

Chitas for Wednesday, Parshas Eikev Chamisha Asar B' Av Tes-Vov Menachem Av, 5783 - Shnas Hakhel

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

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Mazel Tov **Sergeant Yudi Tiechtel** (Monsey, NY)
~ 6th birthday Tes-Vov Av ~
Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

Mazel Tov **Menachem Mendel Halevi Yaros** (Shliach in Coral Springs, Florida)
~ 10th birthday Tes-Vov Av ~
Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!
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Mazel Tov **Private Levi Yitzchok Sandman** (New Haven, CT)
~ 5th birthday Tes-Vov Av ~
Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

Mazel Tov **Zelda Hecht** (Cortland, NY)
~ 7th birthday Tes-Vov Av ~
Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

CHUMASH :: Parshas Eikev - Revi'i with Rashi

Moshe is *farbrenging* with the Yidden about more things that happened in the *Midbar*, so they will be ready to go into Eretz Yisroel:

"Hashem told me to make a new set of *Luchos*, since the first ones were broken. He also told me to make an *Aron* to hold it in." (This was a different *Aron* than the one in the *Mishkan* — the Yidden didn't build the *Mishkan* until later.)

"I made the *Luchos* like Hashem told me, and went up onto *Har Sinai* again for another 40 days."

Moshe now reminds the Yidden about something else that they did — when Aharon passed away, and some

of Hashem's clouds went away, they were scared to fight with the *Goyim*. They turned around and tried to run back to Mitzrayim, but the *Leviim* chased after them and fought with them until they agreed to come back!

(Even though this happened 39 years after the *Luchos*, toward the end of their stay in the *Midbar*, Moshe tells the Yidden about this now.

Why?

To tell us that when a *Tzadik* passes away, it's as sad as when the *Luchos* were broken, and to teach us that when the Yidden tried to run back to Mitzrayim, it was as sad for Moshe as the *Cheit HaEigel*.)

"After the *Cheit HaEigel*, Hashem said that only *Shevet Levi* should be the *kohanim*, and not the firstborn of all the Yidden. (That's why *Shevet Levi* doesn't get a part of Eretz Yisroel — they are working for Hashem and don't have time to work in their fields. Hashem pays them with the special presents we give to the *kohanim*.)

"And even though you did such a big *aveira*, Hashem still told me to lead you towards Eretz Yisroel!"

TEHILLIM :: 77 - 78

Today's *kapitelach* are *Ayin-Zayin* and *Ayin-Ches*.

In *Kapitel Ayin-Ches*, which is in today's *Tehillim*, there is a *posuk* that says "**Vayakem Eidus BeYaakov, VeSora Sam BeYisroel**" — "Hashem set up the Torah and *mitzvos* for Yaakov and Yisroel." This *kapitel* also tells us why — so that the Torah will be passed on forever.

Chassidus teaches us that each of the *Avos* has something different and special about them, and they pass that on to all of the Yidden. These gifts from the *Avos* help us be better Yidden!

This *Kapitel* tells us that Hashem "set up the Torah for Yaakov," by letting Yaakov *Avinu* spend SO much time learning Torah. This *koach* is passed down to us — that we will be able to learn lots of Torah too!

TANYA :: Igeres Hakodesh Siman Hey

We said that the *Yud* of Hashem's name is what gives *chayus* to *Olam Haba*, where the *neshamos* are, and that the *Hey* gives *chayus* to *Olam Hazei* — this world.

One of the things we learn from today's *Tanya* is how we can see this in the shapes of the letters!

The letter *Hey* has a line across the top, and a line on both sides. This reminds us of how Hashem is everywhere — on every side! His *chayus* is spread out all over the whole world.

The *Yud* is very small, like *Olam Haba* that we CAN'T see!

We will see later how this helps us understand why it's so important to give Tzedakah.

HAYOM YOM :: Tes-Vov Menachem Av

In today's *Hayom Yom* we learn what is so special about *Chamisha Asar B'Av*!

The Rebbe Rashab wrote something that teaches us how special today (*Chamisha-Asar B'Av*) is!

Really, the 15th day of EVERY month is special, because the moon is full (*Kayma Sihara Be'ashlamusa*) — we can see the whole thing! Yidden are like the moon. Sometimes the world can see how special we are, and

sometimes the Yidden are suffering and nobody can see it. When the moon is full, that is a sign of seeing how special Yidden are!

