

18 Adar 5780

14 March 2020

KJ HAPPENINGS

Rabbi's Message

By Rabbi Natan Halevy Bsd



Shalom. This week's parasha, *Ki Tisa*, discusses the conclusion of G-d's instructions to Moses regarding the making of the Mishkan—also known as the Sanctuary, the Tent of Meeting, or the Tabernacle—in the desert.

The last Torah portions, *Terumah* and *Tetzaveh*, have discussed G-d's detailed instructions about how the people of Israel should construct the Mishkan in which He promises to “dwell amidst them.” Something described in our parasha is how silver for making the “foundation sockets” of the Mishkan should be collected.

The materials for the Mishkan's construction were received “from every man whose heart impels him to give,” with people each contributing as much of whatever material their *generosity* and ability dictated. This rule applied to 14 of 15 materials used for the Mishkan's construction. However, there was one material—silver—which G-d instructed should be contributed *equally* by each individual Jew:

G-d spoke to Moses, saying:

When you raise the head of the children of Israel by their numbers, they shall each give a ransom for his soul to G-d . . .

This they shall give, every one that passes among those who are numbered: half a shekel according to the shekel of the Sanctuary...a half-shekel shall be the offering of G-d . . .

Why was the silver contribution only *half* a shekel, not a complete coin? To teach us that no person is a complete entity unto themselves. Only by joining with another can a person become a “whole being.”

In these challenging times, this teaching is quite relevant. Although we clearly need to take physical precautions to protect our health, we must strengthen our spiritual unity and care for our families and our communities.

Moreover, the half-shekels were designated “for the service of the Tent of Meeting, [the Mishkan], that it be a memorial to the children of Israel before G-d, to make atonement for your souls.”

There were a few things Moses could not understand about this statement: How could a mere silver coin serve a person as “an atonement for their soul to G-d”? Additionally, “silver” and “soul” are polar opposites: the soul epitomizes the spiritual, and silver epitomizes earthliness. Not only is silver taken from the earth, it is usually found deep within the earth. How could silver be an atonement for the soul?

G-d answered Moses by showing him a “coin of fire” that helped Moses understand the message: when we perform even a modest act of charity or kindness with the inner fire of passion and enthusiasm, we are indeed offering a piece of our soul.

Furthermore, G-d is not bound by the rules of any order or logical system that we perceive, be it nature or something else. G-d demonstrates and reveals that, in giving the half-shekel and in other acts where we give of ourselves, opposites can become one and unify. Silver, part of the earth, represents what is spiritually passive and inactive. Yet when we give, silver transforms into fire—the “coin of fire.” Fire, a form of energy and change, represents that which is highly spiritually active. Silver transforms into the “coin of fire” through our souls, by virtue of their essence that is connected to G-d. Our soul's essence never sins. When we involve the essence of our souls, along with our entire being, in what we do, we may harmoniously blend opposites like fire and silver.

Finally, regarding the half-shekel the Torah states: “The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less.” People differ in their intellect, character, and talents, in the quantity of their material resources and the nature of their spiritual sensitivities. But all are equal in the very basis of their bond with G-d: the intrinsic commitment to Hashem that resides in the core of their souls.

KJ Closed until Monday 3/16/2020

Dear members and friends,

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of Kahal's closure this weekend. Among the programs affected:

- ◆ All Shabbat and Sunday minyanim are cancelled, 3/13 to 3/16
- ◆ Shabbat Kids Club is cancelled, Sat 3/14
- ◆ Talmud Torah is cancelled, Sun 3/15
- ◆ Casino Night, Sun 3/15, is postponed

We are taking these steps to do our part and assist with corona virus mitigation measures occurring throughout the Los Angeles community. Since the situation is fluid and dynamic, we will update you as additional information becomes available.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We wish everyone health, peace, and safe passage through these challenging times,

Rabbi Natan Halevy
Kahal Joseph Congregation

This was signified by the giving of the half-shekel equally. While every person contributed in accordance with their individual capacity to the making of the Sanctuary's other components, all gave equally for the silver from which the Mishkan's foundation was made.

