

Thought of the Week

Rashi quotes a Midrash in this week's parsha to the effect that the discovery of a plague that infected the house of a Jew that settled in the Land of Israel in biblical times was in reality a blessing in disguise.

The Canaanites, anticipating the arrival of the Jews into the Land of Israel, stored their valuables in hollowed out sanctuaries within the walls of their houses. When a Jew settled in that house, this mysterious plague descended upon the house. The appearance of this plague forced the house to be dismembered in order to be purified from the plague. When this occurred, the hidden Canaanite treasure was revealed and acquired by the Jewish owner of the house.

This somewhat strange Midrashic tradition contradicts the opinion expressed in the Talmud that house plagues never really occurred in real life and that the Torah included this subject only so that we would reap reward for studying and analyzing this purely theoretical subject matter..

There is another opinion in the Talmud that this house plague did actually occur but there is no mention in the Talmud of the blessing of hidden treasure being discovered. However it is obvious that Rashi chose this Midrashic tradition to highlight this particular subject of the parsha of this week. In so doing he undoubtedly signaled to us - his students - that there is an important lesson to be learned from this tradition.

It is not only that this tradition comes to teach us the old platitude that in every cloud there is a silver lining. It teaches us something far deeper, namely that the ways of the L-rd, and the vagaries of life, are inscrutable, unpredictable and not always given to rational explanation and analysis.

The L-rd wants us to somehow inherit Canaanite treasure. But it is not given to us directly, clearly or simply. Rather, it somehow comes through initial pain and disappointment - the apparent destruction of our house and the shame of being found residing in a dwelling of spiritual impurity. Only then, when one has passed through these difficulties – has had consultations with the kohein, has been quarantined and has taken apart his house – does the apparent purpose and gift of G-d become apparent.

We would all certainly prefer being granted hidden treasure and other good fortune directly and clearly. But that is not the reality of life. Many times we suffer disappointments and trials and only later are we able to realize how much true good fortune came to us through those seemingly bad events.

That is why the rabbis admonished us to make a blessing on seemingly bad events in the same manner that we make a blessing when we feel that good things have happened to us. In life we are always bidden to accept what the L-rd has granted to us, for many times the "bad" event may turn out not to be so bad after all.

Adapted from <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2011/04/527.html> by Rabbi Wein.

Young Israel of the Main Line

273 Montgomery Ave
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
www.yiml.org
www.chaseplanet.us/yiml

Rabbi Avraham Steinberg
610-667-3255
rabbi@yiml.org

Sherman Frager, President
610-667-7063



Parshas Metzora

פרשת מצורע

Stone Chumash page 620; Haftarah, page 1172.

April 8-9, 2011

ה' ניסן תשע"א



Shabbos Schedule



Candle lighting and Mincha Friday:	7:13pm
Parsha Chaburah by Barry Weiss:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:47am
Kiddush is jointly sponsored by Stan Sved and Leon Wertheimer and family on the occasion of the yahrzeit of Stan's father, Shlomo ben Yisroel Moshe, and the yahrzeits of Leon's parents, Morris and Erna Wertheimer. May their neshomos have an aliya.	
Mincha:	7:00pm
At Shalosh Seudos, Rabbi Steinberg's topic will be The Most Interesting Shaila of the Week...	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	8:17pm

Pirchei and Bnos

Pirchei and Bnos will meet from 4:30 to 5:30pm at LMS. For Bnos info or to pay yearly dues, contact Meira Friedman at 610-617-9529. For Pirchei info or to help sponsor, contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-668-6833 or silverdollar@verizon.net

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Monday through Thursday:	7:20pm
Mincha and Candle Lighting	Friday:	7:20pm

Weekday Shiurim

Daily Mussar Shiur:	15 minutes before Shacharis
Mishna Brura:	Mon and Wed after Maariv
Melachim Aleph Shiur:	Monday at 8pm
Halacha Shiur:	Tuesday at 8:30pm.
Nefesh HaChaim:	Thursday at 10:10pm

Check with Dr Daniel Eisenberg to confirm.

Chevra Mishnayos

The Chevra Mishnayos is learning Seder Nashim. See shul bulletin board to sign up or email eisenber@pol.net with your name and the masechta (and chapters) you intend to learn.

YIML Women's League

Please remember to sign your Genuardi's green cards up at www.escrip.com to benefit YIML Women's League. Proceeds from your Pesach purchases can fund events in our shul, but only when you register your card number. For more info on this program, please contact Janet Eisenberg (eisenber@pol.net).

To subscribe to the YIML email list, visit
<http://mail.chaseplanet.us/mailman/listinfo/yiml>



▪ Mazel Tov to Rabbi Yochanan and Yaffa Eskenazi on the birth of a baby boy. The Shalom Zachor will be at the Philadelphia Community Kollel, starting at 8:45 PM Friday night.

Shabbos HaGadol Drasha

Next Shabbos (parshas Acharei Mos, April 16), Rabbi Steinberg will deliver the Shabbos HaGadol Drasha: The Four Sons and Lessons in Chinuch for Our Time
Mincha 6:55 PM, Drasha following Mincha, Maariv 8:24 PM

Maos Chittim

With the beginning of the month of Nissan, we observe the age-old custom (Maos Chittim or Kimcha D'Pischa) of giving extra money to the needy to help with their Pesach expenses. Please make checks to the YIML Rabbi's Discretionary Fund with memo "Maos Chittim". To ensure the tzedaka monies reach the recipients in time, make your contributions soon.

Sale of Chometz

Forms to authorize Rabbi Steinberg for sale of your chometz are available at YIML and on the Shul website. You can meet with Rabbi Steinberg to submit the document and authorize him in person - before and after minyanim at YIML, or by appointment

Pesach Tip #1

Perhaps the most important precaution in Pesach preparation is to check that all products you buy for Pesach are, in fact, Pesach-certified. Do not rely on their location in the Pesach section in the supermarket, their similarity in appearance to other products, etc.

Questions? Comments! Sponsorships\$ weeklyupdate@yiml.org