

Mr. Ghassan N. Cohen
Hon. President
079 8938 7881
Ghassancohen@gmail.com

ק"ק אהל דוד

OHEL DAVID EASTERN SYNAGOGUE

Established 1959

4-14 Broad Walk Lane, London NW11 8HD

Rabbi Asher Sebbag – 07732 731786

Hazan: Jacob Oved - 07971 119865

Telephone: 020 8455 3491

Web site: www.oheldavid.org Email: info@oheldavid.org

Mr. David Gigi
Treasurer
Mr. Adil Darwish
Hon. Gubbay



Shabbat - Bo,

שבת פ' בא

Sat. 11 - 12 Jan. 2019 - 6th of Sh'vat, 5779 - ו' בשבט תשע"ט

Issue Number 880

Baal Koreh	Mr Arian Aharon Reyhanian	(Page - 340).
Mufteer & Haftarah	Mr Haim L. Eida	(Page - 9 - Shirim Book).

Birkat Halevana

ברכת הלבנה

Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	15:40
Shabbat Candles.	15:58
Shabbat Shahrit - Followed by Kiddush. (Shema 9:29).	08:30
Mincha Shabbat - Followed by Seuda Shlishit. * (Sunset - 16:15).	15:40
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	*
Arbit Motzei Shabbat.	17:13
Shahrit Weekday - (Sunday - 07:30).	06:30
Mincha & Arbit.	16:00
Daf Hayomi with Rabbi Asher Sebbag Shlit"a.	16:30
Next Friday: Shir Hashirim, Mincha, Kabalat Shabbat & Arbit.	15:50
Next Friday: Candles. Shabbat Shirah. Beshalach	16:09

Bo 5779 (Exodus 10:1-13:16)

Jan 6, 2019 | by Rabbi Kalman Packouz

GOOD MORNING! What is the greatest pleasure in your life? Love of your spouse? Love of your kids? How about Love of God? Could there be a greater pleasure than that? Would you believe that we are commanded to have this pleasure? "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your possessions" (Deut. 6:5). It must be possible. God doesn't command us to do the impossible!

Loving God is also one of the Six Constant Commandments -- commandments that are upon us at all times and in all places! (The other 5 Constant *Mitzvot* : 1) Know there is a

God 2) Don't believe in any other gods 3) Know that He is One 4) Fear God 5) Don't follow after your desires. (For more information, go to: aish.com and search on "6 Constant Mitzvot.")

First, the definitions: What is "Love" -- the pleasure one has in focusing on the good in something or someone. As Maimonides writes: "A person can only love according to the degree he knows the object of his love. If he knows a little, he can love a little. And if he knows a lot, he can love a lot" (Laws of *Teshuva* 10:6). A parent may have a drug-using, lazy dropout and still love him. If you ask the parent why s/he loves him, s/he will tell you, "Because he has a good heart, he's a good kid." What about the drugs, laziness, dropping out of

school? The parent replies, "He was in with a bad group, I should have helped him more" -- or some other reason to not focus on the negative. One can only love by focusing on the positive.

What is "God"? The Creator, Sustainer and Supervisor. The One who made the whole universe and everything in it, keeps it going and Who has a relationship with everyone and everything in it.

What is Love of God? It is the pleasure in focusing on the good that He has given us in our lives and in the world.

We all have difficulties and challenges in our lives. As hard as they may be, a person who believes in a loving God understands that they are meaningful and beneficial, though the challenge may seem insurmountable, God never gives us a challenge that we cannot handle.

For example, pain is something we all wish to avoid. However, the pain reflex helps preserve us from great harm. Imagine if you didn't feel pain and only found that your hand was resting on a hot burner when someone pointed out the flames. Pain can also be a wake up call to look into our deeds so that we will correct them as well as serve as an atonement for past mistakes.

Difficulties in life should be looked upon as meaningful. We should ask ourselves "Why me?" -- but not with an accusatory tone. The Torah teaches that the Almighty loves each and every creation and has an individual relationship with each of us. He wants only for our good. He only gives us what is good for us.

Perhaps the most important lesson we owe our children is to teach them that the Almighty loves them -- just as they need to know that their parents love them. A child may eventually get over the feeling or the fact that a parent doesn't love him. However, if one is taught that God is against him and hates him, it creates a very bitter life.

I often hug my children and ask, "Who loves you?" They learn early to respond, "Mommy and Daddy." And then I ask and "Who loves you most of all?" And they learn early to respond "*HaShem*" ("The Name" -- a commonly used respectful Hebrew reference to God). And sometimes they just respond, "Mommy, Daddy and *HaShem* loves me the most."

There are two ways to love God. The first is to look at His Creation -- the beauty and the intricacy of everything from the micro to the macro. Maimonides writes: "What is the path to love (and awe) of God? When one ponders God's great and wonderful acts of creation, and sees in them a genius that has no comparison, then automatically a person will love, praise, glorify -- and deeply desire to know the greatness of God" (Foundations of Torah 2:2).

Second, read His words -- The Torah. When people say they love an author, it is because they read his book and were moved by the book. To know God and to Love God, it certainly helps to read His Book. Torah study is the way to discover the path of meaning. The Torah, which is called *Torat Chaim* -- literally the book of "Instructions for Living" -- is God's communication to the

world. It is the ultimate repository for wisdom on how to succeed at marriage, parenting, community building, and fixing the world. (I highly recommend the Artscroll Stone Edition of the Torah.)