In our essence, we are all equally connected to Hashem. Shabbat Shalom

Condolences

With sorrow we send our deepest condolences to the family and friends of

Shaoul Moshi, z"l

Shaoul ben Lulu and Shoua, z"l. Shaoul, a devoted longtime member of Kahal Joseph, passed away on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Shaoul is survived by his wife

Doris Moshi

his children

Allen (Sandra) Moshi

Elias (Ronit) Moshi

Orna (David) Abrams

Daniel Moshi

Lily (Allan) Schweitzer

grandchildren, great-grandchildren extended family and friends.

Our thoughts & prayers go out to his family and loved ones. May they be comforted with all the mourners of Tzion. *Min hashamayim tenuhamu.*

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 • 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 • Ezra ben Rahel

Eti Esther bat Fortuna

Eliahu Shalom ben Avigayil

Albert Nissan ben Victoria

Mark Jonah • David ben Tova

Reuven Halevi ben Batsheva

Joseph Sassoon

Yosef Haim ben Aharon Elisha

Shabbat Kiddush

has been sponsored
for the elevation of the soul
and in loving memory of

Jacob Khalili, z"l

Yaacob ben Avraham

by

The Khalili Family

Kiddush postponed due to KJ closure

Thank You to The Kelly Family

*for donating candy for the children
at the Megillah Reading*

Thank You KJ Mishloah Manot Sponsors & Volunteers

*Thank you to all who donated generously
of their time & resources to make KJs
Community Gift Basket project possible*

- ◆ Thank you to all our baking volunteers & those who put together the baskets
- ◆ Thank you to Letizia Einy for donating the bags and the beautiful cards
- ◆ Thank you to
 - ◇ Rabbi and Bracha Halevy and their children Yossef Hayim, Menucha, Menahem, Noam & Shimon
 - ◇ Melissa Ironi and her children Mathew, Daniel & Darren
 - ◇ Joseph Dabby
 - ◇ Sarah Bouchoucha

for helping & delivering the mishloah manot

In Memoriam

We remember these yearzeit anniversaries from March 14 to 21, 2020. We light memorial candles, give tzedaka, and attend Shabbat services to honor the memory of our loved ones.

18 Adar / Shabbat, March 14th

Efraim ben Simcha

Naim Moshi *Naim ben Yehoshua*

Nazay Radfar *Nazeh ben Nisan*

19 Adar / Sunday, March 15th

Eliyahu Sasson *Samuel Eliyahu ben Sasson*

Charles Eric Ezekiel *Saleh ben Ezra Yehezkel*

Bertha Rahamim *Bertha bat Sabiha*

20 Adar / Monday, March 16th

Edward Wyner *Itzhak ben Simha*

Victoria Simanian *Miriam Victoria bat Ester*

Yona Radfar *Yona ben Shlomo*

Amin Nahai *Yitzhak ben Aghajan*

21 Adar / Tuesday, March 17th

Gershoon Doustar

Itzhak Rahmin *Itzhak Rahmin ben Pinhas*

22 Adar / Wednesday, March 18th

Julian Elias

23 Adar / Thursday, March 19th

Bernard Jonathan Amron *Bernard Yonatan ben Mishael*

Eliyahu Kattan *Eliyahu ben Salim*

Elisha Nawy *Elisha ben Nassim Nawy*

Kathleen Rosen *Ramah Khatoon bat Regina*

Rachel Jonah

Moshe Ezra Moses *Moshe Ezra ben Raphael Moshe*

24 Adar / Friday, March 20th

Fortunate Dallal *Fortunate bat Naima*

25 Adar / Shabbat, March 21st

Rivka Blank *Rivka bat Sarah Hannah*

Gamra Dallal

Sarah bat Gurjiyee