

Chitas for Sunday, Parshas Haazinu Chof-Daled Elul, 5783 - Shnas Hakhel

לעילוי נשמת ר' יוסף בנימין בן ר' מנשה קאלטמאן
~ by Rabbi Aryeh & Esther Kaltmann ~

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May her mitzvos light up this world and make Hashem proud!

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CHUMASH :: Parshas Haazinu - Rishon with Rashi

Today we start to learn the song *Haazinu*, that Moshe Rabbeinu taught the Yidden before he passed away.

The sky and the earth should hear what I say
Because they'll be there forever, like they're here today!
So no Yid will ever be able to say
"I didn't hear about the *mitzvos*, no way!"

The sky and the earth are able to give
Rain to fall and plants to grow, so the Yidden can live.
So they can reward the Yidden if they do
The things Hashem is asking them to!

The Torah is like rain, that everything needs
(People and animals, and even seeds!)
Torah makes everyone happy, and also
Learning Torah makes us grow!

When in the *Beis Hamikdash* you hear Hashem's name

Say good things about Hashem — say *Baruch Sheim!*
Everything Hashem does is fair, you bet!
He will give everyone what they deserve to get.

If not good things keep happening, life feels like no fun
You should know that it's because of things YOU have done!
Hashem loves you and chose you, but what did you do?
You weren't smart, and didn't do what Hashem told you to!

TEHILLIM :: 113 - 118

Today's *shiur Tehillim* is *Kuf-Yud-Gimmel* to *Kuf-Yud-Ches*, the *kapitelach* of *Hallel!* We also say three *kapitelach* for *Chodesh Elul* — *Ayin, Ayin-Alef, and Ayin-Beis.*

There is a *posuk* in today's *Tehillim*, in *Kapitel Kuf-Yud-Ches*, that says "**Hashem Li Be'ozroi, Va'ani Ereh Be'Son'ai.**" "Hashem is with me, with my helpers, and I will see my enemies fall."

How can Dovid Hamelech say that he has helpers, and that Hashem is WITH his helpers? Who is a helper except for Hashem?

Chassidus explains that the "helpers" are the *Gashmius* things in the world. Hashem put a piece of *kedusha* into the *Gashmius* things, and when we use them for the right reasons, we get this *kedusha* and it helps us!

So a person needs to use *Gashmius* things in the world (like food and drink), and then, his *davening* and learning will help him!

TANYA :: Igeres Hakodesh Siman Yud-Zayin

This is another letter where the Alter Rebbe gets Chassidim excited to give Tzedakah:

As Yidden, we need to know that we need to do something to get something! Hashem gives us things — but we need to do SOMETHING to get them.

There are two kinds of *Chayus* that Hashem gives to the world:

- 1) **Memalei Kol Almin** — this is the kind of *Chayus* that makes everything in the world have different *kochos*.
- 2) **Sovev Kol Almin** — this *Chayus* is the same for everything, but it is a much greater *chayus!*

(The first *chayus*, we can almost "see," because we see how everything in the world is different, and has different jobs!)

To bring the second kind of *Chayus*, *Sovev Kol Almin*, into the world, we need to deserve it! How? We give *Tzedakah!*

HAYOM YOM :: Chof-Daled Elul

Everything we see or hear needs to help us serve Hashem better!

When we look at the world around us, we see how amazing it is! Look at the huge mountains, the millions of stars in the sky, beautiful flowers, and people who can do so many things. All of this comes from Hashem's *Chesed* — the *midah* of giving and showing.

There is another *midah* of Hashem, called *Gevurah* — holding back. Hashem's *Gevurah* is as strong as His *Chesed* — it is just as amazing that Hashem can HIDE in the world as it is that Hashem can make all of these exciting things!

The *Avodah* of a Jew is to use the *kochos* of his *neshama* to FIND Hashem — to realize that Hashem is always making everything happen. When we recognize this, we know that EVERYTHING we see or hear is really only happening because HASHEM is making it happen! If it happens to us, it must be that Hashem wants us to know about it. Why does Hashem want us to know about it? It will help us do a better job in serving Hashem — the whole reason we were created!

