



April 8, 2011

ה' ניסן תשע"א

פרשת מצורע

Candle Lighting 7:22 PM

Rabbi Binyomin Luban
Rabbi Yisroel Y. Niman
Rabbi Mordechai Palgon
ראשי הישיבה

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Dvar Torah - Am I Right? by Rabbi Yaakov Freid



"Are you out of your mind?"

"You don't know what you are talking about!"

We live in a contentious society where everyone says, "I am right." But are we really right?

ויאמר משה כה אמר ה' כחצות הלילה (שמות י"ד)

Hashem says to Moshe בְּחַצוֹת הַלַּיְלָה, at exactly midnight, that the plague of בכורות will occur. Moshe warns פרעה about this plague by saying כחצות הלילה, around midnight. Why does Moshe change the information from the way Hashem told him?

אצטגני answers that Moshe was afraid that the פרעה would be off by a few seconds and will claim that Moshe is a liar. This will cause the Egyptians to question everything that Moshe taught them about Hashem and what they personally experienced during the plagues. Therefore, Moshe changed what Hashem said so there won't be a חלול ה'.

This is quite remarkable. Since the third plague-when the אצבע אלוקים היא admitted הרטומים Moshe has been predicting every event with 100% accuracy. Why wouldn't the אצטגני פרעה question their own assumptions and understandings? "Maybe our clocks are wrong? Maybe we misunderstood?"

We see from here that one of the hardest things for a person to do is admit that he is wrong. It is much easier to say the other person is wrong. Even if the evidence is overwhelming against a person, like by the פרעה, אצטגני פרעה, he may still stubbornly hold on to his position.

Next time someone else says something against what we understand to be correct, let us stop and listen carefully, because they may be right.

Calling all Alumni!

The Yeshiva's Annual Pre-Pesach Alumni Breakfast will be held at the Yeshiva on Thursday, April 14th. Shachris 8:00 AM Breakfast to Follow

Dvar Halacha - Eating on Erev Pesach

The Shulchan Aruch (O.C. 471:1) rules that one may not eat a seuda after the 10th hour on Erev Pesach (5:53 PM in Miami, this year). Since eating chametz is forbidden much earlier in the day, this *din* is prohibiting any non-chametz food which contains any of the five grain species from which bread is made: wheat, rye, barley, oat and spelt. However, one may eat meat, fish, eggs, fruit and the like. One not should not eat more than a small amount, as it will spoil his appetite for the matzo at the Seder.

Matzo is forbidden to be eaten the entire day of Erev Pesach, מדרבנן. This prohibition includes baked products

that contain crushed up matzo - what we call matzo meal and cake meal. Boiled matzo, i.e. matzo balls, however, may be consumed until the 10th hour, according to the Mishna B'rura. The Mishna B'rura (471:12) also brings down a minhag some have not to eat matzo from the beginning of the month of Nisan. The Ram"א (שם) says that the prohibition against eating matzo applies even to a child, provided they have intelligence to understand the basic story of יציאת מצרים.

YTC Spotlight

Senior Eretz Yisrael Learn and Tour 2011! *By Ezri Hoenig, Class of '11*

The Weekly Quiz

Name two Egyptian firstborn that weren't killed in Makas Bechoros.

Answers or ideas for future questions may be submitted in writing to the Spotlight office or emailed to Quiz@ytcteam.net.

The first correct answer submitted will be announced in the next Spotlight. You need not be a student to participate.

Hatzlochah!

Answer to last week's question:

Q. The Yeshiva of Staten Island opened in 1966. Who was its first Rosh Yeshiva?

A. HaGaon HaRav Reuven שליט"א, Feinstein,

Yasher Koach to Mr. Ed Zaslow Esq. for submitting the correct answer!

This past month, the Yeshiva Toras Chaim/Dr. Abe Chames High School seniors went on a trip to learn and tour in Eretz Yisroel. The nine-day excursion was replete with experiences that only such a land could afford. However, the seniors did not only gain a lifetime's worth of memories while on their trip; they also grew a tremendous amount in their *ruchniyus*.

The seniors had the *z'chus* to daven at the Kosel almost every day. As a Kohain, I was able to do *Birchas Kohanim* just a few hundred feet from where the *Beis HaMikdash* stood. *Davening* in such close proximity to the *Sha'ar HaShomayim*, so close to where our great-grandparents offered *korbanos* to serve Hashem, helped evoke previously untapped emotions while *davening*.

The Thursday morning after our arrival in Israel, we woke up a little before daybreak and went to daven with HaGaon HaRav Yosef Sholom Elyashiv שליט"א, one of the *Poskei* and *Gedolei Hador*. During *Krias haTorah*, Rav Elyashiv was called up for the *shlishi aliyah*.

"Hearing one of the elite *Talmidei Chachamim*, who has dedicated his whole life (Rav Elyashiv is over 100 years old) to following the Torah, say the words 'asher bochar bonu'- a brocha thanking Hashem for choosing us as the exalted nation and graciously giving us the Torah, was truly inspiring," remarked



Moshe Levy. Our visit with Rav Elyashiv proved to be one of the more memorable highlights of our trip.

One of the days in Eretz Yisroel, we traveled to the North to visit some of the famous *kivrei tzadikim*. The first *kever* at which we stopped was the *kever* of the *Tanna*, Rabbi Meir Ba'al HaNeis. He was the *Tanna* who was referred to in *Torah SheBa'al Peh* as "Rebbi Meir". In *shiur*, we had just learned the *sugya* of *פלגינן דבורא*, notorious for its difficulty. The primary *machlokes* featured in the *sugya* involved Rebbi Meir. At Rebbi Meir's *kever*, we said *Tehilim* and then reviewed the *Gemara*. Avi Rhodes was particularly moved. "We poured blood, sweat, and tears into understanding Rebbi Meir's position in the *sugya*. Now, being able to learn his *Gemara* at his *kever* and ask him to take our *tefilos* to Hashem really brought our efforts around full circle."

Our inspiring trip to Israel would have been relegated to the world of fantasy were it not for the indefatigable 12th grade *Rabbeim*, Rabbi Goldman and Rabbi Winter. Sleep deprivation did not seem to have an effect on them; they would stay up into the early hours of the morning planning



our next day's ventures. But the *Rebbis* did not stop there. They constantly were "pumping us up" and getting us excited and energized for the upcoming activities. It goes without saying that they made our trip - not only from an administrative, technical angle, but even the practical execution would not have been as successful without them.

"Many of us had already been to Israel before," Yossi Turk commented. "But going with *Rabbeim* that we share a very special bond with, who care so much about us, really altered the trip into something that none of us had expected. Any other Israel experience pales in comparison."

ישיבה תורת חיים
 בית מדרש זכרון עזרא
 Dr. Abe Chames High School

מוצאי שבת
 חול המועד

שיעור Special
 Given by
 שליט"א, HaRav Binyomin Luban
 ראש הישיבה

בית המדרש 10:00 PM in our

All are cordially invited to attend!
 בני תורה: *are cordially invited to attend!*

מרתה מוכנות. *will be available.*
 חג כשר ושמח *We wish you a*
 and look forward to greeting you personally.

ד"ר יצחק הישיבה

בסות רפחקה שלימה
 רוחמה עליה שרה חסד בת אסתר ליבת

1025 NE Miami Gardens Drive
 North Miami Beach

YESHIVA TORAS CHAIM
 Beit Midrash Zichron Ezra
 Dr. Abe Chames High School