But the 15th of Av is EXTRA special. Many happy things happened today. And it is after the WORST thing that could happen to us — the *Beis Hamikdash* was destroyed and Yidden were sent into *Golus*.

Whenever something not good happens, Hashem does something good for Yidden later. Since *Chamisha Asar B'Av* comes after the WORST thing, it must be that it is the BEST kind of good!

What is the best kind of good thing? *Moshiach*, of course! *Chamisha Asar B'av* reminds us of the special time that is about to happen — *Moshiach* coming and the third *Beis Hamikdash*!

SEFER HAMITZVOS :: Shiur #102 - Mitzvas Asei #147

In *Sefer Hamitzvos*, we learn (*Mitzvas Asei #147*) that after a kosher wild animal (*chaya*) or a bird (*oif*) is *shechted*, we need to cover the blood with dirt.

We learn this *mitzvah* from a *posuk* in *Parshas Acharei*: וְשָׁפַךְ אֶת דָּמוֹ וְכִסָּהוּ בָּעֹפָר
The details are explained in *Mesechta Chulin perek Vov*.

RAMBAM :: Hilchos Shechitah

In today's Rambam (*Perek Vov*, *Zayin*, and *Ches*), we learn about different things that make an animal a *treifah*. If the *shochet* finds out after *shechting* an animal that it had been hurt or sick, we can't eat the animal. There are certain parts of the animal that the *shochet* needs to check, like the lungs (that help the animal breathe). If the animal is missing part of its body, like if one foot is missing, it is also a *treifah*.

RAMBAM- PEREK ECHAD :: Hilchos Milah - Perek Alef

We start learning about the *mitzvah* of giving a baby a *bris*, when he is 8 days old. The *halacha* is that if the baby is sick, we don't do the *bris* right away, because danger for life pushes away all *mitzvos*. We can do the *bris* later, when it's not dangerous for the baby.

INYANA D'YOMA :: Chamisha Asar B'Av

Why today is a Yom Tov: We learned in *Hayom Yom* that today is a very happy day! It is one of the biggest *Yomim Tovim* of the whole year! Here are some of the special things that happened today for Yidden:

- The *gezeira* that the Yidden were supposed to die in the *Midbar* ended, and all of the Yidden who were alive were ready to go into Eretz Yisroel! Hashem was now ready to talk to Moshe in a special way again.
- To make sure that every *Shevet* got the right part of Eretz Yisroel, people could only get married to someone in the same *Shevet*. But on the 15th of Av, that rule finished, and now the Yidden could get married to someone in ANY *shevet*!
- *Shevet Binyamin* was forgiven for doing a very big *aveira*, and now they could be part of the rest of the Yidden again!
- The king Hoshea opened up the roads to Yerushalayim so the Yidden could go to the *Beis Hamikdash*, after a not good king had blocked them.

- The Yidden were finally able to do the big *mitzvah* of burying the Yidden who were killed in Beitar.
- 15 Av was the day, every year, when the Yidden finished cutting wood for the *Mizbeiach*. Afterwards, they would break the axes, so today is also called “the day of the axe breaking!”

A day for *chasunas*: For many years, on this *Yom Tov* of *Chamisha Asar B'Av*, the Yidden would have a special *minhag* to help boys and girls get married! Girls would share their clothes so that nobody could tell if they were rich or poor. They would dance together in the fields, with the happiness of *Yom Tov*. *Bochurim* that wanted to get married would choose one of them! (Since it was *Yom Tov*, everyone was EXTRA careful with *tznius*, and they were doing this just for Hashem!)

Happiness after sadness: Like we learned in *Hayom Yom*, Yidden are compared to the moon. In the middle of the month, when the moon is full, it shows how the Yidden are in their full glory! Since it is after the sad day of *Tisha B'Av*, the happiness of the middle of the month is the greatest it can be!

A Torah day: Another special thing about today is that the nights start getting longer! Now we can learn more Torah, since night time is a very special time for learning Torah!

Getting ready for *Rosh Hashana*: Today we start getting ready for *Chodesh Elul* and for *Rosh Hashana*! Many people have a *minhag* that starting today, we wish each other a *Kesiva Vachasima Tova*!

There is even a hint in the day: The *Gematria* of the words *Chamisha Asar B'Av* is the same as the words “*Kesiva Vachasima Tova*!”

