

BAIS TORAH BULLETIN

פרשת עקב-פרקי אבות פרק ה'
הדלקת נרות 7:20

August 11, 2017

י"ט אב תשע"ז

ערב שבת פרשת עקב

Mincha 7:00
Candle lighting (early) 7:20
Candle lighting (actual) 7:42
Shkiah 8:00

שבת פרשת עקב

Hashkama 7:30
Daf Yomi 8:00
Shacharis 8:45
Sof Zman K"S 9:32
Halacha Shiur 6:45
Mincha 7:30
Shkiah 7:59
Maariv 8:41
Shabbos Ends 8:49

Weekday Schedule:

Week of 8/13-8/18

Shacharis

Sunday 7:45
Mon, Thurs 6:20, 7:45
Tues, Weds, Fri 6:30, 7:45

MINCHA-MAARIV

Sun-Thurs 7:45 PM

NEXT WEEK

שבת פרשת ראה

Mincha 7:00
Candle lighting (early) 7:20
Candle lighting (actual) 7:32
Shkiah 7:50

WHAT'S NEW

This week's Kiddush is available for sponsorship.

סעודה שלישית is sponsored by Rabbi Yosef Fischer commemorating the yartzheit of his mother Hinda bas Yehoshua Yisroel.

Thank you Rabbi Mordechai Kronenberg for filling in for the Rav the next two weeks. This Shabbos afternoon Halacha Shiur will discuss "Caution?!... Dangers in the Eyes of Halacha"

If you are celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary in August or September join our **Birthday and Anniversary Kiddush Shabbos parshas Shoftim, August 26th**, and help support the weekly kiddush! For just \$18 per name or couple you can celebrate with your Bais Torah Family. Email: baistorah@gmail.com.

Rabbi Fischer's shiur on Mishnayos continues! Monday-Thursday half an hour before Mincha, this week is at 7:15.

Elul and the Yomim Noraim are around the corner, please redeem all outstanding shul pledges and balances.

MAZAL TOV

Moe and Bayla Tilson this Shabbos on the bar mitzva of their grandson Ephraim Yonah, son of Aviva Brandsdorfer of Cedarhurst.

Miriam Nussbaum on the engagement of her granddaughter Adina Adler, daughter of Rabbi Aryeh and Keri Adler to Mordechai Bernstein of Lakewood.

Jonathan and Chavy Rosenstock on the birth of a grandson born to their children Meir Amram and Rachel Rosenstock.

Refuah Shelaimah

Katie Tannenbaum's grandson-

יהונתן משה בן דבורה טובה

Rosalie Kallner

שיינה רחל בת שרה הודל

Henry Shapiro-

חיים מאיר יחיאל בן מלכה לאה

Bob Schore -

חיים ראובן בן הענדל יהודית

Larry Seligson בן אריה לייב

רבקה

Larry Seligson's son-

רפאל אפרים בן סימא פריעדל

Manny Mayerfeld

מנחם בן קילה

פנחס ליאן בן ריזל

Ruth Malinowitz

רבקה בת פריידא

Andy Yurowitz

אליהו זבי בן חנה

Shira Steinberg

שרה רות בת שרה

Rechy Ortner's cousin

רחל ביילא בת גיטל

Goldress grandson

אילן רפאל בן טובה רבקה

Jennifer Herrman's mother

שרה צירלא בת ידיל

BIKUR CHOLIM-

Please Call Before Visiting

Rosalie Kallner

Fountainview 356-2506

Tova Eizik 356-7981

Bob Schore 356-2512

Rebecca Tilson 369-9789

Hilde Zauderer 357 2556

SHIURIM

Women's Tehilim, I'zecher nishmas Feigel bas Menachem Mendel, meets Shabbos afternoon 45 minutes before the Halacha shiur

Sunday:

