

**The Shul**  
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April 18, 2020

Shemini

24 Nisan, 5780

## Chicks And Children

"A new technique significantly reduces salmonella in chickens by providing protection..." read a front page article in The New York Times.

The procedure involves administering a product called Preempt, a mixture of beneficial microbes that occur naturally in chicken. Preempt, which contains 29 beneficial bacteria, is sprayed on newly hatched chicks. "The birds peck their wet feathers and ingest the bacteria, which begin to grow inside the chicks' intestines. Any salmonella ingested later cannot compete with the 'good bacteria' and thus passes harmlessly through the intestines," the articles continues.

So what do Preempt, chicks and salmonella have to do with the price of rice in China, or with Jewish living, for that matter?

Just think Jewish Education instead of Preempt and Jewish children instead of fuzzy little baby chicks and you'll get the picture.

When Jewish children are given a Jewish education from birth (!) they are provided with protection against many of society's ills. And one needn't worry that a child can overdose on Jewish experiences, holidays, events, sights, scents and knowledge. For, like the "good bacteria" in Preempt, the chicks' systems retain only as much as needed.

How much does it cost? Preempt treatment, according to estimates, would add 2 cents a pound to the retail price of chicken. The earliest stages of children's Jewish education, what you provide them with from birth until they enter a Jewish day school, is invaluable yet inexpensive. Surrounding a child with Jewish scents - chicken soup on Friday night, cheese blintzes on Shavuot, cleaning solutions in the days before Passover - is not an expensive proposition. Neither is it costly to envelop a child in the strains of Jewish music, with Jewish music cassettes and CDs numbering in the hundreds. Jewish visual stimulation can take the form of posters with the Hebrew alphabet, pictures of the Holy Land, drawings depicting Jewish living. And saying prayers with a young child, like the Shema or blessings before eating, is absolutely free.

"That's all well and good," one might be thinking, "before the child is school age. But formal Jewish education can be expensive!" Thank G-d, today many Jewish organizations and philanthropists are committed to making a Jewish education affordable for every Jewish child. It might take some legwork, but financial assistance is often available.

Preempt may also reduce or eliminate disease-causing bacteria other than those which produce salmonella. Similarly, by providing a Jewish child in his or her earliest years with the basics of Jewish living, one can reduce or eliminate a child 's propensity to the most common "afflictions" of society and other "conditions" as well.

One of the leaders of the Preempt project stated that to produce a healthier chicken "there is a need for an integrated program that carries all the way through the process from farm to store. For Preempt to be beneficial requires cooperation in all parts of the industry," he cautions.

Let no one think that Jewish education, which certainly begins in the home, stops at the home's threshold. Or that once a child begins his or her formal Jewish studies the parents and the home are out of the picture. We're not a bunch of chickens laying eggs to be hatched and raised in communal chicken coops. Our children need an integrated program that carries all the way through the process from birth, to school, to young adulthood and beyond.

As the Agriculture Secretary described Preempt, and this certainly is true of the importance of beginning a Jewish education early: "This is just one piece of a larger puzzle, but it is an important step."

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

## How Can We Repay Hashem?

We recite in Hallel on Yom Tov, which recently ended, and on Rosh Chodesh, which begins this Friday: "How can I repay Hashem for all His bounty to me? I will raise the cup of salvations and the Name of Hashem I will invoke." R' Ben Zion Neshet shlita (one of the senior rabbis in Tel Aviv, Israel) explains that the question in the quoted verse should be understood as follows: "How can I repay Hashem?" No matter what I would do for Him or do for Him, "all His bounty [is] to me!" No matter what I would do, my very ability to do it comes from Him, so I am stuck in an endless cycle of indebtedness!

The resolution of this dilemma, writes R' Neshet, is in the next verse: "I will raise the cup of salvations and the Name of Hashem I will invoke." If I invoke His Name in public and cause others to learn Torah and perform Mitzvot, then I can repay Hashem. This may be understood through a parable about a Torah scholar who claimed that he engaged in Torah study for 26 hours on Shabbat. When he was asked how that was possible, given that there are not that many hours in a day, he explained that he taught a one hour long class that had 26 participants. Thus, he was responsible for 26 hours of learning.

Similarly, King David is saying in our verse: I use each hour that Hashem gives me to invoke His Name in order to cause others to learn Torah and perform Mitzvot. By doing so, I "create" additional hours out of each hour Hashem gave me, and with those hours I can repay Hashem. (Haggadah Shel Pesach Shir Tziyon p. 99)

*(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org))*

## This Week in Jewish History

**Jericho's Wall Collapses (1273 BCE).** On the seventh day of the encirclement of Jericho, the Jews, accompanied by the Holy Ark, circled the city seven times. After the blowing of the shofar, the walls miraculously crashed and sank, leaving the city open and unprotected.

**Buchenwald Liberated (1945).** On the 28<sup>th</sup> of Nissan 1945, the Sixth Armored Division of the United States Third Army liberated the camp. Among the more famous inmates who spent time in Buchenwald were Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, former Chief Rabbi of Israel, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, and Mr. Usher Buchwalter.

### Yahrzeits This Week:

Daniel Schechter	29 Nisan - Wednesday night / Thursday	for father	Moshe ben Yehuda Tzvi
Judy Elbaum	30 Nisan - Thursday night / Friday	for father	Shlomo Yankov ben Mordechai Zvi

### SHUL DIRECTORY

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### DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

**Friday, 4/17 —23 Nisan**

Shacharit — 7:00  
 Candles — 7:29 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat, 4/18 — 24 Nisan**

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:43 a.m.  
 Beitzah Gemora Shiur — 6:25 p.m.  
 Minchah — 7:25 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv — 8:30 p.m.

**Sunday, 4/19 — 25 Nisan**

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

**Monday, 4/20 — 26 Nisan**

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
 Mincha / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

**Tuesday, 4/21 – 27 Nisan**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Mincha / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

**Wednesday, 4/22 – 28 Nisan**

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Mincha / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

**Thursday, 4/23 – 29 Nisan**

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
 Mincha / Ma'ariv — 7:35 p.m.

**Friday — Rosh Chodesh Iyar, 4/24 —30 Nisan**

Shacharit — 6:40  
 Candles — 7:36 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

CANCELED