

Clean in the Eyes of Man

“And Moshe said to them, ‘If you will do this thing...and be guiltless before the Lord, and before Yisra’el; and this land shall be your possession before the Lord.’” (Bamidbar 32:20-22)



Moshe Rabbeinu makes an agreement with the tribes of Reuven, Gad, and half of Menashe regarding the conditions under which they will receive their portion of Eretz Yisrael on the eastern side of the Jordan River. Moshe tells them, “If you do what you have committed to do, you will be ‘clean’ from Hashem and the people”. The *Chasam Sofer* (Rabbi Moses Schreiber 1762-1839) in *Teshuvos* 6:59 discusses this phrase and its implications. He says that achieving ‘cleanliness’ before Hashem is far easier than before people. Hashem sees the truth of one’s deeds; people, however, have complaints even about the most sincere actions, and will always find something to criticize.

Rav Shmuel Wosner (1913-2015) in his *teshuvos* 7:30 challenges the *Chasam Sofer*. He brings a verse in *Yehoshua* 22:2 where Klal Yisrael acknowledges that these tribes have fulfilled their obligation. If the Torah itself confirms that people were satisfied, what difficulty was the *Chasam Sofer* addressing?

The *Sefer Kehillos Yitzchak* explains via the episode with Sarah and Avimelech. After Sarah was taken to Avimelech’s house, she soon conceived and had a child. Hashem made Yitzchak look like Avraham so that cynics of that generation (*letzanei hador*) should not say that Avimelech was the father (Rashi Bereishis 25:19). Why would one have to be a cynic to reach that conclusion? Avraham and Sarah were married for many decades without children. Nine months after she was in Avimelech’s house, she had a child – wouldn’t that seem like a logical suspicion!?

The classic answer is that Avraham had already fathered Yishmael. Sarah’s barrenness could not have been due to Avraham, making the claim baseless. But the *Kehillas Yitzchak* offers a novel explanation.

(Continued on page 2)

Lifecycles

Mazel Tov to **Binyomin and Karen Rubenstein** on the birth of a granddaughter to their children **Elisheva and Natan Abramson**. Mazel Tov also to Great Grandparents **Alan and Elaine Rubenstein** and **Michael and Marilyn Bash**.



Mazel Tov to **Rabbi & Mrs. Gedalia Spira** on the engagement of their son **Yekusiel Yehuda** to **Merav Nagar**.



Mazel Tov to **Meshullam and Sarah Schoemann** on the birth of a grandson to their children **Tzvi Yoseph and Penina Weiss**. The **Shalom Zochor** will be at Lachish 29/2. The **Bris** will be at **Motzei Mayim** on Sunday at 09:00.



PIRKEI AVOS

WITH RAV AVRAHAM BARUCH ZACHARIASH
Ezras Nashim will be open for women for both Mincha and the shiur.

This week the Shiur begins at 18:24.

Shabbos Schedule Parshas Matos-Masei לוח שבת פרשת מטות-מסעי

Erev Shabbos		ערב שבת
Mincha 1	13:30	מנחה א'
"Early Mincha"	17:59	מנחה "מוקדמת"
Plag Hamincha	18:19	פלג המנחה
Candle Lighting	19:10/19:30	הדלקת נרות
Mincha 3	19:32	מנחה ג'
Sunset	19:50	שקיעה
Shabbos Day		יום השבת
Brachos	08:15	ברכות
Shochein Ad	08:45	שוכן עד
Latest Shema – M. A.	08:19	סוף זמן ק"ש למג"א
Latest Shema – G'ra	09:14	סוף זמן ק"ש לגר"א
Mincha 1	13:30	מנחה א'
Mincha 2	18:00	מנחה ב'
Pirkei Avos Shiur	18:24	פרקי אבות
Mincha 3	19:00	מנחה ג'
Sunset	19:50	שקיעה
Ma'ariv 1	20:27	מעריב א'
Ma'ariv 2	20:50	מעריב ב'

Rosh Chodesh Menachem Av

הַמּוֹלַד יִהְיֶה בַּיּוֹם שְׁלִישִׁי,
שְׁלוֹשִׁים דְּקוֹת וְשִׁבְעָה -
עֶשֶׂר חֳלָקִים אַחֲרֵי שֶׁבַע
בְּעֶרֶב.



The Molad will be Tuesday, 30 minutes and 17 *chala-kim* after 7 in the evening (Israel Clock Time 20:16).

רֵאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ מִנַּחֵם אָב יִהְיֶה בַּיּוֹם רְבִיעִי
הַבֵּא עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל לְטוֹבָה.

Rosh Chodesh Av will be on Wednesday.

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Leitzanim will make jokes about something even when they know it to be false. Even though they knew that Sarah could not have become pregnant in Avimelech's house – since Hashem had closed all orifices of the household, making conception impossible – they still spread the rumor. Cynicism does not require truth; it only requires an audience.

