



Tiferet

ת פ א ר ת



TIFERET UPDATES

This Week in Tiferet

Tiferet spent a very special Shabbat in **Chevron** last week. We were privileged to stay within a short walk of **Me'arat Hamachpela**, where we were able to daven all of the Shabbat Tefillot. Rav Simcha Hochbaum gave our students an amazing tour of Chevron, teaching us about the history of Chevron, both ancient and modern. An amazing line-up of speakers such as David Wilder and Noam Arnon enriched our Shabbat even further. We left Shabbat and began our Nisan vacation on a real spiritual high!

תורת תפארת

Taking Responsibility

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Parashat Vayikra

This week, **İY"ח**, we begin reading Sefer Vayikra. Often people feel this is the most "boring" book of the Torah, as it full of dry technicalities and all of the details of the korbanot. That, however, could not be farther from the truth!

Sefer Vayikra teaches us two major lessons, each of which are still crucially important for our lives today. The first of these lessons is how to be an Am Kadosh. Imagine a child deciding at a young age that she would like to be a doctor. She plays with her doctor's kit, then grows up a little and studies science in school. When she gets to college she takes biology, anatomy, physiology and graduates, excited to practice medicine. Would any of us want her as our physician? Obviously not, because she has skipped a crucial step. She might have learned all about the body, but she does not yet know how to practically take care of it. The same holds true for Bnei Yisrael. They experienced all of the miracles of Yetziat Mitzrayim and Har Sinai. Sefer Shmot even closes with specific instructions about how to build the mishkan, so the Shchinah can dwell among Bnei Yisrael. But that is not enough. Now they are ready to take the next step in their development, and Hashem provides a sefer to tell them, and us, exactly what to do. How to be an Am Kadosh and live a lifestyle that provides a deep connection to G-d. How to treat others properly in order to be an Or Lagoyim. Sefer Vayikra is, so to speak, the medical school of Judaism, because it is chock full of all the technicalities that one needs to excel at his or her Avodat Hashem.

The second lesson is even deeper. In Sichot Mussar, Rav Chaim Shmuelevitz discusses the art of taking responsibility. He quotes the Tosefta (Brachot 4) that discusses the many reasons why Shevet Yehuda was chosen for malchut. One of them is because Shevet Yehuda was the first to go into Yam Suf when the rest of Bnei Yisrael were unwilling. Why is this important? The members of Yehuda understood that they must take responsibility for Bnei Yisrael and lead them into the sea. The mishna in Pirkei Avot (3:15) states **במקום שאין איש, השתדל להיות איש**, in a place where there are no men, strive to be a man. In other words, when the world hesitates to do what is right, one needs to emerge, take charge and be a leader. This feeling of responsibility and the need to bring

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emet into the world is the ultimate way that man and G-d can partner in their relationship.

Sefer Vayikra teaches us how to take responsibility. If we do something wrong, we bring a korban. If we need to give thanks, we bring a korban. If we work in the Mikdash it needs to be done a certain way. When we interact with our fellow man, it needs to be with outstanding midot. Why? “אני ה” and, as we represent Hashem in this world, we need to take responsibility for all we do. May the messages found within Sefer Vayikra and the beauty of Pesach mingle in our hearts to inspire us to grow as an Am Kadosh.

Wishing all of you and your families Shabbat Shalom and a Chag Kasher V'Sameach!



Nissan Tiylul to Me'arat Hanetifim!

Emunah and Pesach

Kira Lustman (Tiferet 5770, 5771)

We all have goals for ourselves, dreams we strive to achieve, and often feel that we know the path we should be taking to reach our goals. However, many times we are thrown for a detour, when it seems as though our plans are completely ruined, because events have occurred that were totally unanticipated. One understandably may feel upset, frustrated about the situation, and lost, but there is a solution that is so powerful and effective if we simply avail ourselves of it. This is where Emunah needs to kick in! The belief that although we do not always have the control we desire, Hashem knows what truly is best for us.

We may encounter some very challenging times, and it is then we question why G-d would place us in such a tough position. Yet, in a matter of days, months, or years, we will come to see that the situation we had considered to be something of a curse, was really a Bracha in disguise. The whole geula of Pesach is rooted in this theme. As Rabbi Yissocher Frand describes, the beginning of the Exodus story takes place amidst a terrifying scene, all the Jewish baby boys being thrown into the river, with little Miriam watching her baby brother Moshe in a basket on the river. To Miriam, her hope is that somehow Hashem will allow Moshe to be rescued and his life be spared. However, Miriam sees the daughter of Paroh, the one who initiated this decree, going for the basket with Moshe, which caused Miriam to be petrified. It was Miriam's hope that Moshe would be taken in by someone who would care for him, but when Miriam sees Bat Paroh taking Moshe, she is in such distress, doubt, and a feeling of complete darkness and sadness as to what would happen now seeing that her plans to save her brother were ruined.

At that instant, Miriam believed that when the Bat Paroh realized that this baby was Jewish, she would definitely fulfill her father's order and without a second thought throw Moshe into the river to die. However, shockingly, Bat Paroh takes Moshe in and cares for him, raising him. With Hashem's infinitely miraculous ways, Moshe is able to become the leader and savior of the Jewish people and take them out of Shibud (slavery) into Geula as they become Hashem's precious nation. There are always moments where we feel like we have hit a dead-end, that our best laid plans have gone awry, and that Hashem has left us alone to deal with it. However, it is precisely in those moments where the redemption is starting to occur. We may feel as though we are in the darkest of times, but we must remember that Hashem knows what the best plan is for us; even though the goal line seems farther off sometimes from where we want it to be, we need to have faith that Hashem is taking us on the optimal route to either our personal or collective geula!

Rav Moshe Tzvi Weinberg adds an incredible Chiddush: Dovid Hamelech had a very difficult life, challenge after challenge, and yet he is the one who wrote Sefer Tehillim, which is all about praising Hashem. This is because Dovid Hamelech mastered this middah of emunah, knowing that no matter how dark it seems, Hashem is always with him and will bring him the light at the end of the tunnel. In Tehillim Perek 139: Dovid Hamelech writes “Leila Kyom Yair,” that this state of being which seems like the darkest night, Hashem will turn it into the brightest of days! When Miriam sees Bat Paroh picking up her baby brother, she has to act fast and do something to try and save her brother from what seemed to her would be his certain death. So Miriam ran to Bat Paroh, trying to make this night into day. She asks if she could help find someone to nurse him -- to this, Bat Paroh gives Miriam an answer of one word, this word was “LECHI,” “Go, find someone,” and Miriam runs to get her mother. What's the significance of this one word answer? Rav Moshe Tzvi points out that LECHI (spelled Lamed, Kuf, Yud) is equal to “Layla, Keyom, Yair!” Just at that moment when it seemed like Moshe, as well as the fate of the Jewish people, was going to be thrown into the river, is when we see that Miriam steps up and gets answered “LECHI,” signifying that it is from this moment that night was turning to day, that the redemption was beginning to unfold.

This is the theme of Pesach, to have the emunah that Moshiach is on his way, and to recognize that Hashem will bring us the light even at times when it seems so dark! May we all be zoche to see the final Geula Bmheira Byameinu and be able to strengthen our faith this Pesach and take it with us for the rest of the year!