The Frierdiker Rebbe writes that earlier generations of *Chassidim* would always think this way. We need to try to act like them too — to learn from EVERYTHING we see and hear, which will help us do a better job in our *shlichus* of serving Hashem!

SEFER HAMITZVOS :: Shiur #141 - Mitzvas Asei #133, #143, #144

Today we learn 3 mitzvos about presents we give to the kohanim:

1) (*Mitzvas Asei #133*) *Hafroshas Challah* — whenever we make dough, we take a piece to give to the *kohen*. (We learn about this in today's Rambam!)

We learn this *mitzvah* from a *posuk* in *Parshas Shelach*: ראשית ערסתכם חלה תרימו תרומה
The details are explained in *Mesechta Challah* and *Mesechta Orlah*.

2) (*Mitzvas Asei #143*) We need to give the *kohen* 3 parts of every kosher animal we *shecht* — the front part of the leg (*zro'a*), the jaw (*lechayayim*), and one of the stomachs (the *Keivah*).

We learn this *mitzvah* from a *posuk* in *Parshas Shoftim*: וזה יהיה משפט הכהנים מאת העם מאת זבחי הזבח אם שור אם שׁה
The details are explained in *Mesechta Chulin perek Yud*.

3) (*Mitzvas Asei #144*) When we cut the hair of our sheep (shearing), we need to take the first part and give it to the *kohen*. This *mitzvah* is called *Reishis Hageiz*.

We learn this *mitzvah* from a *posuk* in *Parshas Shoftim*: וראשית גז צאנך תתן לו
The details are explained in *Mesechta Chulin perek Yud-Alef*.

RAMBAM :: Hilchos Bikurim

In today's Rambam, we learn more halachos about Hafroshas Challah — today's first mitzvah!

Perek Vov: We need to take *challah* from dough that will be baked for people to eat. Dough that will just be boiled (like spaghetti) we DON'T need to take *challah* from. We learn that there needs to be enough flour (about 3 pounds), and they need to be the kinds of flour that we use to make *hamotzi* bread (wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye).

Perek Zayin: What happens if we put a few small batches of dough together? Do we need to take *challah* from them? As long as we wouldn't mind if they got a little bit mixed with each other, we can count them as one big batch of dough, and take *challah* from them if together they are the size of the *shiur challah*.

Perek Ches: Do we need to separate *challah* from flour? Usually we don't, but if the flour all gets stuck together, we do.

RAMBAM– PEREK ECHAD :: Hilchos Eruvin - Perek Gimmel

In today's Rambam, we are learning about an *Eruv*, but not the kind of *eruv* we usually think about — it's not an *Eruv* around your backyard!

The kind of *Eruv* we're learning about right now is called an *Eruv Chatzeiros*. It shows that even though there are many families in a certain place, they are joining together as one group. If a few families live in an apartment building, they might need this kind of *eruv* to carry in the hallways.

INYANA D'YOMA :: Yemei Haselichos

The whole *Chodesh Elul* is special, but there is something extra-special about the days of *Selichos*!

The days of *Elul* are so special! The *Melech* is in the field, Hashem is so close to us, helping us get ready for a *Shana Tova*.

Now it is also *Yemei Haselichos*, the days where we say *Selichos* to prepare for *Rosh Hashana*. What is special about these days?

The Baal Shem Tov teaches that during the year, Hashem gives us many *brachos*. Some of them are based on what we deserve, but others Hashem gives us as a loan — for us to “pay back” through our good behavior.

As we get closer to *Rosh Hashana*, we might look back at all the *brachos* Hashem gave us this past year and realize that we didn't deserve them all! Oh no! How can we ever pay back that loan?

That's what the *Yemei Haselichos* are for. During these days, Hashem gives us *selicha*, and is *mochel* our loan. Hashem tells us that it is okay, we can pay back whatever we can.

