

Agudas Yisroel Anshei Kielce



Zmanim

Candle Lighting: 7:11 pm

Mincha/Kabbalas Shabbos: 7:15 pm

Shacharis: 8:45 am

Rav's Hilchos Shabbos Shiur: 6:30

Mincha/Seudas Shlishis: 7:00 pm

Maariv/Motzei Shabbos: 8:16 pm

Motzei Shabbos Rabbeinu Tam: 8:43 pm

Parshas Vayikra

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

Immitating Hashem

The word vayikra that begins this week's Torah reading, and is the name of the third book of the Chumash, is distinguished by having a miniature alef at the end of the word. I have written about this exceptional script/font in previous years. I concentrated then mainly on the traditional explanation that this small letter was inserted in the Torah to highlight the abject humility of our teacher Moshe, with this character trait of humility being the basis for his extraordinary relationship with the Creator. The focus of the explanation regarding this miniature letter was placed on Moshe. However, if I may, I would suggest another type of interpretation in which the focus is not on Moshe, the recipient of God's words, but rather is on God Himself, so to speak.

In the famous vision of the prophet Elijah as recorded for us in the book of Kings, the Lord illustrates to the prophet and through him to all of Israel and mankind that God is not to be found in thunder and earthquakes, tornadoes

and hurricanes and the other majestic and awe-inspiring vagaries of natural sound. Rather He is to be found in the still small voice that constantly emanates from Heaven.

God calls out to us in that modulated whispered tone of voice. He calls out to us with a small alef, reduced in size and volume. But the loud voice cannot maintain itself for all times, whereas the small voice that Elijah heard still echoes in our ears thousands of years later.

If one wants to hear God's voice, so to speak, speaking to one's self, then one has to strain to hear the whispered utterances, the nuances of tone, the drama of almost silence itself.

The rabbis of the Talmud emphasized this message and cautioned us: "The words of the wise are heard and appreciated when they are said with calm and softness." In our world of constant sound, the cacophony of shouting and disagreements dominate the sound waves of the world. In such an environment it is difficult, if not almost well nigh impossible, to hear the whispered voice of Sinai, which is broadcast daily to the human race.

One of the basic tenets of Judaism is to

somehow attempt to imitate the traits, so to speak, of our Creator. Therefore if God speaks to us in a soft and calm voice and manner, then that should be the voice and manner that we should constantly employ when communicating with others. King Solomon in Proverbs taught us that shouting is the weapon of fools. The greatness of Moshe is emphasized in his ability to hear the Godly voice speaking to him, while others, outside the holy precincts of the Mishkan/Tabernacle were unable to do so.

In an expansive way, one can say that those who cannot hear the still small voice of God,

so to speak, are really deaf to the spiritual demands that the Torah places upon us – they are outside the precincts of the holy structure of Judaism. My revered teachers in my student years emphasized to us that high volume while praying does not always equal proper intent and concentration. God hears the silence of our hearts. We should all attempt to hear the softness of His communication, in His relationship to 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.********

**This week's kiddush is sponsored in honour of the engagement of
 Charlie Zolty to Mushky Namdar.**

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

**The guest speaker for Seudas Shlishis TBA.
 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 Nissan.
 If you would like to submit a name to the cholim list please email
 gabbai@agudahsouth.com.**

Weekday Schedule

Shacharis	Mincha
Sunday: 8:00 am	7:20 pm
Mon. & Thurs.: 7:00 am & 7:55 am	Maariv
Tues., Wed., & Fri.: 7:00 am & 8:00 am	7:40 & 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)	

Maos Chittim/Kimche D'Pischa Campaign

**The annual Maos Chittim/Kimche D'Pischa campaign is currently underway.
 Proceeds will be distributed via Tomchei Shabbos in the city for Pesach needs.
 Cheques can be made out to Gemach of Agudah
 and given to Rabbi Kaufman or Leo Grunwald.**

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.

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