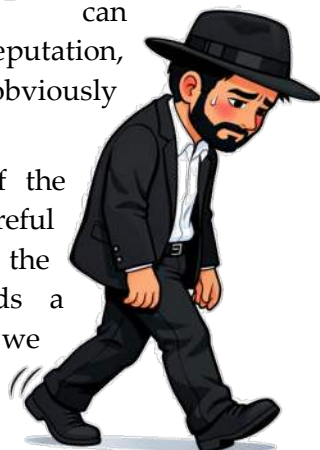
With this, we can understand the *Chasam Sofer*. Hashem and *Klal Yisrael* both said that Bnei Gad and Bnei Reuven had fulfilled their obligation. However, that does not silence the cynics who would still say, "Who said they did everything they were supposed to?" Even when the facts are clear, there is always room for a little bit of cynicism, and comments made with intent to belittle can undermine something important and firm.



As we stand in the three weeks, our interactions with friends and family require extra care. Even a small joke or a passing comment can

actually ruin a person's reputation, career or life, even if it is obviously untrue.

Let us follow the ways of the *Chasam Sofer* and be extra careful to avoid causing even the slightest negativity towards a fellow Jew. By doing so, we should merit to have *Moshiach* arrive before Tisha B'Av this year!



אבות ובנים



CHOCOLATE CHASE

NEW SERIES: Come 4 times by Parshas EIKEV and get a

CHOCOLATE BAR!

Shabbos Afternoon.
This week: 17:00-18:00

Junior Avos uBanim:
30 minutes

Treats for all participants



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Kids Shabbos Programs

Boi B'Shalom



BOYS and GIRLS! 30 minutes before Mincha (19:02)

STORY TIME with Rabbi Seltzer

Friday Night in the Hall while the Rav gives his Drasha. For boys (not girls) up to Bar Mitzvah.



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GMACH SMACHOT

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המשך מנומך 4

לחלוטין.

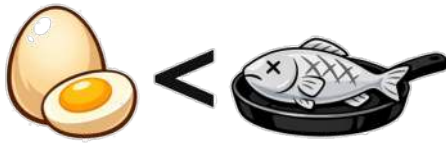
נלך בדרכו שמציין החתם סופר ונקפיד שלא לגרום אפילו שמץ של שליליות כלפי יהודי אחר. בזכות זה נזכה בעזרת ה' לראות את ביאת המשיח עוד לפני תשעה באב השנה.

Tuesday shiur is now learning the halachas of THE THREE WEEKS!

Questions come courtesy of RBSsemicha.com

Before the Fast: What's Cooking?

When Goldy saw her mother



boiling a pot of eggs on the day before

Tisha B'Av, she realized that this was going to be her "main course" for the seuda mafsekes — the last meal before the start of the fast. "My Morah says we are supposed to have one cooked dish — why can't we have fish instead of eggs?!" she asked. May Mrs. Kagan prepare cooked fish for this last meal, according to 1. the M.B. and 2. the A.H.?

M.B.: Cooked fish is forbidden for this meal, just as it is forbidden to have chicken or beef.

A.H.: Cooked fish is permitted at this meal. While it is true that the S.A. says it is forbidden, it is a mistake and a printer's error, as fish and meat are very different. O.C. 552; M.B. 6; A.H. 3

One Last Brush

After Goldy Kagan finished her final meal before the start of the Tisha B'Av fast, she whined to her mother, "Ima, I want to brush my teeth and drink some water to get the taste of the "ichse" egg out of my mouth!" "Too bad," chimed in Avrumy. "You should have thought about that before you bentched!" May Goldy still brush her teeth and drink water before the start of the fast?



Yes. However, the M.B. says that while it is permitted for Goldy to do so, it would have been better if she had in mind to continue to eat and drink after the conclusion of the meal right up to the start of the fast. O.C. 553; M.B. 2

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25 Tammuz sponsored by the Messinger Family

לע"נ צבי הרש בן שמואל זאב ז"ל

3 Av sponsored by the Hecht Family

לע"נ יחיאל נחמיה בן אברהם ז"ל

10 Av sponsored by the Hecht Family

לע"נ חיה שרה בת חיים ע"ה

Mi Shebeirach for Cholim

Reminder: If you would like the Gabbai to read the name of a *choleh* on Shabbos during the *Mi SheBeirach*, you must submit it via Email to Mrs. Zakoo by Thursday! Send your list of Hebrew Names using Hebrew Letters to Mrs. Zakoo at office@ahavasshalom.org.



GROWTH THROUGH TISHA B'AV WITH RAV ZACHARIASH SUNDAY

JUL 19

20:15-21:00 • SHUL HALL • FOR WOMEN

י"ח ש"ח WILL BE RECORDED AND AVAILABLE ON AHAVASSHALOM.ORG



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