The *mitzvah* to love God is to be constantly preoccupied with the pursuit of closeness to God. God is always there. If one does not feel the closeness of God, it is not God Who moved. It is up to us to choose to deepen the relationship. For as the Kotzker Rebbe once said: "Where is God? Wherever you let Him in."



TORAH PORTION OF THE WEEK

Bo, Exodus 10:1 -13:16

This week we conclude the ten plagues with the plagues of locusts, darkness and the death of the first-born. The laws of Passover are presented, followed by the commandment to wear *tefillin*, consecrate the first-born animal and redeem one's first born son. The Torah tells us that at some time in the future your son will ask you about these commandments and you will answer: "With a show of power, God brought us out of Egypt, the place of slavery. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us leave, God killed all the first-born in Egypt, man and beast alike. I, therefore, offer to God all male first-born (animals) and redeem all the first-born of sons. And it shall be a sign upon your arm, and an ornament between your eyes (*Tefillin*), for with a strong hand the Almighty removed us from Egypt" (Ex. 13:15).

* * *

Dvar Torah

*based on Growth Through Torah by
Rabbi Zelig Pliskin*

In this week's portion the Almighty gives the first commandment to the Jewish people as a whole -- to decree the beginning of the Jewish month. This is important for setting the date of each Jewish holiday. It is so important that when the Romans were persecuting us at the time of the Hanukah story, they forbade the Jewish court to decree the beginning of the new month. The Torah states, Exodus 12:2:

"This month shall be for you the first of the months (referring to the month of Nissoon when Pesach occurs. The new year of the reign of king starts with the month of Nissoon. The new year for the creation of mankind starts with the month of Tishrei)."

What lesson for life can we learn from this verse?

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein commented that the month of Tishrei is the month of the creation of the world. The month of Nissoon is the month of the exodus from Egypt. Both months are lessons in our awareness of the Almighty's power.

The first lesson is that the Almighty is the Creator of the universe. The second lesson is that of *hashgacha pratis*, Divine Providence. The Almighty controls the events of the world and therefore He is the One Who enslaved the Children of Israel and He is the One Who freed them. The Torah is telling us in this verse that the lesson of the Almighty's guiding historical events is even more important than the lesson of the creation of the world.

One can believe that the Almighty created the world and this might not make any difference in a person's behavior and attitudes. However, once a person is aware of the supervision of the Almighty in daily events, he will improve his behavior.

Moreover, his trust in the Almighty will free him from worry. The month of Nisson is the first month of the year and by remembering this we remember all that is symbolized by the Exodus. This will have a major effect on what we do and think.



Shabbat Shalom,
Kalman
Rabbi Kalman
Packouz

Mazal tov: to Solly Solomon on his birthday, we wish him many happy return.

Hot Kiddush: presented by Mr & Mrs Robin Reyhanian for their son Arian, Aharon birthday.

Seuda Shelishit: presented by Mr Haim L. Eida ז"ל in memory of his late father, **Shaul Ben Aziza ז"ל**.

Commemorate, on Shabbat 26 January 2019: - January 27, 1969 / 8 Shevat 5729, nine jews, were cruelly hanged in a public square in Baghdad falsely accused of spying for Israel. Ezra Naji Zilkha , Daoud Ghali Yedgar , Naim Khadhoury Hilali , Sabah Hayim Dayan , Daoud Barouch Dellal, Fouad Shemuel Gubbay, Yacoub Gourj Namerdi , Charles Raphael Horesh, Heskell Saleh Yehezkel ז"ל. We are honoured to announce that Chief Rabbi Mervis will be joining us to commemorate this event with us. A hot kiddush will be presented.

Tu Beshvat: Sunday 20 January. 2019 / 15 Shvat 5779 - 19:30 at the Synagogue, please approach Ghassan Cohen or David Gigi for donations, everyone is welcome.

Dear all: According to our book keeper and accountant, we have been informed that there are many members and non members who owe a lot of money to the synagogue. If money is owed and not paid, you will no longer be a member, benefit from the burial scheme nor have an aliya. This is a Nedeir angle according to the Torah, and you are responsible to complete all payments by the end of December. We look forward to receiving your payments.

Memorial Prayers: there will be memorial prayers held on Sunday 13th January 2019 at Lauderdale Road Synagogue at 7:00pm in memory of the late Uri David ז"ל. Berachot to follow.

Kolel every Sunday: We are still having a Kolel every Sunday at the Synagogue hall from 09.30am - 12.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

THE KEHILLA WISHES חיים ארוכים "LONG LIFE"
TO THE FOLLOWING WHO HAVE YAHRZEIT

02 Shevat	Mrs Esther Ezekiel	07 Shevat	Mr Nadhim N. Mouallim
03 Shevat	Mr Cesar Sassoon	07 Shevat	Mr Reuben Isaac Ezekiel
03 Shevat	Mr Joe Sassoon	10 Shevat	Mr Ezra H. Eddie Cohen
03 Shevat	Mr Robert M. E. Sassoon	16 Shevat	Mrs Iran Michael Yadeger
06 Shevat	Chacham Joe David	20 Shevat	Mr Joseph Lawee
06 Shevat	Mr Jack David	20 Shevat	Mr Maurice Lawee
06 Shevat	Mr Haim L. Eida	26 Shevat	Mr Raphael Mansour
06 Shevat	Mr Benny Benaiah	26 Shevat	Mr Sammy Dallal
07 Shevat	Mr Joseph Lawee	27 Shevat	Mr Moshe Nahari
07 Shevat	Mr Maurice Lawee	29 Shevat	Mr Ivan Ezekiel

“ Quote of the Week ”

In love, one and one are one