

Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce



Zmanim

Candle Lighting: 4:58 pm

Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 5:00 pm

Shacharis: 8:45 am

Rav's Hilchos Shabbos Shiur: 4:20 pm

Mincha/Seudas Shlishis: 4:50 pm

Maariv/Motzei Shabbos: 6:02 pm

Motzei Shabbos Rabbeinu Tam: 6:29 pm

Parshas Bo

Adapted from Yochanan Zweig [www.torah.org]

Double Trouble

"Come to Pharaoh, for I have made his heart stubborn..." (10:1)

Last week's parsha, Parshas Va'eira contains seven of the ten "makkos" - "plagues" inflicted upon Mitzrayim. Parshas Bo records the remaining three. Why are the makkos divided over two parshios? The preamble to the three makkos in this parsha includes Hashem's instruction to Moshe to appear before Pharaoh as well as the requirement to relate to our children the miracles which Hashem performed on our behalf. Both of these messages are applicable to all ten makkos; why are they recorded at this juncture?

Bnei Yisroel were commanded to apply the blood of the Pascal lamb to their door posts and lintels. The merit of fulfilling this commandment would protect them from harm during "makkas bechoros" - "the death of the first-born". Furthermore, at the time of the makkah the verse states that Hashem "pasach" - "passed over" the Jewish-owned houses. Rashi comments that "pasach" also translates as "had mercy". All of the previous plagues struck only the Mitzrim and no special protection was necessary. Why did makkas bechoros require new merit and an extra measure of mercy?

Rashi cites a Midrash which states that the ten makkos followed a calculated war strategy. When an attacking army wants the enemy to capitulate, they begin by cutting off their enemy's water supply. If the enemy re-

fuses to submit, psychological warfare is waged to bring them to their knees. Similarly, Hashem first attacked the Mitzrim's water supply. Failing to submit brought upon the Mitzrim the frogs which emitted a terrible sound, instilling the entire nation with fear. The Midrash offers a second explanation as to Hashem's motivation for bringing the ten makkos. The makkos inflicted upon Pharaoh were directed at all the elements which he used to enslave Bnei Yisroel. The plagues were a concerted punitive action against the Mitzri enslavement machine. What emerges from these two Midrashim is the understanding that the plagues served a dual purpose; they were used to force Pharaoh to submit to the will of Hashem and they were punitive in nature, punishing the Mitzrim for having enslaved the children of Hashem.

Although after the seventh plague Pharaoh had already capitulated proclaiming "Hashem is the Righteous One, and I and my people are the wicked ones", Moshe was informed that Hashem had strengthened Pharaoh's resolve not to set Bnei Yisroel free. It now becomes apparent that there is a second purpose to the makkos, for even after Pharaoh had acceded to Hashem's demands, the plagues continued. This purpose is the fulfillment of Hashem's promise to Avraham "But also the nation that they shall serve I will judge". The punishment is not complete until after all ten makkos have been meted out. The demarcation of the parshios represents the two dimensions of the makkos. Since the focus of the first seven is the submission of Pharaoh whereas the remaining makkos are solely punitive in nature, this is the ap-

appropriate juncture for the division of the parshios.

When the basis of the plagues was to elicit Pharaoh's submission, Bnei Yisroel did not require their own merit as protection. However, when the plagues became purely punitive in nature and the Attribute of Justice was unleashed, Bnei Yisroel themselves became subject to scrutiny and required their own merit to ward off retribution. Moshe, aware of this, was reluctant to go before Pharaoh after the seventh makkah. Thus, it became necessary for Hashem to instruct Moshe that he must inform

Pharaoh that the plagues would continue. The Attribute of Justice manifested itself in the plague of darkness; Rashi cites the Midrash which states that eighty percent of Bnei Yisroel were decimated under the cover of darkness so that the Mitzrim would not witness their punishment. The message which we relate to our children is that aside from sending forth miracles against Mitzrim to ensure our emancipation, Hashem also punished the Mitzrim for having enslaved us.

Good Shabbos

**** To ensure accurate publication of all announcements and sponsorships, **
**information must be submitted to mailings@agudahsouth.com **
prior the publication deadline of 10:00 am on Friday morning.**

**Mazel tov to Shimon & Judy Sturm on the engagement of their daughter
Michali to Noey Jacobson from Houston, Texas.
Mazel tov to the proud grandmother Ruth Neuburger.
Mazel Tov to Sid & Denise Levin on the birth of a grandson
born to Yaakov and Dina Eizekovits.
The Shalom Zachor will take place at 28 Frontenac.
Mazel Tov to Amir and Ella Rosenthal on the birth of a son.
The Shalom Zachor will take place in the shul.**

**This week's kiddush is sponsored by: Rabbi & Mrs. Menachem and Reva Juni
in honor of yortzeits of Jakob & Ester Korman OB" M.**

The kids' program will take place this week beginning at 9:30 am.

**The guest speaker for Seudas Shlishis is Rabbi Shloimie Schwartz.
Seudas Shlishis is sponsored by the Shul.**

The Sunday Morning Shiur in Derech Hashem will take place after Shacharis.

**We are updating the cholim list for Chodesh Shevat.
If you would like to submit a name to the cholim list please email
gabbai@agudahsouth.com.**

Shacharis	Weekday Schedule	Mincha
Sunday: 8:00 am		5:10 pm
Mon. & Thurs.: 7:00 am & 7:55 am		Maariv
Tues., Wed., Fri.: 7:00 am & 8:00 am		5:30 & 8:00 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)		

Friday Night (FNL)

**Please join us for the relaunched Friday Night Learning Program.
Seder: 8:00 pm
Rabbi Kaufman's Chumash Shiur: 8:30 pm
The Esoteric Commentaries: The Sfas Emes, Ohr Hachaim, etc.
Cholent & Kugel will be served.
This week's FNL is sponsored by Ariel & Hailey Remer.**

To sponsor Kiddush/Seudas Shlishis contact Baruch Klein (kiddush@agudahsouth.com.)
Have a Simcha to announce? Email announcements to mailings@agudahsouth.com.

Find our daily schedule at <http://www.agudahsouth.com/calendar/>