



אור בישראל

A LIGHT FROM WITHIN ISRAEL

פרשת ויקרא

ד' ניסן תשפ"ה 5.4.2025

1 Mazal tov! We're starting a new book of the Torah. This week we read Parshat Vayikra, the first parsha in the Book of Leviticus, after we finished the Book of Genesis and last week we concluded the Book of Exodus.

The new book mainly describes the work of the Mishkan, the spiritual center of the people in the desert. It details the sacrificial service of the Kohanim, and deals with concepts that today are somewhat difficult for us to grasp such as holiness, impurity, and purity.



Our commentators tell us that in the Book of Leviticus, God gave Moshe instructions, but also gave him breaks, to give him time to think and reflect on things. This is also what our story deals with this week.

This week the month of Nisan began, many schools are going on vacation and preparations for Passover are progressing. Please note: This year Shabbat is adjacent to the Seder night (which we will celebrate at the end of Shabbat), so it's recommended to prepare in advance and learn the laws and customs.



Even when we are helping at home to clean, organize and throw away items, we pause this important work for the rest and sanctity of Shabbat. Shabbat Shalom.

A STORY FOR SHABBAT

Recording the silences

Rabbi Yehoshua Hartman is the head of the Beit Midrash at Hasmonean High School for Boys, a yeshiva in London, England. Many years ago, he attended a class given by Rabbi Moshe Shapira, an important rabbi, educator, and teacher to thousands of students from around the world. His lessons were deep and inspiring. At that time, a new device became available—a voice activated recorder. The device works this way: When it picks up a sound, it switches on and records it, but when there is silence, it stops recording in order to save space. One day, Rabbi Hartman came to his regular class with Rabbi Shapira, but this time he brought along his new recorder. He planned to tape the lesson so that he could listen to it again later and for people who couldn't make it to the class. He placed the tape recorder on the rabbi's table and excitedly showed him the new device. "This tape will only record the rabbi's words without any silences or breaks," he explained.

"Does this mean that my silences won't be recorded?" asked Rabbi Shapira.

"That is correct," responded Rabbi Hartman. "In this way, we can save time."

"If that's the case," said Rabbi Hartman, "the main part of my lesson will be missing..."

(From the 'Ligdol' book series)

Food for Thought

We live in an age where everyone is searching for ways to save time. People who want to listen to their voice messages at top speed certainly won't waste time listening to the silences in a lesson. Why do you think Rashi emphasizes that even Moshe Rabbeinu needed "time to think" between topics?





FROM THE DIARY OF A CHEMED STUDENT

Chametz and Matzah - Missing Out or Living Fully?

On Passover, we remove chametz (leavened bread) and eat matzah. But this is more than just a mitzvah for the holiday—it is a lesson for life. Chametz is bread that needs time to rise and grow before baking. It symbolizes the times in life when we hesitate before we act, either because we are not ready or we are afraid. When this happens, we sometimes miss important opportunities. Matzah is simple and not puffed up like chametz. It is made quickly, without waiting. It teaches us to act now, to be present, and to live with meaning. Life is a mix of chametz and matzah. Sometimes, our actions require time to grow and plan. But if we wait too long, we can miss opportunities for success and happiness. We cannot go back in time and fix missed opportunities. But every day, we get a new chance to choose—to be like matzah, to act at the right time, and to fill our lives with meaning. To do this, we must evaluate ourselves and recognize the special traits Hashem has given us. Each of us has unique



Students from Yeshivat Amit Amichai, in collaboration with the **Jesta Association**, are taking part in a special initiative. This is not just Passover cleaning; it's a cleansing for the soul. Jesta helps the elderly by reducing loneliness, solving daily challenges, and providing home repairs across Israel.

talents and strengths, and we must use them in the best way to fulfill the mission Hashem has given us in this world. Passover reminds us to ask: Where am I waiting too long? Where can I act now and fill my life with meaning?

This holiday is about freedom—not just from slavery, but also from fear and hesitation. It is a chance to start afresh, take action, and fulfill our mission in life.

Let's take action and bring meaning and kindness into our lives. Wishing you a happy and kosher Passover!

Shifra Maazari, Chemed Counselor

WITH FAITH AND UNITY WE WILL WIN

This week, someone told me that he plans to make Kiddush on Friday night and recite the words of "Eishet Chayil." Why? Because he saw this video of Eli Sharabi.

With all the noise we're hearing these days, it's worthwhile to listen to Eli's weak but clear voice. After 491 days in Hamas captivity, he delivered a speech at the U.N. last week in New York, and then went to pray at the Ohel (grave) of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. When Eli emerged from the Ohel, he said: "I'm not a religious person. I was in the darkest place, 50 meters underground. What gave me strength every day was to recite 'Shema Yisrael' in the morning, to sing "Eishet Chayil" every Friday night and to make Kiddush over water because we didn't have any wine. It gave me and the other hostages so much strength - we felt the power of our faith and it helped us survive nearly 500 terrible days of captivity." Rabbi Mendy Kotlarsky, Executive director at Chabad World Headquarters, then asked Eli to convey a message to the Jewish people. Eli, whose wife Lianne and two daughters were murdered by Hamas, made the following statement: "With the power of faith it is possible to conquer everything. The power of faith. And unity, our unity, is the most important." Eli was reminding us of the most basic and eternal thing that truly unites our people: our Jewish identity. He has inspired us to connect more deeply with the words: 'Shema Yisrael,' 'Eishet Chayil' and 'Kiddush'." May all of Eli's prayers be answered. Shabbat shalom.

Around the Shabbat Table

- Eli talks about the importance of unity. Why do you think it's specifically during difficult moments that we understand how important it is to be united?
- Do you feel that your faith can strengthen you during difficult times?
- When is it good to wait and plan, like chametz, and when is it better to act quickly, like matzah? Can you give an example from your own life?



דף הפרשה מוקדש לעילוי
נשמת החיילים הקדושים
מיכאל בן חמו ואייל טויטו הי"ד



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