



Tiferet

ת פ א ר ת



TIFERET UPDATES

This Week in Tiferet

Always Our Students – Rav Elie Mayer, Mrs. Leba Schneider and Mrs. Karen Hochhauser are currently in Chutz La'aretz, representing Tiferet all over the country. They have also taken much time from their busy schedules to meet with our wonderful alumnae. We hope you have all enjoyed their visit and benefited from reconnecting with your teachers!

Special Guest - We were privileged this week to host a special guest speaker, Rav Eli Deutsch, noted lecturer and author who inspired our students with his words of Torah! Rav Deutsch is the author of *Shabbos Insights of the Maharal* and *Human by Choice*.

תורת תפארת

No Wasted Prayers

Rav Natanel Lebowitz (bringmashiach@gmail.com)

Parashat Vayera

This past week marked the 17th yahrzeit of Nachshon Wachsmann. I remember well when all of Am Yisrael united to daven for Nachshon to come home from his captivity. Nachshon's mother, may she live and be well, asked all Jewish women to have Nachshon in mind when they lit Shabbos candles. Unfortunately, Nachshon was murdered during the rescue attempt. During the Shiva, in response to a reporter's question about how he felt about all the tefillos that people davened for Nachshon that were apparently ignored, Nachshon's father famously said that sometimes Hashem says "No". Parents can somewhat relate to that answer. On the one hand, we always want to give our children whatever they ask for. At the same time though, we know that there are just some things that would be detrimental for them to have. The child gets upset when their request is denied, and it even may break our heart to see the children cry, but adults see a greater picture.

We cannot understand Hashem's ways. Often we daven for things and our request is denied. While it seems like we are not getting what we want, it may very well be that Hashem, our parent, is protecting us from what we do not realize.

Rav Pinkus asks that even if this theory is correct and sometimes Hashem knows that No is the best answer, what happens to those tefillos? Are they wasted? Hashem wants what is best for us but do the tefillos get thrown out the window?

When Hashem is preparing to destroy Sedom and its surrounding cities, Hashem considers that perhaps he should consult Avraham before wiping Sedom out. Why would he consult Avraham? Many would believe that the reason is that Hashem loves Avraham so much and is so close to him that He wanted to consult Avraham before performing such a cataclysmic act. Others may argue that Hashem knows that Avraham so much believed in chesed that upon hearing the news of the impending destruction, he would certainly daven to overturn the decree. However, the Torah does not give either of the aforementioned reasons as the motivation to inform Avraham. The Torah says that Hashem consulted Avraham because Avraham was going to grow into a great nation. Rav Pinkus Zt"l asks what does the fact that Avraham will one day be a great nation have to do with Hashem telling Avraham that He will destroy Sedom?

Rav Pinkus answers that Hashem knew that Avraham would daven and Hashem also knew that Avraham's tefilla would not help to save Sedom. However, even though the tefilla would not save Sedom, it would be saved in a "tefilla bank" to be used at a later time. Hashem knew that Avraham would one day be a great nation and his children



Testing, Testing

Rachel Goldstein (Tiferet 5772)

In this week's parasha, we see that *Avraham* is tested in many different ways, specifically, with sending away *Hagar* and *Yishmael* and by the *Akeida*.

Sarah told *Avraham* to send away *Hagar* and *Yishmael* because *Yishmael* was becoming a bad influence on her son, *Yitzchak*. This request bothered *Avraham*, but *Hashem* told him to listen to *Sarah*. In *Breishit* 21:14 it says; "*Va'yashkem Avraham baboker...*" and *Avraham* arose early in the morning... It seems strange that *Avraham* got up early to do a task that he didn't want to do. Sending away *Yishmael* was against everything *Avraham* stood for (*hachnasat orchim, kiruv etc*). What is the *passuk* trying to teach us?

Rav Zelig Pliskin answers that this is teaching us about a special *midah* that *Avraham* had. *Avraham* quickly go up to fulfill the wish of *Hashem*, even though he didn't want to do it. *Avraham* could have pushed it off, but instead he realized why he was placed in this world; to fulfill *Hashem's* will.

Many times in life, we don't want to do what we know is right. We have to ask ourselves, "Why am I here and what is the proper thing to do now?" Once we answer this question we should do the action *b'simcha* because we are fulfilling *Hashem's* will, even if that's not what we personally want to do.

In his sefer "Torah Gems", Rabbi Aharon Yaakov Greensburg points out that when it comes to the test of *Akedat Yitzchak*, it seems ironic that *Avraham*, the man who fought against idolaters who sacrificed their children, was now being asked to sacrifice his own child. *Avraham*, no matter how against it he may have been, realized that *Hashem* was asking him to do this, *al kiddush Hashem*. That is why *Avraham* went through with it, until the *malach* stopped him.

Through *Avraham's* numerous tests we can learn how important it is to take the tests that come into our lives and realize they are for our own good and will enhance our relationship with *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*.

MAZAL TOV!

Mazal Tov to Rachel Frankel (5770) on her engagement to **Avi Mehlon!** May they be *zochim* to build a *bayit ne'eman b'yisrael* together!

Mazal Tov to Elisheva Mayerhoff (5767) on her marriage to **Michael Klatsky!** May they be *zochim* to build a *bayit ne'eman b'yisrael* together!

תורת תפארת (המשך)

would need his *tefillos* when they are going to be in desperate times. Here was a golden opportunity to add *tefillos* to be saved to be used later by future generations. *Avraham* would pour out very strong *tefillos* to try to save *Sedom*. Since the *tefillos* will not be used for *Sedom*, they will be forwarded to be use by his future great nation.

Rav Pinkus writes that there is no such thing as a wasted *tefilla*. Even if *Hashem* has good reason to not respond affirmatively to our request, he saves that prayer and those tears for a future time that we may need them. For example, if there is a tragedy developing that we do not know about that had we known about it, we would have davened very meaningfully to stop it, then *Hashem* pulls out some old *tefillos* and applies it to that moment.

In fact, *Nachshon Wachsman's* father followed up his famous statement by saying that from what he heard about the rescue attempt, many more Jewish soldiers should have been killed. Perhaps the *tefillos* were not going to save *Nachshon* but they saved someone else's son. Mrs. *Wachsman* was very outspoken about how she supported the *Gilad Shalit* exchange despite her son's murderers being set free. I wonder if some of the *tefillos* said 17 years ago for *Nachshon* were forwarded by Mrs. *Wachsman* to help free *Gilad Shalit*.

There is no such thing as a wasted *tefilla*. Very often when we are trudging through the routine of davening, we feel like a particular *tefilla* is not such a big deal. If we are not in the best mood to daven, we will just go through the motions to be able to say that we did it, without adding any emotion or fire. Who knows if we may be missing the opportunity to make a deposit in our *tefilla* banks which we, our children, our people or our world may need at a later date.

Yehi ratzon milifnei Avinu shebashamayim that He gives us the strength to see the importance of each *tefilla* and that we see *bracha* from all our tears with the end of all pain and suffering in our world.