

# The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

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Re'eh

27 Av, 5777

## The View from Below -- by Elisha Greenbaum

*See, I place before you today a blessing and a curse . . .* (Deuteronomy 11:26)

When the Torah proclaims that G-d is the source of both the blessing and the curse, this can be understood as G-d telling us not to complain, and to just accept all curses and suffering as coming from Him. On a deeper level, the Torah is presenting us with a more complex understanding of the nature of suffering: that all things, the blessings and the curses, derive equally from Him, and are thus all positive; the blessing as a revealed kindness, and the curse as an opportunity for us to transform evil into an opportunity for blessing.

The era directly following the passing of Rebbe DovBer, the Maggid of Mezeritch, was terrible for the Jews. After a long period of benign neglect, the government began to promulgate many new anti-Semitic decrees. Additionally, to add insult to injury, a number of plagues and natural disasters struck the local communities.

At about that time, one of the Maggid's principal disciples had a dream in which his departed mentor appeared to him. The disciple asked his master to explain an apparent anomaly. Departed tzaddikim (righteous people) are described as having more power to affect nature after their passing than they had while still mortal. Why, then, he asked, did all those calamities, that the rebbe's prayers had averted while he was still alive, resume upon his passing?

Rabbi DovBer explained. "While in this world, I recognized evil as such and prayed to G-d to save us, and thank G-d my prayers were often answered. Now I reside in the world of truth, and from my new perspective I divine the rationale of the Divine. I now see how everything G-d visits on the world, even that which is apparently negative, is in reality part of G-d's celestial plans for our ultimate good.

"You, however, who are alive and still perceive the iniquity implicit in human suffering—you should pray to G-d, and ward off the evil."

My understanding of this classic Chassidic story is twofold. Primarily, G-d is good, and wishes only well for His creations, as we would appreciate were we on the requisite spiritual level. From our perspective, however, evil is evil, and suffering still hurts. And because of who we are, and what we see, it is our job to stand up for those in need, comfort those in pain, and cry out to G-d to demand and pray that He find a less painful way to run His world.

If we could accept this apparent dichotomy, accept the knocks without losing hope, and work towards a present where even the apparent is pleasant, then we will surely merit to see that everything we receive is truly a gift from Above.

Source: [http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article\\_cdo/aid/410673/jewish/The-View-from-Below.htm](http://www.chabad.org/parshah/article_cdo/aid/410673/jewish/The-View-from-Below.htm)



**Mazal Tov** to Dovid Yitzchok Buchwalter on the occasion of his bar mitzvah.

Mazel Tov to his parents Yehudah and Bracha Buchwalter and his grandparents Usher Buchwalter and Zishe and Devorah Zelman and all of the family and friends.

Yehudah and Bracha Buchwalter invite everyone to kiddush after davening.

## Baruch Dayan HaEmet

With heavy hearts, we regret to inform you of the passing of Dr. Maury Fechter, husband of our dear member Sheila Fechter, father of Amy Fechter and Marc Fechter. May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

## Baruch Dayan HaEmet

We regret to inform you of the passing of Mrs. Nellie Bienenstock, mother of Mrs. Chaya Statman and David Bienenstock. The levaya and kevarah will be held Friday at 11:00 AM at New Mount Zion Cemetery in East Rutherford, NJ. Shiva will be observed at 6607 Greenspring Ave. from Motzei Shabbos through Thursday morning after Shacharis. Schedule Shacharis Sunday 8:30 AM Monday-Thursday 7:00 AM Mincha/Ma'ariv Sunday-Wednesday 7:40 PM The family requests no visitors 12:00-1:00, 6:00-7:00, or after 10:00 May the family be comforted among the mourners of Tzion and Yerushalayim.

## High Holidays 5778 Forms

The forms for Yamim Naraim seat reservations and other membership information are available on the Shul website ([www.chabadshul.org](http://www.chabadshul.org)) Please make an effort to respond in a timely manner to ensure that we can accommodate all of your needs and requests. Iy"H Tzvi Felder will be the Baal Tefilah for the Yamim Narayim

**In Baltimore, we will experience a SOLAR ECLIPSE**, Magnitude of 83%, meaning that 83% of the Sun will be blocked by the Moon. The eclipse begins at 1:19 p.m. on Monday, the Maximum Partial Eclipse is at 2:43 p.m., and the eclipse ends at 4:01 p.m. For comparison, the Molad of Elul is around 3:44 a.m. Tuesday morning. Chazal's average calculations spanning 2,000 years is within 13 hours of the actual event.

**Do not, do not, do not look at the Sun during the eclipse even though it is tempting and seemingly safe!** Even though the sunlight will not be so bright, significant UV rays are still present and can permanently damage one's vision! It is very important that your children know about this danger. **Yeshivas Toras Chaim has ISO certified eclipse glasses available** for sale as a fund-raiser. These glasses are ISO certified and were sourced from reliable vendors. Glasses are **available at Shabsi's Judaica and 7 Mile Market.** (from Jay Taffel, email)

### Friday, 8/18 — 26 Av

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

### Shabbat, 8/19 — 27 Av

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.

Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:44 a.m.

Berachot Gemara Shiur — 6:25 p.m.

Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 7:25 p.m.

Ma'ariv — 8:39 p.m.

### Sunday, 8/20 — 28 Av

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

### Monday, 8/21 — 29 Av

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

### Tuesday, 8/22 — 30 Av

#### ROSH CHODESH ELUL

Shacharit 6:40 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

### Wednesday, 8/23 — 1 Elul

#### ROSH CHODESH ELUL

Shacharit — 6:40 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

### Thursday, 8/24 — 2 Elul

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

### Friday, 8/25 — 3 Elul

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Candles — 7:30 p.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

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