

Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce



Zmanim

Candle Lighting: 4:45 pm

Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 4:45 pm

Shacharis: 8:45 am

Sof Zman Kriyas Shema: 9:31 am

Hilchos Shabbos Shiur: 4:10 pm

Mincha/SEUDAS SHLISHIS: 4:30 pm

Maariv/Motzei Shabbos: 5:46 pm

Motzei Shabbos Rabbeinu Tam: 6:13 pm

Sunday Shacharis: 8:00 am & 9:00 am

Parshas Chayei Sarah

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

A Sovereign Purchase

"And the field with its cave was confirmed as Avraham's property..." (23:20)

The Ibn Ezra is troubled by the fact that the Torah finds it necessary to record Avraham's purchase of a burial plot for Sarah. He therefore concludes that the Torah is teaching us the distinction of being buried in Eretz Yisroel. Furthermore, he says that the Torah emphasizes this purchase, for it marks the beginning of the fulfillment of Hashem's promise to Avraham, that Eretz Yisroel would be his. The Ramban disagrees with both premises. While it may be true that burial in Eretz Yisroel carries distinction, this cannot be derived from our parsha. If Sarah would have died outside of Eretz Yisroel, and we would have seen Avraham's great efforts to bury her in Eretz Yisroel, then perhaps we could have drawn the conclusion suggested by the Ibn Ezra. However, Sarah died in Eretz Yisroel. Where else would Avraham have buried her? In regard to the second conclusion drawn by the Ibn Ezra, the Ramban argues, stating that the fulfillment of Hashem's promise only began with Avraham's descendants.

Why does Avraham need the children of Cheis, the Hittites to intercede with Efron on his behalf? Why did Avraham not ask Efron to sell him his field directly? Additionally, we know from earlier parshios that Avraham was extremely wealthy. It is inconceivable that a man of his stature would not own land, especially since a person's wealth was measured by the amount of sheep and cattle he owned, which required land for grazing. Why would he not bury Sarah in one of his own lands? Avraham pays Efron with money that is described as being "over lasocher" - negotiable currency. Rashi defines this as international currency. Why the need to pay in this manner?

At the conclusion of the sale, the verse states, "vayakam sadeh Efron" - "the field of Efron was confirmed" (as Avraham's property). Rashi cites the Midrashic interpretation, which defines "vayakam" as "and it was elevated"; the field was elevated from the hands of a commoner to that of a king. Why is the change in status described specifically as going from a commoner to a king? Should not the change in status be reflected by the transfer of the land to the hands of a righteous person? Furthermore, would this not be true regarding every acquisition Avraham made? Why does the Torah find it necessary to emphasize the change in status by this par-

ticular transaction?

When a person acquires land, although he becomes the landowner, he is still subject to the rules and regulations of the municipality wherein his property lies. There is, however, a mode of purchase whereby one acquires not only the land, but the governing rights as well. An example of this is the United States' acquisition of Alaska from the Soviet Union. This is referred to as a sovereign purchase. It is this form of acquisition that Avraham Avinu is attempting to make. During Avraham's lifetime the land was Eretz Canaan; it was under the sovereignty of the nations who lived there, and therefore, it lacked the sanctity of Eretz Yisroel. Avraham wanted to bury Sarah in Eretz Yisroel, not Eretz Canaan. He therefore could not bury Sarah in one of his own properties, for his properties were in Eretz Canaan, under the jurisdiction of the Hittites. The only manner in which he could ac-

complish a sovereign acquisition was if the Hittites would agree to relinquish sovereignty to Avraham. This explains why the children of Cheis were a necessary party for the transaction. When making a sovereign acquisition a person uses international currency, not the currency of the sovereignty from which he is attempting to withdraw.

The distinction of being buried in Eretz Yisroel is now apparent. Sarah died in Eretz Canaan, but Avraham buried her in Eretz Yisroel. This purchase signified the beginning of the fulfillment of Hashem's promise, that Eretz Yisroel will belong to Avraham and his descendants. It is this sovereign acquisition that the Midrash refers to when interpreting the words "vayakam sadeh Efron". Efron's field was elevated from the hands of a commoner to those of its new sovereign ruler, Avraham.

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.**

**This week's kiddush is sponsored by:
Sholom & Cooky Horowitz in honour of a yearzeit.
Avram and Suzie Lebovic in honour of remembrance day.**

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

**The guest speaker for Seudas Shlishis is R' Yosef Selmar.
Seudas Shlishis is sponsored by Abe & Very Rzepkowitz in honour of a yearzeit.**

**We are updating the cholim list for Chodesh Cheshvan.
If you would like to submit a name to the cholim list please email
gabbai@agudahsouth.com or contact one of the gabbaim.**

Shacharis	Weekday Schedule	Mincha
Sunday: 8:00 am & 9:00 am		12:30 pm & 4:45 pm
Monday & Thursday: 7:00 am & 7:55 am		Maariv
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 7:00 am & 8:00 am		5:05 pm & 8:00 pm (Mon-Thur)
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 Baruch Klein (kiddush@agudahsouth.com.)

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

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the email bulletin please email mailings@agudahsouth.com.

NEW SHIUR

**The Rav has started a new shiur in Maseches Brachos Amud Yomi
before the first minyan @ 6:25 am Monday-Friday.
All men are invited.**

Friday Night Learning Program (FNL)

The Friday Night learning program will commence this week.

Learning Seder: 8:00 pm

Or Hachaim/Esoteric Mefarshim shiur: 8:30 pm

**This week's FNL is sponsored by Yehuda & Esti Cohen in honour of the
new FNL season and to all those who participate in learning each week.**