

Thought of the Week

The Hebrew word re'eih, which serves as the title of this week's Torah reading, has many layers of meaning attached to it. In its simplest understanding it means "see." There are English translations of the word that have expanded the definition of the word to mean "behold." In truth, the Torah demands of us more than simply eye vision. We are challenged to see the physically unseeable and to deal with abstractions of thought and policy and make them real.

So re'eih is as much a state of mind and contemplation as it is one of actual eyesight. That is why the Torah states that we should somehow see and behold possible blessings and curses in our future – successes and failures. The human eye cannot discern blessings or curses. What sometimes appears to be a wonderful idea, a great blessing, a most correct policy may, in fact, turn out to be a cursed disaster.

And the opposite is also true. An event or idea that appeared to be a negative may yet be most positive in the future. King David makes us aware of this in his famous verse, "The stone that was rejected by the builders initially has now become the corner stone itself."

So when the Torah bids us "re'eih" – see the future, so to speak, it cannot expect us to do so wisely and intelligently unless it supplies us with corrective lenses that will enable us to do so. And as the Torah itself reiterates time and again, it is the observance of Torah laws and a fealty to God that enables us to visualize the blessings that await us and the pitfalls that await those who deviate from tradition and Jewish values.

For a long period of its history the Jewish people had the advantage of having prophets who saw the future, the right and wrong, the good and the bad, for them. But we must note that the Jewish people frittered away this gift simply by ignoring what the prophets had to say. "And I made your young men prophets but you ordered them to desist from prophesying."

It is common in human nature to stumble along sightless rather than to glimpse the future good. Truly seeing the future imposes obligation and a change in lifestyle and behavior patterns ...

[continued inside ...]

בס"ד

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Parshas Re'eh

פרשת ראה

Stone Chumash page 998; Haftarah, page 1199.

August 26-27, 2011

כ"ז אב תשע"א



Shabbos Schedule Mevorchim haChodesh



Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos:	7:00pm
Candle Lighting:	7:24pm
Parsha Chaburah by Naftali Perlberger:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:43am
Kiddush is communally sponsored.	
Mincha:	7:10pm
Shalosh Seudos is communally sponsored.	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	8:26pm

Rabbi - Away

Please note that Rabbi Steinberg will be away through this Sunday. Anyone needing to reach the Rabbi (in case of emergency), should contact Shul President, Sherman Frager.

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tues and Wed (Rosh Chodesh):	6:30am
	Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday to Thursday:	7:20pm
Mincha Friday, and Kabbalas Shabbos:		7:00pm
Candle Lighting Friday:		7:14pm

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:	Will resume after the summer.

Women's Learning Experience – August Schedule

Mondays at 9:45am: Tehillim for Cholim.
Mondays at 10:15am: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha haShavua.
Thursdays at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Gesher HaChaim.
No Gesher HaChaim class the last week of August.
Classes during August at 403 Bala Circle. Free babysitting is available, reservations must be made in advance. For information or babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.

Chevra Mishnayos

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

Thought of the Week, continued...

that one is loath to fulfill. And, since it is also very difficult for humans to admit past or present error, the chances for unpleasant happenings in the future because of improper present behavior and policies are omnipresent.

The entire book of Dvarim is devoted to this issue – the sad consequences of bad behavior and how this affects future generations. Moshe's frustration is almost palpable in his warnings to Israel. If there was ever anyone who could see and behold it was Moshe, the greatest of all prophets.

Every parent is aware of this sad frustration when one is aware of an erroneous decision by a child but is powerless to prevent its occurrence and its consequences. We can only hope that the eyesight of our generation will improve.

Adapted from <http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbiwein/5771/reeh.html> by Rabbi Berel Wein..

Kivrei Tzadikim Trip For Women

Visiting the Graves of the Gaonim and Tzadikim buried in Queens, NY. Sunday, September 4th. The trip will begin with a breakfast at YIML at 9am, at which Rabbi Steinberg will speak about the illustrious personalities to be visited. The group will then travel to the Bais HaChaim to learn more, daven, and recite Tehillim. Tentative cost: \$25 (does not include cost of lunch at a Queens restaurant). In order to help us plan, please send an e-mail to Rabbi Steinberg if you think you would like to participate in this trip – rabbi@yiml.org.

The Women's Kivrei Tzaddikim Trip is now full. If any women are still interested in attending, please let Janis Fine know (jfine@comcast.net) and she will put you on a waiting list for any cancellations.

New Kosher Restaurant in Philadelphia!

Burger.Org, located at 326 South Street, Philadelphia, PA, is now a Glatt Kosher establishment under the strict supervision of Community Kashrus of Greater Philadelphia.