



The sorts of tidbits

my father, Rav Meir Zlotowitz zt"l, made sure his family was up to date on
from the mundane, to the profound, to the 'thanks for reminding me!'

Klal Govoah
In Memory of Rav Meir Zlotowitz zt"l

Parashas Va'eschanan
Nachamu 5786 • July 25th • 11 Av

Tu B'Av

This Wednesday, July 29th, is Tu B'Av. Tachanun is not recited on Tu B'Av, and is also omitted at minchah on Tuesday, the day prior.

Several notable events took place on Tu B'Av:

- The decree that the generation of the Midbar would die and not enter Eretz Yisrael was not carried out on those still alive in the 40th year.
- The prohibition against women marrying outside of their *shevet* was lifted.
- The prohibition enacted against Shevet Binyamin after the tragic episode of Pilegesh b'Givah was lifted.
- Hoshea removed the guards that Yeravam had placed to prevent Bnei Yisrael from *Aliyah Leregel* to Yerushalayim.
- During the beginning of the Second Beis HaMikdash, the annual wood quota needed for that winter's *korbanos* was filled.
- The Roman occupiers permitted burial of the victims of the massacre at Beitar during the Bar Kochba rebellion. Miraculously, the bodies had not decomposed, despite exposure to the elements for over a year.
- The single women of Yerushalayim would dress in white and dance in the vineyards seeking to attract appropriate shidduchim.

Reminders

The *minhag* of most Ashkenazi congregations is to stand when the *Aseres HaDibros* are read during *Kerias HaTorah* of Parashas Va'eschanan. Most Sephardic congregations are particular not to follow this practice.

The haftarah of "*Nachamu Nachamu Ami*" is *leined*. This is the first in a series of seven *haftaros* known as the *Shivasa D'nechemta*, the seven *haftaros* of consolation.

The final opportunity for Kiddush Levana is Tuesday, July 28th.

Pirkei Avos: Perek 3 | **Daf Yomi - Shabbos:** Bavli: Chullin 86 • Yerushalmi: Moed Katan 9 • Mishnah Yomis: Keilim 19:8-9 • Oraysa (coming week): Yevamos 88a-90a • Kitzur Shulchan Aruch: 127:11-End

Make sure to call your parents, in-laws, grandparents and Rabbi to wish them a good Shabbos. If you didn't speak to your kids today, make sure to connect with them as well!

Next on the Calendar

Tu B'Av is this Wednesday, July 29th.

Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh Elul is in two weeks, Shabbos Parashas Eikev.

Parshah in a Paragraph

Va'eschanan: Hashem denies Moshe's (515!) pleas to be allowed to enter Eretz Yisrael • Do not add to or subtract from the commandments • Torah wisdom will make you great in the eyes of the nations • No nation is as close to Hashem as you are • Remember how the nation stood at Har Sinai • Hashem took you out of Mitzrayim to be His special people and to serve no one but Him • Hashem will not forsake you in exile because of His covenant • Never has any nation been shown miracles like those you have witnessed nor survived being addressed by Hashem • Hashem is supreme and there is nothing besides Him • Moshe sets aside three cities of refuge east of the Yarden • The *Aseres HaDibros* • *Shema Yisrael* • The *mitzvah* of *Ahavas Hashem* • Tefillin and Mezuzah • Do not forget Hashem amidst plenty • Transmit the story of the Exodus to your children • Destroy the nations of the land; don't mingle with them or learn from them • You are a holy nation to Hashem • Hashem is generous to those who love Him and keep His *mitzvos* • Hashem punishes His enemies

Haftarah: The *haftarah* of *Nachamu* (Yeshaya 40:1-26) relays not only the consolation over the *churban*, but also foretells the consolation the nation will experience in the future, following instances of pain and destruction. Despite endless persecution, "*Netzach Yisrael lo yishaker*", our nation continues to survive, constantly rejuvenated through solace ordained from Above.

613 Taryag Weekly

Va'eschanan • 118 Pesukim • 8 Obligations • 4 Prohibitions

1) Do not covet another's possessions. 2) Accept the yoke of Heaven. 3) Love Hashem. 4) Set aside time to study Torah. 5) Recite Krias Shema twice daily. 6-7) Wear *tefillin* on the arm and head. 8) Affix *mezuzos* to your doorposts. 9) Do not suspect an accepted Navi of falsifying a prophecy. 10) Conquer and destroy the Seven Nations that inhabit Canaan. 11) Do not be overly gracious or grant gifts to idol worshipers. 12) Do not intermarry with the Seven Nations.

Mitzvah Highlight: The Chinuch says that it is within the power of man to quash thoughts and pangs of jealousy that come to him, as one's heart and mind are, in fact, under a person's control.

For the Shabbos Table

"נַחֲמוּ נַחֲמוּ עַמִּי"

Be comforted, be comforted My people (Haftarah of Shabbos Nachamu - Yeshaya 40:1)

The Yalkut Shimoni (Yeshaya 443) relates that the greatest Nevi'im attempted to console Klal Yisrael after the *churban*, as did the Avos and Moshe Rabbeinu, to no avail. Only once Hashem joined personally in comforting them were they comforted. נַחֲמוּ נַחֲמוּ עַמִּי - Comfort them together with Me.

Surely, the nation was trusting of the words of the great Nevi'im; why then was it necessary for Hashem personally to comfort them?

Rav Yeruchem Olshin shlit"a quotes the Maharal (Netzach Yisrael 9) that explains that the *churban* and resulting exile are a result of the breakdown in the relationship between Hashem and His chosen nation. The various sins only resulted in *galus* once it reached a point where the covenant and connection were considered broken. According to this approach, Rav Shneur Kotler zt"l explains that in essence, the devastation of *galus* felt by the nation was the separation from the Almighty. Therefore, for the words of consolation to be appreciated, they needed to hear from Hashem Himself that the relationship and closeness will be attained once again.

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