

The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

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December 30, 2017

VaYechi

12 Tevet, 5778

Nothing Is Only

In this week's Torah portion, Vayechi, Joseph bound his brothers with an oath, that when G-d "raises you out of this," meaning, takes their descendants out of Egypt, they will take his bones, to be buried in Israel. The Torah then ends the book of Genesis with this verse: "And Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten years, and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt."

Why was it the responsibility of all the Children of Israel to take Joseph's bones, why not only his own children? Why is Joseph focused on at the end of the portion? When the Torah chooses to finish a book with a verse, there is a significant message in that verse. What message is there for us in this verse?

The Jewish people are about to begin a most difficult and horrific exile in Egypt. Hashem gives them the psychological tools necessary to deal with it. These are lessons for all future exiles, including the present one.

First, we need to know that there is an end and a purpose to this exile, G-d will not only take us out of galus, but he will "raise us out of this." We will be raised to a higher level, we will see and enjoy the fruits of all the work, toil and suffering. Knowing this will help us overcome the difficulties of exile.

Second, we need to be like Joseph. Joseph becomes the ruler of Egypt. He rises above and rules exile even during the time of exile. We too, like Joseph, can rise above and rule our present exile. Like Joseph we are in it, but it doesn't rule us.

Third, Joseph stays with us until we leave exile. This is to be a reminder and strengthen us to rise above. Every Jew was obligated to carry Joseph, when things are difficult, think of Joseph, realize that you too can be like him and overcome and rise above any challenges that come our way.

Still, this exile has dragged on long enough, may G-d remove the suffering and challenges and give us revealed good now.

(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)

An Interesting Phenomenon Alluded To In The Blessing of Dan

The Tur cites a custom that each day from Rosh Chodesh Nisan through the 12th of Nisan, we read the Torah section in "Parshas Nesiim" (dealing with the inauguration offerings brought respectively by the Princes of each Tribe during the 12-day period inaugurating service in the Mishkan) from Parshas Nasso. This custom is widely practiced in Chassidic minyanim.

The tenth tribe to bring the inauguration offering was Dan, so on the tenth day of Nissan we read the section describing the offering of the Prince of the Tribe of Dan. Rav Zalman Volozhiner relates that whatever day of the week we read the Sacrifice of the Tribe of Dan, that day of the week will be Rosh HaShannah – the coming year.

He notes that this phenomenon is alluded to in this week's Parsha: "Dan, will judge his nation..." [Bereshis 49:16]. This hints at the idea that on "the day of Dan" the Almighty will judge His people. A very interesting observation!

(by Rabbi Yissocher Frand from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

Gedolim Didn't Have It Easy

We often take the attitude that gedolim, our revered Rabbis, had it easy. Sure to be Avraham Avinu, our father, that would be a cinch. After all, Hashem spoke directly to him. He knew where he was headed in life. For him, life was a walk in the park. But me, I suffer. I have it rough.

(continued on the other side)

The reality is that every human suffers. That is a part of life. But it's not by accident, and it's not because Hashem isn't clever enough to figure out a way to create man without pain and suffering. Quite the opposite, these situations were hand-crafted as part of the challenges that man needs to grow. This life is the great laboratory of growth. When a person understands this perspective, life itself has meaning and significance. He will understand both the purpose of his existence and the reason for his life settings. With this vantage point, he can truly enjoy his stay on the planet, knowing the meaning and depth behind everything that he lives through.

(by Rabbi Ben Tzion Shafier from Project Genesis at www.torah.org)

Community Information of Interest

December 30: Hubris and Atonement: The State of Israel and the Jewish People 1972-75. Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz. *Oich Mir a Yid! The Age of Henry Kissinger.*

This lecture will begin at 8:00 p.m. and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah.

Rabbi Kaplan will deliver a Breakfast shiur on Monday, January 1st after the 8:00 a.m. Shacharit.

The shiur is entitled:

"Eretz Tovah Urechavah: The Rebbe's Views on Eretz Yisrael, Yerushalayim, Har Habayis and the Beis Hamikdash"

"The Rav's Friday Night Hashkafa Q&A Shiur for Men"

The next shiur will take place **next** Friday night (Parshat Shemot – January 5th) at 8:00 p.m. and will be held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Chaim Kahn, 2325 Blackberry Road in Beazer North.

Questions can be submitted in advance to rabbikaplan@chabadmd.com or anonymously in the shul mailbox.

Kol Hanaarim this Friday evening at 7:45 p.m. in The Shul. Cholent is provided by O'Fishe! Catering!
Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Gertner for sponsoring the dessert treats!

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Davening and Shiurim Schedule

Friday, 12/29 — 11 Tevet

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Candles — 4:34 p.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:35 p.m.

Shabbat, 12/30 — 12 Tevet

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.

Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:45 a.m.

Berachot Gemora Shiur — 3:50 p.m.

Minchah & Seudah Shilishit — 4:20 p.m.

Ma'ariv — 5:35 p.m.

Sunday, 12/31 — 13 Tevet

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.

Monday — New Year's Day, 1/01 — 14 Tevet

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast Shiur: — 8:45 a.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.

Tuesday, 1/02 — 15 Tevet

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 1/03 — 16 Tevet

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, 1/04 — 17 Tevet

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.

Ma'ariv — 8:15 p.m.

Friday, 1/05 — 18 Tevet

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.

Candles — 4:40 p.m.

Minchah / Ma'ariv — 4:40 p.m.