The Shul
at the Lubavitch Center
6701 Old Pimlico Road
Baltimore. MD 21209

www.chabadshul.org

August 22, 2026 **Ki Teitzei** **9 Elul, 5786**

The Mitzvah Domino Effect

The Torah portion of Ki Teitzei contains 74 of the Torah's 613 mitzvahs—27 positive commandments and 47 prohibitions—more mitzvahs than any other parshah. A portion so rich in mitzvahs is naturally filled with profound life lessons as well.

Divine Calculus

The mitzvah of sending away the mother bird before taking her eggs or chicks would appear to be a lesson in compassion. The Talmud, however, refers to this mitzvah as a chok, a Divine decree for which no reason is given. The Mishnah admonishes that anyone who adds to the prayer service, "Your mercy extends upon the nest of birds," is to be silenced. In other words, don't presume that the reason for this mitzvah is G-d's compassion.

True, in our limited understanding, it may seem that it is all about mercy and compassion. But when we assume this, we are, in a sense, selling G-d short, "limiting" Him by attempting to define Him by our human perception. The mercy He displays toward the bird is, in fact, a heavenly decree beyond our understanding.

Just because we think we know G-d's reasons for something doesn't mean we are right. This is crucial to keep in mind when performing mitzvahs. We must do so only because G-d commanded us, and not for any other reason.

Attracting Goodness

Taking a closer look at the mitzvah to build a fence around your roof, we find that the Torah uses an interesting expression: build a protective fence so "the one who falls" shouldn't fall.

This touches on a fascinating theological question: G-d runs the world; life and death are in His hands. People don't just fall off roofs—everything is predestined. One might argue, "If this guy is destined to fall off the roof, why would I be held liable? If he is not meant to fall, he won't fall, regardless of whether I build a fence!"

This argument is actually partially correct. No one falls off a roof without it being part of G-d's plan, which is why the person is referred to as the "one who falls." Nevertheless, it doesn't have to be your roof! Let it happen through someone else.

G-d enables good people to do good things. When a poor person is destined to be fed and cared for, G-d finds good people—those who seek to do good deeds—and allows them to be the ones to help.

Good things are brought about through good people, and the opposite is true as well.

When something negative must occur, G-d finds the type of person who ignores the mitzvah of building a protective fence around his roof, and the person destined to fall to his death falls specifically from that person's roof.

Happy Wife, Happy Life

Another mitzvah in this parshah is the commandment for a groom to remain with, and not apart from, his bride during the first year of their marriage. As such, he is exempt from military service during this time.

When a man takes a new wife, he shall not go out in the army, nor shall he be subjected to anything associated with it. He shall remain free for his home for one year and delight his wife, whom he has taken.

What is the newlywed husband to do during this first year of marriage, when he is not supposed to leave his house?

"Vesimach et ishto."

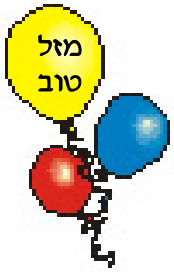
The word "et" can either introduce the direct object, namely, "his wife," or it can mean "with."

There are two ways to interpret the verse: One is that he shall rejoice with his wife; they should have a year of partying. But that's not the correct interpretation.

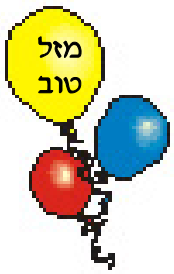
"Vesimach et ishto" means that he must make his wife happy. A husband is not meant to focus on his own happiness; that is not his obligation. The primary obligation of a Jewish husband is to ensure that his wife is happy.

If his wife is happy, his children are happy, and his family is happy, chances are he'll be happy as well. But his happiness is not his job; it is the by-product of doing his job well!

(By Rabbi Yehoshua Gordon obm from www.chabad.org)



A Hearty Mazel Tov to:
Rabbi Shmuel and Rebbetzin Leah Kaplan and Family
on the **marriage of their grandson**
Menachem Mendel
to
Chana Pierkarsky
of Crown Heights, New York.
Mazel Tov also to the entire Pierkarsky family.



A Hearty Mazel Tov to:
Mr. Shaul and Mrs. Naomi Allan and Family
on the upcoming **marriage of their daughter**
Dena
to
Dovi Kurinsky
of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.
Mazel Tov also to the entire Kurinsky family.

We wish Mazel Tov to **Mrs. Marsha Blumberg** on
the **engagement of her grandson**
Eli Levin
to
Chaya Wecker.
We wish both of you much mazel, simcha and a long life together.

Please complete and send to the Shul your: (1) High Holiday Seat Reservation Form, (2) Membership Information Form and (3) Yizkor Form for 5787.
All are available on the Shul Website at www.chabadshul.org

Sponsorship for the two flower displays on the Bima during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are available at $250 each Yom Tov. Consider sponsoring the flowers in honor or in memory of someone. Please contact the Allan Genut at agenut@gmail.com or 443-722-1377 to make arrangements.

DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

Friday, 8/21 — 8 Elul
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

Shabbat, 8/22 —9 Elul
Shacharit 9:00 a.m.
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 9:45 a.m.
Minchah — 7:25 p.m.
Shiur — after Minchah
Shkiah — 7:52 p.m.
Ma'ariv — 8:34 p.m.

Sunday, 8/23 — 10 Elul
Shacharit —8:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:30 p.m.

Monday, 8/24 — 11 Elul
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, 8/25 — 12 Elul
Shacharit— 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 8/26 — 13 Elul
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, 8/27 — 14 Elul
Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:30 p.m.

Friday, 8/28 — 15 Elul
Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.
Shabbat Candles — 7:25 p.m.
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.