanded his servant to bring him a sword. He announced that he had decided to cut the baby in half, so the two women might divide the infant equally. The true mother immediately protested, saying "No! Give the baby to her!" In contrast, the woman who had stolen the infant accepted the decision, saying "Fine! Divide the baby!" Through the women's reactions, King Solomon discovered the real mother, and was able to return the baby to her.

King Solomon's handling of the two mothers teaches us how intelligent we must be, how we must manage our behavior and carefully judge situations that demand response. We must strive to be wise and patient when asked to deliberate in life. Much depends on us every single day, so we must weigh our actions. May we be blessed with wisdom and good judgement to succeed in all we do, *Shabbat Shalom*

Parashat Mikets

Shabbat Hanukkah, Rosh Hodesh Tevet

T: Gen. 41:1-44:17, Num. 28:9-15, 7:42-47
Hertz 155, 695, 599; Stone 222, 890, 768
H: Zach. 2:14-4:7, Is. 66:1, 66:23
Hertz 987, 944/47; Stone 1210, 1208/10
Tefillot: Mashiv Haruah, Ya'ale Veyavo, Al Hanisim, full Hallel, Musaf of Rosh Hodesh

KJ Schedule

Erev Shabbat / Erev Rosh Hodesh Hanukkah Eve VI

Friday, December 27th

Hanukkah candles.... *before Shabbat candles*
Candle lighting 4:32 pm
Minha 4:25 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat & Arvit 5:00 pm

Yom Shabbat / Rosh Hodesh Tevet Hanukkah Eve VII

Saturday, December 28th

Shaharit..... 8:30 am
Keriat HaTorah..... 10:15 am
Sermon..... 11:20 am
Musaf 11:30 am

Minha 4:10 pm
Seuda Shelisheet..... 4:45 pm
Arvit..... 5:25 pm
Havdala 5:37 pm
Hanukkah candles..... *after havdala*

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Seuda Shelisheet

is sponsored
in loving memory of

**Baruch Iraj
ben Yaacov Partiyeli**

by
The Partiyeli Family

Thank You for a Beautiful KJ Children's Hanukkah Party

Rabbi Natan & Bracha Halevy
Menucha Halevy
Molly Jalali and Mona Tizabi

Special thanks
to the Kelly Family
for donating pizza & doughnuts

and to Merna Ironi
for donating toys

Happy Hanukkah

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries from December 28, 2019 to January 4, 2020. We light memorial candles, give tsedaka, & attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

1 Tevet / Sunday, December 29th

Saul Mizrahie *Shaul ben Eliyahu Mordechai*
Jack Sassoon *Yaacov Yoseph ben Sassoon*
Victoria Saul *Victoria Saul*

2 Tevet / Monday, December 30th

David ben Ezra

3 Tevet / Tuesday, December 31st

Isaac Jacob *Itzhak ben Yaakov*
Vicky Messiah *Rahma Victoria bat Khatoon*

4 Tevet / Wednesday, January 1st

Seemah Meyer *Simha bat Azizah*

5 Tevet / Thursday, January 2nd

Mida Judah *Masooda bat Dina*
Esther Sales *Esther HaMalka bat Rivka*
Elisha Samuel *Elisha ben Sassoon Shmuel*
Hacham Sassoon

6 Tevet / Friday, January 3rd

Raquel Emquies *Rahel bat Clare Levy*
Salem Kooby *Salem Kooby*
Ellen Bell
Joseph Ozair Sharraf

