

# the SHABBAT Talk

## MAKE A NOTE OF IT

**Shabbat 28th January**  
 Alexander Reuben's Aufruf

**Tuesday Night 7th February**  
 Tu b'Shvat Fruit & Shiur  
 @ 3 Alderton Mews 8pm

**Sunday 12th February**  
 Jazz Evening - see advert

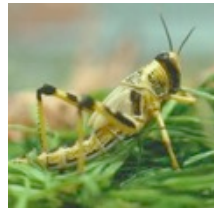
**Shabbat 25th February**  
 Ben Sanders' Bar Mitzvah

**There is Cheder this week**

PARSHAT "BO"  
 4 SHEVAT 5772 - 28 JANUARY 2012  
 FRIDAY EVENING: 7:00PM - SHABBAT MORNING: 9:00AM

THIS WEEKS' SEDRAH  
 Soncino Chumash: p377 Hertz Chumash: p248 Living Torah: p300 ArtScroll: p340  
 Haftorah:  
 Soncino Chumash: p404 Hertz Chumash: p263 Living Torah: p1103 ArtScroll: p1151

**Bo:** Hashem tells Moshe that He is hardening Pharaoh's heart, so that through miraculous plagues the world will know for all time that He is the one true G-d. Pharaoh is warned about the plague of locust and is told how severe it will be. Pharaoh agrees to release only the men, but Moshe insists that everyone must be allowed to go free. During the plague, Pharaoh calls for Moshe and Aaron to remove the locusts and he admits that he has sinned. Hashem ends the plague but hardens Pharaoh's heart, and again Pharaoh fails to free the Children of Israel.



The country, except for the Jewish People, is then engulfed in a palpable darkness. Pharaoh calls for Moshe, and tells him to take all

the Jews out of Egypt, and to leave their flocks behind. Moshe tells him that not only will they take their own flocks, but Pharaoh must add his own too. Moshe tells Pharaoh that Hashem is going to bring one more plague, the death of the first born, and then the Children of Israel will leave Egypt. Hashem again hardens Pharaoh's heart, and Pharaoh warns Moshe that if he sees him again he will be put to death.



Hashem tells Moshe that the month of Nissan will be the first month in the calendar year. The Children of Israel are commanded to take a sheep on the tenth of the month, and guard it until the fourteenth.

The sheep is then to be slaughtered as a Pesach sacrifice, its blood to be put on their door-posts, and its roasted meat to be eaten. The blood on the door-post will be a sign to Hashem, to pass over their homes when He strikes the first born of Egypt.

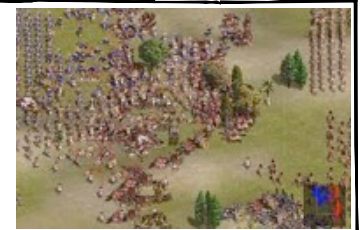
The Jewish People are told to memorialise this day as the Exodus from Egypt, by never eating chametz on Pesach. Moshe relays Hashem's commands, and the Jewish People fulfil them flawlessly. Hashem sends the final plague, killing the first born, and Pharaoh sends the Jews out of Egypt. Hashem tells Moshe and Aaron the laws concerning the Pesach sacrifice, pidyon haben (the redemption of the first born son), and tefillin.

## Shabbat Times

Shabbat Begins:  
 4:26 p.m.  
 Shabbat Ends:  
 5:33 p.m.

Next Week:  
 Shabbat Begins: 4:38 p.m.  
 Shabbat Ends: 5:44 p.m.