TEFILLAH :: Yud-Beis Pesukim - Veshinantam

The eighth *posuk* of the *Yud-Beis Pesukim* is *Veshinantam*.

This *posuk* tells us that parents and teachers have a responsibility to teach Torah all the time and everywhere!

Veshinantam Levanecha — You should teach the Torah to your children and your students

Vedibarta Bam — And discuss the words of Torah

Beshivtecha Beveisecha — When you are sitting in your house

Uvelechtech Vaderech — And when you are traveling

Uveshachbecha Uvekumecha — And when you go to sleep, and when you wake up!

We might look at this *posuk* and think that we will do what the *posuk* says when we get older. We aren't parents or teachers yet! We can ask our parents to do it, but we can't do it ourselves.

But the Rebbe says that *Veshinantam Levanecha* IS for kids too!

When we share the words of Torah we know with another child who doesn't know it, we are also teachers!

To be good teachers, we need to make sure to learn in a way of *Veshinantam*! The word *Veshinantam* comes from a word that means sharp and clear. We should make sure that the Torah we know is very clear in our minds, and that we are behaving according to what we know!

Der Rebbe Redt Tzu Kinder vol. 5, p. 294

HALACHOS HATZRICHOS :: Chamisha Asar B'Av

Because of all of the special things that happened on *Chamisha Asar B'Av*, we have a few *minhagim* which we keep today:

- 1) We make a *farbrengen* to celebrate all of these things! It is a great time to bring *Achdus*, since that is what many of the things that happened today are about!
- 2) We make *hachlatos* to learn extra Torah — with ourselves and with others. The Torah gives us a promise that increasing in learning Torah will bring long life! The Rebbe says that this is important for men and women, and also for children!
- 3) We start wishing each other a *Kesiva Vachasima Tova*, in writing and talking.

GEULAH U'MOSHIACH :: The Sound of a Chosson and Kallah

The *Navi* Yirmiyah lived in a very hard time. The Yidden were not behaving the way they should have, and Hashem sent the *Navi* to warn the Yidden to do *teshuvah*. If they don't, the *Navi* warned, there will be a terrible *Churban* and the *goyim* will come and capture Yerushalayim.

Most of the Yidden enjoyed the way they were acting. They didn't want to hear what Yirmiyah had to say. Instead, they listened to the false *neviim*, who told them that Hashem would protect them no matter what, and everything would be fine. The king, Tzidkiyahu, was so upset at the way Yirmiyah was speaking, that he put Yirmiyah in prison!

While the *Navi* was in prison, he had many *nevuos* about the *Churban* and about what would happen afterwards, including about the *Geulah*!

One of these *nevuos* is one we know very well, from the *Sheva Brachos* we say for a *chosson* and *kallah*:

כֹּה אָמַר ה' עוֹד יִשְׁמַע בְּמִקוֹם הַזֶּה אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם אֹמְרִים חֲרֵב הוּא מַאֲיִן אָדָם וּמַאֲיִן בְּהֵמָה בְּעָרֵי יְהוּדָה וּבְחִצּוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם הַנִּשְׁמוֹת מַאֲיִן אָדָם וּמַאֲיִן יוֹשֵׁב וּמַאֲיִן בְּהֵמָה

קוֹל שִׁשׁוֹן וְקוֹל שְׂמִיחָה קוֹל חֲתָן וְקוֹל כְּלָה קוֹל אֹמְרִים הוֹדוּ אֵת ה' צְבָאוֹת כִּי טוֹב ה' כִּי לְעוֹלָם חֲסִדוֹ מִבָּאִים תוֹדָה בֵּית ה' כִּי אָשִׁיב אֶת שְׂבוֹת הָאָרֶץ כְּבָרָאשְׁנָה אָמַר ה'

Ko Amar Hashem — Hashem says: You will still later hear, in this very place that Yidden are saying is destroyed and empty, in the cities of Yehuda and Yerushalayim, where now no person or animals can live;

Kol Sason — The sound of happiness and the sound of joy, the voice of a *chosson* and the voice of a *kallah*, the sound of people saying, "Praise Hashem because He is good, because Hashem's *chesed* is forever," bringing *korbanos* to thank Hashem! "Because I will bring the Yidden who were captured back home," says Hashem.

See *Yirmiya perek Lamed-Gimmel*, *pesukim Yud and Yud-Alef*

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