

# Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce



## Zmanim

### Shabbos Parshas Balak

Candle Lighting: 8:45 pm  
 Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 7:10 pm & 8:45 pm  
 Shacharis: 8:45 am  
**Sof Zman Kriyas Shema: 9:31 am**  
**Pirkei Avos Shiur: 7:40 pm**  
 Mincha/Seudas Shlishis: 8:30 pm  
 Maariv/Motzei Shabbos: 9:52 pm  
 Maariv/Motzei Shabbos Rabbeinu Tam: 10:14 pm

### Shiva Asar B'Tammuz - Sunday, July 5

Fast Begins: 4:30 am  
 Shacharis: 8:00 am  
 Chatzos: 1:22 pm  
 Mincha: 8:40 pm  
 Maariv: 9:25 pm  
 Fast Ends: 9:47 pm

## Parshas Balak

*Adapted from Rabbi Yochanan Zweig [www.torah.org]*

### Ultimate Greed

"his houseful of silver and gold..." (22:18)  
 In this week's parsha, Balak, the King of Moav sends high-ranking officials to commission Balaam to curse the Jewish people. Hashem appears to Balaam and tells him not to go. Balaam's response to Balak's officials is: "If Balak would give me his household of silver and gold, I could not transgress the word of Hashem." Our Sages see in this response the corrupt nature of Balaam's character. Rashi explains that by mentioning a houseful of gold and silver, he reveals his greed (as if to say that if he were able to

transgress the word of Hashem, he would, but only for a huge sum of money).

Many of the commentaries attempt to differentiate between the statement of Balaam and that of Rabbi Yossi Ben Kismah in Pirkei Avos. Rabbi Yossi Ben Kismah relates the story of how he was invited to leave the city of his residence, a city renowned for its Torah scholars, in order to join a different city which was devoid of Torah. His response to the invitation was, "If you give me all the gold and silver and precious gems in the world, I will not leave my city of accomplished Torah scholars."

How is this response different than Balaam's?

which says that it One could, perhaps, say the difference is the following: Balaam was more specific in his request for the net value of Balak's estate, indicating his true desire, while Rabbi Yossi Ben Kismah did not quote a definite amount of money. However, this would create a new difficulty after with a statement made by King David in the Book of Psalms. There, King David affirms his love for the Torah with the verse, "Your Torah is more valuable to me than thousands of gold and silver (pieces)." Clearly, from specifying an amount does not indicate

greed.

The answer lies in the careful reading of Rashi. Rashi says that from the verse we see the corrupt nature of Balaam's character, for he desired the wealth of others. Rashi explains that Balaam's wickedness is revealed by his focus on the wealth of Balak, rather than the mere mention of money. The desire for greater wealth is intrinsic to human nature. However, it is of wicked nature to specifically desire to possess that which is owned by another.

### ***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.\*\*******

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

**The guest speaker for Seudas Shlishis is Rabbi Yaakov Tenenbaum.  
 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 Tammuz.  
 If you would like to submit a name to the cholim list please email  
 gabbai@agudahsouth.com.**

### **Weekday Schedule**

#### **Shacharis**

Sunday: 8:00 am  
 Mon. & Thurs.: 7:00 am & 7:55 am  
 Tues., Wed. & Fri.: 7:00 am & 8:00 am

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)

#### **Mincha**

8:50 pm

#### **Maariv**

9:10 pm

To sponsor Kiddush/Seudas Shlishis contact Baruch Klein (kiddush@agudahsouth.com.)

All those wish to submit names to the cholim list can email gabbai@agudahsouth.com or contact one the gabbaim.

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

## **Join our Kehillah today!**

To find out more about memberships, associate memberships, & other sponsorship opportunities please email mailings@agudahsouth.com.

## **Agudah South General Meeting**

There will General Meeting on Thursday 23rd July at 9pm.  
 For more information please email mailings@agudahsouth.com