

Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce



Zmanim

Early Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 7:10 pm

Candle Lighting: 8:42 pm

Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 8:45 pm

Shacharis: 8:45 am

Sof Zman Krias Shema (GR"A): 9:26 am

NO Pirkei Avos Shiur

Mincha/Seudas Shlishis: 8:30 pm

Maariv/Motzei Shabbos: 9:50 pm

Motzei Shabbos Rabbeinu Tam: 10:12 pm

Parshas Shelach

Adapted from Rabbi Mordechai Kaminetsky

In this week's parsha we read about the twelve spies who were sent to scout out the Land of Canaan. Their mission of surveillance was meant to prepare the Jewish nation so that the entry into their promised homeland be smooth and virtually without surprises. Total trust in Hashem's Divine design should have warranted no mortal meddling, but mortal prudence or perhaps apprehension and skepticism prompted their desire to manage the situation in their own way. And, as has been the case with the relationship between Jews and their land from time immemorial, the results were disastrous. All the spies, save the righteous Calev and Yehoshua, brought back tales of woe, predictions of destruction, and assurances of defeat. The Jews were quickly and simply swayed, and the buoyant expectancy of a gallant entry into the land promised to our forefathers, quickly turned into a night of bemoaning anticipated enduring misfortunes. That night, the 9th day of the fifth month, became engraved in the annals of our history as a night of weeping. What began as unwarranted wailing turned into a forever fateful night the 9th of Av. From the saga of the spies to the destruction of two Temples, to the signing of inquisition, to the outbreak of World War I, the war to end all wars, the 9th of Av is a hallmark of Jewish misfortunes. But if we analyze the complaints of the meraglim (spies), we find an emerging

pattern of skewed vision. They saw fruit so big and beautiful that it had to be carried on a double pole. Yet they viewed it as an indication of giant produce, indicative of the degree of food matter that nourished their powerful and physically giant adversaries.

But not only the living species gave them connipitions. They brought forth to the Bnei Yisrael an evil report on the Land that they had spied out, saying, "The Land through which we have passed, to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants! All the people that we saw in it were huge! (Bamidbar 13:32).

Rashi explains the meaning of "a land that devours its inhabitants." The meraglim complained, "In every place which we passed we found the inhabitants burying their dead" They missed the point. In fact, Hashem caused many deaths amongst them at that time, and so the Canaanites were engaged in burying their dead. This proved beneficial for the spies, because the giants were occupied with their mourning and paid no attention to the spies.

How can an event that was providentially meant to be so beneficial, be misconstrued as an omen of misfortune? Back in the early 1950's a large shoe consortium with stores across the United States and Canada, decided to take their business venture into the emerging continent of Africa. They sent two of their salesman to explore the prospects of business in the remote villages across the

Dark Continent. After just one week, they received a cable from the first salesman: "I am returning at once. No hope for business. Nobody here wears shoes!" They did not hear from the second salesman for four weeks. Then one day an urgent cable arrived. "Send 15,000 pairs of shoes at once! I have leased space in five locations. Will open chain of stores. This place is filled with opportunity. Nobody has shoes!"

The Steipler Gaon, Rabbi Yisrael Yaakov Kanievsky, in his classic work on chumash, Birchas Peretz explains that poor attitudes help forge opinions that are diametric to the truth. The Talmud tells us that, "Man is led in the path that he chooses to travel!"

Imagine. The spies see these giants wailing and weeping at massive funerals day after day. They should have figured that this plague was an anomaly, for if this was the norm, then the funerals would have become part of

their everyday existence, and hardly an event worthy of disrupting their normally tight security.

In fact, comments the Steipler, that in the times of Yehoshua, the two spies who entered Canaan were immediately detected on the very day they arrived, and they were hunted with a vengeance! Yet these twelve spies remained unnoticed. But the spies did not look at the events with that view. When people have sour opinions and want to see only doom and gloom, then even a ray of light will blind them. When one is constantly weighed down with worry, he will only drag his feet down the path of discontent. However, if we take life's bumpy road, as a chance to exercise our endurance, and turn the lemons handed to us into lemonade, then unlike the meraglim we will glean light from even the seemingly darkest abyss. And one day we will follow the path of that light to the Promised Land.

Good Shabbos

This week's Kiddush is sponsored by:

Shimon & Judy Sturm and Mrs. Ruth Neuberger in honor of the yahrzeit of Judy's father/Ruth's husband OB"M.

Berl & Maxine Bessin, in honour of Rob's birthday, his graduation from law school, and his being accepted as an Associate at a law firm in New York.

Mazel Tov to Leo & Frances Grunwald on the birth of a granddaughter.

Mazel Tov to Ken & Sherri Wise on the birth of a granddaughter.

This week's Kiddush and Seudas Shlishis will not take place downstairs. Only the smaller room downstairs will be available and therefore Kiddush will be upstairs and downstairs.

The kid's program will take place downstairs this week.

The guest speak for Seudas Shlishis is Rabbi Meir Yechiel Zoberman.

The Rav's will be away for Shabbos.

As such, the Pirkei Avos Shiur and Sunday Morning Discussion are cancelled.

The cholim list is being updated for Chodesh Sivan. If you would like to submit a name to the cholim list please email gabbai@agudahsouth.com or contact one of the gabbaim.

Weekday Schedule

Shacharis	Mincha
Sunday: 8:00 am	8:50 pm
Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am & 7:55 am	Maariv
Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 7:00 am & 8:00 am	9:10 pm
Daf Yomi with Rabbi Kaufman: 8:00 am (Shabbos), 7:15 am (Sun), 7:40 am (Mon-Fri)	
Amud Yomi with Rabbi Rafi Greenspan: 7:20 am (Mon-Fri)	

To sponsor Kiddush/Seudas Shlishis contact Leon Jakubovic (kiddush@agudahsouth.com.)

Have a Simcha to announce? Email announcements to mailings@agudahsouth.com.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this list please email mailings@agudahsouth.com.