7 Tevet / Shabbat, January 4th

Eliezer David Levy *Eliezer ben David Halevi*



Mazal Tov

Yelena & Ben Hagooli
on the birth of a
baby boy

Besiman Tov to
big brother
Simon

grandparents
Ruth and Edmond
Kate and Michael

and all the extended family

Refua Shelema

Sassoon Ezra • Moselle Amron • Sally Amron
Sylvia Cohen • Esther Duke • Mehry bat Miriam
Hakimpour • Tilda Levy • Yvonne Moalim • Florice
Newberry • Aliza bat Rahel • Aliza bat Victoria
Chaya Chana bat Batya Katie bat Farha • Miriam
bat Yetta • Miryam bat Malka • Moshe Ezra ben
Mazal Tov • Habiba bat Farha • Dina bat Rahel
Chaya Rachel bat Simcha Ruhama • Rahel bat
Ramah Regina • Karen bat Chana Meir • Eti Esther
bat Fortuna • Ezra ben Rahel • Eliahu Shalom ben
Avigayil • Mark Jonah • Albert Nissan ben
Victoria • David ben Tova • Reuven Halevi ben
Batsheva • Shaoul ben Lulu • Joseph Sassoon
Yosef Haim ben Aharon Elisha

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Rosh Hodesh Tevet / Hanukkah Eve VIII

Sunday, December 29th

Shaharit 7:30 am
Light Hanukkah Candles..... after dark

Last Day of Hanukkah

Monday, December 30th

Shaharit..... 6:05 am

Tue, Thu, Fri, December 31, January 2-3

Shaharit..... 6:25 am

Federal New Year

Wednesday, January 1st

Shaharit..... 7:00 am

Next Shabbat / Fri-Sat, January 3-4

Candle lighting..... 4:37 pm
Friday Minha..... 4:30 pm
Shaharit..... 8:30 am
Saturday Minha 4:15 pm
Havdala 5:42 pm

The Miracle of Hanukkah

By Rabbi Natan Halevy

One of the central miracles of Hanukkah is connected to the pure olive oil used to light the menorah in the Jewish Temple, the Bet Hamikdash. During their rule, the Greeks defiled all of oil jars in the Temple. The miracle of Hanukkah was that the Jewish people found one jar of pure oil that was still closed and imprinted with the seal of the high priest. This oil, which should have lasted for one day, illuminated the menorah for eight whole days in a miraculous way. The light from the small jar lasted until the Jewish people were able to obtain more oil in a natural way. And so, Hanukkah was established over the miracle of oil, although there were many other miracles that occurred at that time.

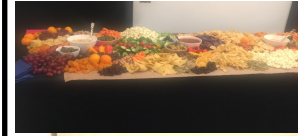
On a deep level, the pure oil symbolizes the aspect of the Jewish people that connects with godly, intellectual wisdom. Mystical teachings speak about people having different levels in their beings. Each part of our being has a distinct energy. Each has a specific focus and certain desires. Part of our being is comprised of a godly soul, a soul that comes from above and that desires to reunite with G-d and spirituality. We also have an animalistic aspect that connects with our body and our physical life force. The intellect bridges the gap between the godly part of ourselves and the physical parts of our being. When we elevate our consciousness spiritually, we become more connected with our godly soul through our intellect, and we access the latent soul power which is a deep and powerful part of our being.

When the Greeks defiled all the oil in the Temple, the act symbolized their effort to take over and defile the Jewish people's godly souls and their intellectual connection to their souls. The miracle connected with the jar of pure oil, the jar still imprinted with the seal of the Kohen Gadol, was also symbolic. The miracle signified the Jewish people's reconnection with the power in their godly soul and the wisdom of their godly souls. This inner part of the soul was untouchable and unbreakable.

Daniel had a vision of the kingship of Greece. He saw the Greek king in the form of a leopard, a bold animal. The Greeks were bold and wise. They realized that the Torah was different from their knowledge and their understanding. They felt it made Israel wiser than them. Because the Greeks recognized and feared the Torah's power, they forced the Rabbis to translate the Torah into Greek.

That's why, throughout the events that led to Hanukkah, the Greek opposition wasn't against the physical bodies of the Jewish nation, but rather against the Torah and the Jewish religion. Feeling that they were threatened by the Torah and by Jewish spirituality, the Greeks tried to destroy it. Our lives and our celebration of Hanukkah are proof that they did not succeed.

SEC Hanukkah Cooking Demo and Boutique at Kahal Joseph



The Kahal Joseph HANUKKAH PARTY

