

"And I will make of you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing" (12:2)

The Mishna in Pirkei Avos teaches that Avraham our father was tested with ten trials of faith. The directive of "lech lecha" - "go for yourself" is included as one of those trials. However, coupled with this directive, Avraham was promised fame, fortune, and many children. How can this directive constitute a test? If a person is guaranteed fame, fortune and children, what could possibly impede him from going? Furthermore, most people of a lesser faith than Avraham would follow Hashem's directive even without the promise of reward. Why is it necessary for Hashem to promise Avraham all of these benefits?

Rashi comments that "lecha" - "for yourself" means "for your pleasure and benefit". Why does Avraham have to be told that enjoying fame, fortune and many children is for his pleasure and benefit?

Some commentaries attempt to explain that Avraham was told of the rewards which await him because the test was to see whether Avraham's incentive to go would be the rewards or the fact that Hashem had commanded him to do so. However, this interpretation cannot be correct, for the purpose of a test is for man to grow and develop his potential. Testing Avraham's incentive is not a way to develop his potential. Hashem has no benefit from attempting to frustrate man. Additionally, the verse says "lech lecha" - "go for yourself"; Hashem wants Avraham to go for his benefit and pleasure, not in spite of them.

We all go through life struggling to choose what is good over what is pleasurable for us. We contemplate whether we should eat healthy foods or enjoyable unhealthy foods. We deliberate whether it would be better to have a faithful marriage and the responsibility of raising children, or to be free to consort with whomever we please. The reason why we struggle as such is because we define pleasure as physical gratification. If man would realize that the greatest possible pleasure, a pleasure which transcends base physical gratification is the feeling he receives from doing what is right, all of his internal tension would dissipate. The feeling of ennobling ourselves by doing the will of Hashem is a pleasure which we carry with us throughout our lives. We must redefine for ourselves what true pleasure is, what really makes us feel good.

The test that Avraham is faced with is following Hashem for his pleasure and benefit; Hashem is testing Avraham to see whether he considers carrying out the will of Hashem and experiencing pleasure to be one and the same. The pleasure of doing what is right should override those forbidden pleasures which tempt us. This is man's ultimate test, which will determine whether he will go through life frustrated and unhappy because of unfulfilled desires, or contented and fulfilled due to the knowledge that he is doing what is right. "Lech lecha" - "go for yourself" is a test to determine whether Avraham is going for his pleasure, whether his pleasure comes from adhering to the directive of Hashem. The rewards of fame and fortune occur subsequent to Avraham's fulfillment of the directive of "lech lecha"; they are not the pleasure and benefit alluded to in the directive of "lech lecha".

Adapted from <http://www.torah.org/learning/rabbizweig/5772/lechlecha.html> by Rabbi Zweig.

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Parshas Lech Lecha

פרשת לך לך

Stone Chumash page 54; Haftarah, page 1133.

November 4-5, 2011

ח' חשוון תשע"ב



Shabbos Schedule



Light Candles, Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos: 5:37pm

Parsha Chaburah by Dennis Rosen: 7:55am

Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur: 8:15am

Shacharis: 8:45am

Sof Zman Krias Shema: 10:09am

Shabbos Groups, upstairs, for ages 2 and up. Children under 2 must be supervised by a parent. 9:45am

Kiddush is sponsored by the Pendrak family to commemorate the Yahrzeits of Israel Pendrak's father, Mendel ben Ezreel Zelig Hacohen, and his grandfather, Ezreel Zelig ben Eliyahu Hacohen.

Mincha: 5:30pm

Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.

Chabura given by Rabbi Steinberg on the topic of Relative Parameters of Areivus and Tochacha (based on the hearos of R'Zelig Epstein zt"l).

Maariv: 6:39pm

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

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday and Thursday:	6:40am
	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday:	4:35pm
Maariv:	Monday through Thursday:	7:45pm
Candle Lighting, Mincha and Kabbalas Shabbos:		4:30pm

Weekday Shiurim

Daily Mussar Shiur:	15 minutes before Shacharis
Mishna Brura:	Mon and Wed after Maariv
Sefer Bereishis Shiur:	Monday at 8pm.
Nefesh HaChaim:	Thursday at 10:10pm

Women's Learning Experience – Winter Schedule

Monday 9:00am: Tehillim for Cholim.
Monday 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Gesher HaChaim.
Monday 10:45am: Rabbi Brisman - Shabbos Kitchen Halachas.
Tuesday 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman - Sefer Tehillim, at LMS.
Tuesday 8:00pm: Stacey Goldman - Women in Tanach, at 161 Highland Circle.
Wednesday 9:30am: Steve Goldman - Sefer Devarim.
Wednesday 2:50pm: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha Va'eschanan.
Thursday 9:30am: Rabbi Gold - Parsha HaShavua.
Classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted.
Suggested donation of \$5 per class. Babysitting is available, reservations must be made in advance. For information or babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477 jfine@comcast.net.

Chevra Mishnayos

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



▪ Mazel Tov to Rabbi Yehuda and Orit Seif and family on the bris of their son Yakir Yeshaya this past Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday morning at 2am. Remember to set your clocks back one hour.

Gemora Shiur

The Gemora Bekius Shiur with Rabbi Steinberg is underway, but it is certainly not too late to join. The shiur meets 3 times a week, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. Each session is for 45 minutes and starts following 7:45 Maariv at YIML. Please contact Rabbi Steinberg to join and receive e-mail updates.

Bnos and Pirchei

Bnos will meet from 3:30 to 4:30pm at LMS. Please pay yearly membership (\$36/girl). Contact Meira Friedman: 610-617-9529. Pirchei will not meet this Shabbos.

Community Announcements

GIANT FLEA MARKET! Friends of GHS is sponsoring a flea market this Sunday from 9am to 3pm at LMS. Lots of QUALITY clothing for all of your family members, athletic goods, jewelry, toys and housewares. Fabulous deals on NEW or gently used items. Rain or shine. For info, Jodi Mollinari 610- 664- 2492.
Save the date: Sunday, November 13... come cheer the GHS students and supporters as they trek from Wynnewood to Lower Merion at the annual Friends of GHS Walk-a-thon. We will be meeting at TAGHS at 11am. Sponsors welcome, please make this a success! For info, Yana Weiser 610- 617- 0505.

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<http://mail.chaseplanet.us/mailman/listinfo/yiml>