This way we will be able to go into *Rosh Hashana* happily, knowing that our debts to Hashem are taken care of!

See *Shaarei Hamoadim, Chodesh Elul, p. 289, from Shabbos Selichos Tof-Shin-Lamed-Daled*

TEFILLAH :: Meloch

The *Shemoneh Esrei* of *Shacharis* on *Rosh Hashana* is a lot like the *Shemoneh Esrei* on *Yom Tov*. We just add 5 paragraphs asking for *Moshiach* during the first three *brachos*, and the changes for the *Aseres Yemei Teshuvah*. Like on every *Yom Tov*, we say *Ata Vechartanu*, how Hashem chose Yidden as His special nation, and *Yaaleh Veyavo*.

On *Yom Tov*, after *Yaaleh Veyavo*, we ask Hashem to give us the special *brachos* of that *Yom Tov*.

On *Rosh Hashana*, we say a *bracha* that shows us what *Rosh Hashana* is all about! Here are some of the words from this *bracha*:

Meloch Al Ha'olam Kulo Bichvodecha — Hashem, You should rule over the world with Your glory! ...***Veyeida Kol Pa'ul Ki Ata Pe'alto*** — Everything You made should know that You made it

...***Veyomar Kol Asher Neshama Be'apo: Hashem Elokei Yisrael Melech***... — Everything with a *neshama* should say: Hashem, the *Aibershter* of the Yidden, is King, and rules over everything!

This is the main *inyan* of *Rosh Hashana*: Accepting the *Malchus* of Hashem again!

In the *Michtav Kloli* (a letter of the Rebbe written for every Yid around the world) for *Rosh Hashana*, the Rebbe

would often quote this paragraph, which shows us the main *avodah* of this *Yom Tov*!

HALACHOS HATZRICHOS :: Foods for Rosh Hashana

In *Shulchan Aruch*, it mentions that we eat sweet things, as a sign that we should have a sweet year. It also tells us about eating things which have names that remind us of something good. For example, the word “carrots” in Yiddish is “*merren*,” which also means to multiply. It hints to the *bracha* that our families and our *mitzvos* grow and multiply!

We don't eat foods that are sour or bitter on *Rosh Hashana*. (Even at a *farbrengen* on *Rosh Hashana*, *chassidim* don't say *Lechaim* on *mashke*, which is very bitter.)

The Alter Rebbe tells us not to eat nuts, because they make us have more saliva. Since a main part of *Rosh Hashana* is *davening*, we don't eat foods that will make us have more saliva, which will make it harder to say the words of *davening* clearly.

We have a *minhag* to first dip the *challah* in honey, which we also do during all of the special meals connected to *Yom Tov*, until *Hoshaana Rabbah*.

GEULAH U'MOSHIACH :: Eliyahu Hanavi

The *Navi* Malachi told the Yidden many beautiful *nevuos* about the coming of *Moshiach*! One of the things he tells the Yidden is that the Yidden should always remember the Torah and its *mitzvos*, the way they were given to Moshe Rabbeinu on *Har Sinai*.

In the *zechus* of the Torah and *mitzvos* we do during *Golus*, Hashem will send us Eliyahu *Hanavi* to prepare us for the *Geulah*!

Hashem says:

הִנֵּה אֶנְכִי שֹׁלֵחַ לְכֶם אֶת אֱלִיָּהוּ הַנָּבִיא לְפָנַי בּוֹא יוֹם ה' הַגָּדוֹל וְהַנּוֹרָא

Hinei Anochi Sholeiach Lachem — Look, I will send the Yidden

Eis Eliyah Hanavi — Eliyahu *Hanavi*

Lifnei Bo Yom Hashem Hagadol Vehanora — Before the great day of Hashem — the day when *Moshiach* comes!

And what will Eliyahu Hanavi's shlichus be? How will he get us ready for the Geulah? We will IY”H see in the next posuk!

See Malachi perek Gimmel posuk Chof-Gimmel

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