**This week's Haftorah** is from Jeremiah 46:13. The rise of Nevuchadnetzar and Babylon to world dominance heralded the destruction of Mitzrayim (Egypt) eight centuries after the time of the Exodus. Mitzrayim had been a dominant power in the region for many centuries and saw the decline of Israel as an opportunity to gain even greater power. Israel, concerned about her own fate in the face of Babylon's onslaught, turned to Egypt for help. Yirmiyahu had already predicted in last week's Haftorah that Bavel would turn its fury and strength against Egypt, conquering her and dispersing her inhabitants. This would force Israel to stand-alone and meet her destiny. Israel's only option for salvation would have to come from Hashem (G-d) and Hashem alone. In this week's Haftorah Yirmiyahu continues his prophecy of the destruction of Mitzrayim. This is the obvious connection to our Parsha in which the proud and arrogant Pharaoh is brought to his knees by the awesome hand of Hashem. So too, Bavel, acting as Hashem's agent, would punish Mitzrayim for her continued arrogance and pride.



The Bnai Yisroel (Jewish nation) would be directly impacted by Mitzrayim's destruction; however, they are reassured that Hashem will ultimately deliver them, so long as they keep their faith and trust in Hashem's promise.

## Pay Attention to the Details by Rabbi Berel Wein

This week's parsha is the introduction to the halachic process of observance of the commandments of the Torah. In every commandment there are numerous layers of meaning and importance. There is the social and moral value that the commandment represents and teaches. There are also the technical minutiae and complex details that comprise the fabric of every commandment.



The commandments regarding the observance of Pesach and of the structuring of the Jewish calendar are part of this week's parsha. The general values of these commandments are apparent to all. Pesach represents for us the value and concept of freedom from bondage and teaches us the beginning history of our people. The calendar has always been a necessity for social and commercial life and keeps us in tune with the changing seasons of the year.

These are the general reasons and lessons of these commandments. However, as we also all know, the devil always lies in the details. What is the mechanism that will enable the story of our departure from Egyptian slavery to freedom to remain fresh and vital thousands of years later? Values only have life if they are somehow translated into human action and normative behaviour.

Theories are wonderful but they rarely survive the tests of time and ever changing circumstances. Every scientific theory is therefore subjected to be proven by physical experiment and validation. Freedom is a great theory but unless somehow put into practical application in society it remains divorced from the realities of everyday existence. Just ask the North Koreans or the Syrians and Iranians about freedom! It is the technical requirements of the commandment – the matzo, chametz, hagadah, etc. – that alone are able to preserve the value and validate the theory and guarantee its meaningfulness for millennia on end.



The uniqueness of the Jewish calendar lies also in its technical details. The permanent calendar that we now follow, established in the fifth century CE, is a lunar calendar with adjustments to make it fit into a solar year span. The technical halachic details how the last Sanhedrin squared this circle are too numerous and detailed for the scope of this parsha sheet.

However, suffice it to say, that if not for those details and calculations our calendar would long ago have disappeared just as the ancient calendars of Egypt, Babylonia, Greece and Rome have disappeared. Many people look at calendars not as Godly commandments but as merely a practical way to mark our passage through time. Thus the details are really not important to them since we are only interested in the so-called result.

But in Judaism, the details are of equal if not even greater importance than the general value and end result that they represent. In our time, those Jews who for various reasons only concentrated on the values, who were good Jews at heart but observed no commandments or details, rarely were privileged to have Jewish descendants.

Of course concentrating only on the details and ignoring the value system that it represents is also a distortion of the Godly word. Seeing both the general value of a commandment and observing its necessary technical details in practice is the guarantee for allowing the Torah to survive amongst the people of Israel for all times.

Something to think about.... Shabbat Shalom

**Thank you to:**

Shirley Lane for organising the showing of "Paperclips" on Holocaust Memorial Day.  
A fantastic turnout.

Everybody found it extremely moving. You couldn't hear a pin drop when it finished.

A lovely community spirit.