6:25 AM Daf Yomi

Rabbi Avromy Fein

8:30 AM Gemara Mischeches

Pesachim

Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

Mon-Friday

5:25 AM Daf Yomi I

Rabbi Avromy Fein

7:00 AM Daf Yomi II

Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

8:25 AM Chumash Shiur

Rabbi Yosef Fischer

9:45 AM Gemara Shiur

Rabbi Leibel Reznick

Wednesday –on hiatus

8:30 PM Navi Shiur

Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

Thursday

8:00 The Sandra Thurm Women's Mishna Class

Dr. Deborah Raice Fox

Parashas Eikev – The Great American Eclipse

In philosophy in general and in Jewish philosophy in particular, the concept of causality is important. Things happen because of a prior cause and, in most branches of Jewish philosophy, HaShem is regarded as the "First Cause." An important word in the cause-event relationship is "because." A good example is the first verse in the Parashah of this Shabbos. "And it shall be, because you listened carefully to these laws, and you observe and perform them, HaShem will safeguard for you the covenant and the kindness which he swore to your fathers." (Devarim 7:12)

Other examples are the fact that "water seeks its level," because of the "Natural Law of Gravity" which the Creator established, and the fact that water flowed from a rock in the Wilderness to satisfy the thirst of the Children of Israel because the Creator commanded those two inanimate entities of His Creation to do so.

In last week's Sunday Times, there appeared an article by Helen Macdonald, which began: "On the morning of August 21, the moon's shadow will appear over the Pacific Ocean and move swiftly toward Lincoln Beach, Oregon, just south of Portland, making landfall at 10:16 a.m. local time. If the morning fog has lifted by then, and if the weather is clear, viewers will see something in the sky that most have never seen: a black hole where the sun should be, and around the edges sinuous flames radiating in all directions. Stars and planets will come out, winds will shift, birds and bats will behave strangely, crickets will chirp..."

The Times continues, in an article by George Musser, "During a Total Solar Eclipse, the moon doesn't just block out the sun; it aligns perfectly over the sun's disc as if (underlines mine – PF) made to do so, blocking its direct rays but preserving the sun's peculiar, wispy filamentary atmosphere of plasma...that extends out far beyond the sun's surface. This perfect sun-moon-Earth alignment is an extraordinary cosmic coincidence. The sun is 400 times as large as the moon, but it also happens to be 400 times farther away, which to the observer on the ground means they are almost identical in size. The match is so uncanny that the minutest deviation spoils it...In all the hundreds of billions of star systems in our Milky Way galaxy, few, if any, are likely to produce total solar eclipses like ours. It's a coincidence not only of spatial relations but also of time and motion..."

Now my objection to the Times' language (not that it surprises me) is that it seems so absurd. Megilas Ruth uses similar language (not to be taken literally), "Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, 'Let me go out to the field and glean among the ears of grain behind someone in whose eyes I shall find favor.' 'Go, my daughter,' she said to her. So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the harvesters. And she happened to find herself upon a parcel of land belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech." (Ruth 2:2-3)

Now there must have been hundreds of land-owners in the area of Beis-Lechem, and Boaz was the only one who could offer significant help to Ruth. Clearly it was HaShem, behind the scenes, Who brought the two of them together.

And similarly, we find in Megilas Esther, the stringing together of the following set of unlikely events: Vashti angers Achashverosh (A) and loses her Queenship. (Esther 1:19) The King makes a Miss Persia Beauty Pageant to find a new queen, and Esther wins. (Esther 2:17) Mordechai overhears two of the King's guards plotting to kill the King and informs the King thru Esther; event recorded in Archives of the Court. (Esther 2:23) Haman plots to kill Jews on 13th of Adar, (Esther 3:11) and to hang Mordechai (Esther 5:14). Esther makes two parties for King and Haman. The night before 2nd party, King has insomnia, and requests Archives to be read to him, where Mordechai's saving of the King is recorded. Haman (H) on way to King (K) to request permission to hang Mordechai (M). A asks H how to reward a favorite of the King. H, thinking K means him, reveals his desire for the throne. A commands H to conduct the reward scenario for M. At 2nd party, Esther (E) ID's H as plotting to kill her People. A, enraged, exits to garden, while H begs for his life from E, in a compromising way. Charvona recommends H be hanged on gallows he made for Mordechai. A approves, and Jews are saved. Now, all those interlocking events could only have come from the Mind of the Divine Director of the play.

The word "Keri" means randomness. It is also a synonym for "evil," for to suggest that events occur randomly is to deny HaShem's Hashgachah (Supervision) over Jewish History and Nature, where the exquisite details are combined to create the Great American Total Solar Eclipse.

L'Illuy Nishmas beni, Aharon Baruch Mordechai ben Pinchas Menachem

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