

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

6701 Old Pimlico Road

Baltimore, MD 21209

410-486-2666

www.chabadshul.org



September 9, 2017

Ki-Tavo

18 Elul, 5777

What is the Subject?

A story is told of a hapless bank robber who approaches the cashier and demands: "Give me \$10,000 or else you'll be geography!"

The startled cashier corrects him, "You mean history."

To which the bandit retorts, "Don't change the subject!"

Our subject should be accounting because this is the month of Elul, the month of stock-taking, when we make an honest spiritual accounting. But we'll touch on math, chemistry, and other subjects as well.

The name of this month, "Elul" can be seen as an acronym for five Biblical verses. Each verse emphasizes a different aspect of preparation for the upcoming High Holidays.

The most famous verse associated with Elul is from Song of Songs (6:3): "I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine." This verse relates to prayer. Through prayer, the "duty of the heart," our relationship with G-d is enhanced.

"G-d made it happen and prepared for you" describes the Cities of Refuge to which a person who killed unintentionally could flee. This refers to Torah study for "the words of Torah provide refuge."

"A person gives presents to his friend and gifts to the poor," (Megilla 9:22) expresses the idea of acts of kindness.

"And G-d your L-rd will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants" (Deut. 30:6) relates to teshuva - returning to G-d wholeheartedly. For this spiritual work is primarily the service of changing one's inner self, the feelings of one's heart.

"And they said, 'We will sing to G-d' " (Ex. 15:1) is from the Song of Redemption sung at the time of the Exodus from Egypt. Written in the future tense, it refers to the future Redemption as well.

Prayer, Torah study, acts of kindness and repentance are all themes of Elul. However, the Rebbe demonstrated that all of our Judaism is focused on the fifth verse - making the oneness of G-d a palpable reality in the times of the Moshiach and the Redemption.

We can accomplish this by changing our mind's chemistry through studying Torah, particularly the Chassidic teachings that relate to Moshiach.

This will certainly give us a lesson in geography, with the ingathering of Jews from all parts of the earth to the Land of Israel. Then economics will undergo a major change; as Maimonides writes that there will be an abundance of everything.

Moreover, there will be a convergence of all the nations of the world speaking different languages (so we'll master linguistics) to the Holy Temple, the building of which will require our mastery of Temple architecture.

Indeed, when all this occurs we will be able to look back and appreciate our history.

While, according to Maimonides, the laws of physics will not change, the way we view the physical laws will. We will see the Divine in every physical phenomenon. G-d will reveal his healing powers, advancing the art and science of medicine to the point where everyone will be healed.

But, please, don't change the subject!

(by Rabbi Heschel Greenberg from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

Today in History

Baal Shem Tov Born (1698): Elul 18 is the birthday of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Chassidism. After many years as a member of the society of "hidden tzaddikim", living under the guise of an ignorant clay-digger, Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov was instructed by his masters to reveal himself and begin to publicly disseminate his teachings. This he did on his 36th birthday, Elul 18, 5494 (1734).

1st Chabad Rebbe Born (1745): Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi (1745-1812), founder of the "Chabad" branch of Chassidism, was born on Elul 18 of the year 5505 from creation -- the 47th birthday of his "spiritual grandfather", Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov (Rabbi Schneur Zalman was the disciple of the Baal Shem Tov's disciple and successor, Rabbi DovBer of Mezeritch).

(from www.chabad.org)

With immense joy and gracious thanks to Hashem Yisbarach,
Yitzchak and Frannie Jakobi are sponsoring a Kiddush today
in honor of the **birth of their baby daughter,**
"Gili" (Esther Gila).



Sponsorship is available for two flower displays on the Bima during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Please consider sponsoring the flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Please email Allan Genut at agenut@gmail.com to make arrangements

General Information, Membership Information, High Holiday Seating Form, Yizkor Form and Israel Bonds Letter are now available on the shul website at www.chabadshul.org. There will be a few printed versions available in the vestibule of the Shul.

Yahrzeits This Week:

Leslie Silverberg	23 Elul - Wednesday night /Thursday	for father	Eugene Hettleman
Mitch Mayer	24 Elul -Thursday night / Friday	for father	Max Meyer

SHUL DIRECTORY

Rabbi: Shmuel Kaplan . . . rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com
Treasurer: Michael Frank . . . shul.chabad@gmail.com
Membership: Jay Bernstein . . . bernstein1@msn.com
Kiddush: Reuven Frank rfrank82@gmail.com
Bulletin: Howard Kaplon hkaplon@towson.edu
Website: Shoshana Zakar sue.zakar@gmail.com

Gabbaim:
 Yehudah Buchwalter . . . judahbuchwalter@verizon.net
 Allan Genut agenut@gmail.com
 Ephraim Siff
Mikvah Mei Menachem 410-415-5113
Aleph Learning Institute . Mrs. Rochel Kaplan, Director
www.alephlearninginstitute.org / email: alephji@gmail.com

Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 9/8 — 17 Elul

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 9/9 — 18 Elul

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:51 a.m.
 Berachot Gemara Shiur — None this week
 Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 6:55 p.m.
 Ma'ariv — 8:08 p.m.

Sunday, 9/10 — 19 Elul

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Monday, 9/11 — 20 Elul

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 9/12 — 21 Elul

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 9/13 — 22 Elul

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 9/14 — 23 Elul

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Friday, 9/15 — 24 Elul

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
 Candles — 6:55 p.m.
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 6:55 p.m.