The new format **Shalom Magazine** has proven to be very popular. Once again we are requesting that members contribute articles of Jewish, Zionist or other themes featuring interesting experiences, reflections or trips for the Pesach edition. Please forward your proposed article to: Michael Newman [michaelhnewman49@aol.com](mailto:michaelhnewman49@aol.com)

**This Pesach send a "Chag Sameach" message to the whole community!**

Personal Yomtov Greetings £10 - 1/4 page, £25 - 1/2 page and £40 for a full page. Commercial Adverts £25 - 1/2 page and £40 for a full page. Please submit your advert or message to Michael Newman [michaelhnewman49@aol.com](mailto:michaelhnewman49@aol.com)

**We need your article/advert by Thursday March 15th to ensure it gets into this edition.**

**THOSE OBSERVING YAHRZEIT IN THE COMING WEEK:**

3 Shevat [27 January] Mr Ian Levene for his mother ה"ע Bloomah bat Shlomo  
 5 Shevat [29 January] Mrs Blanche Shaw for her son ה"ע  
 Mr Phillip Shaw for his brother ה"ע  
 Mr Warren Shaw for his brother ה"ע  
 6 Shevat [30 January] Mr Geoffrey Wrightman for his mother ה"ע Sophia bas Avram Chaim Yaakov Berel  
 Mrs Avril Trainis for Yosef ben Avraham ה"ע  
 Mrs Sandra Lorraine for his mother ה"ע Tsirrell bas Shneur Zalman HaLevi  
 7 Shevat [31 January] Mrs Norma Kashket for her father ה"ע Mordecai ben Yisrael  
 8 Shevat [1 February] Mr Stephen Franklin for his father ה"ע  
 Mrs Shirley Leach for her mother ה"ע Rachel bas Beryl  
 9 Shevat [2 February] Mrs Dawn Allen for her sister ה"ע

**PLEASE HELP PERPETUATE AND RESPECT THE MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES BY ENSURING THAT KADDISH IS SAID FOR THEM ON THE APPROPRIATE DATE AND ON THE SHABBAT PRECEDING THE YAHRZEIT.**



**Children's Service @ Loughton!**  
 on the first Shabbat of each month, there is a children's service on Shabbat Morning  
**10:30am - 11:30am.**  
 Followed by a sweets kiddush (and Cholent for the adults!)  
**KIDDIES DAVENING - FUN - GAMES - ACTIVITIES**

Next Shiur is on the 9th of February!

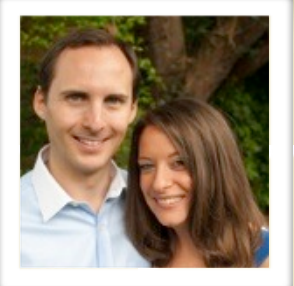
Join us for an in depth parsha shiur  
 Every Thursday evening at 8:pm  
 Rabbi Aronovitz gives a 45 minute interactive, contemporary and in-depth study on the week's parsha.  
 3 Alderton Mews  
**No experience necessary!**

**Shiurim**  
**Discuss - Learn - Grow**  
**@ 8 p.m.**  
 @ Dennis & Shelley Posner 67 Church Lane  
 The Written Word & The Jewish Library - Torah, Mishna, Talmud, Medrash and Shulchan Aruch - What are they?  
**13 February 2012**  
 Zionism and the rabbis why were some pro and others anti?  
**27 February 2012**

See you there **BRING A FRIEND**

<b>Security Rota:</b>	Friday 27th.	Saturday 28th
	Dave Newman Doug Adams	Ralph Lasky Craig Tiller

Have you visited the new up-to-date website?  
[www.loughtonsynagogue.com](http://www.loughtonsynagogue.com)



**Alexander Reuben & Lauren Posner** **MAZEL TOV!**

Mazel Tov to Ian Reuben & Inez Benjamin & Shelley and Dennis Posner on the occasion of Alexander Reuben's Aufruf and forthcoming marriage to Lauren Posner  
 Mazel tov to Lewis Posner and to Jade Reuben and to honoured grandparents

To celebrate Alexander's Aufruf, the families take great pleasure in inviting the congregation to a Kiddush after the service.

We wish you and your extended family much nachas and joy.