

Thought of the Week

Moshe faces a crisis of faith at the onset of this week's parsha. He apparently has made no headway with and little impression on the Pharaoh of Egypt. The situation of the Jewish slaves has worsened considerably and the leaders of the people place blame upon Moshe for that situation.

So, Moshe is apparently unsuccessful with the Pharaoh and unsuccessful with the Jewish people all at one and the same time. Is it any wonder that Moshe complains to the Lord about this mission which, he now reiterates, he wishes to abandon? And even though the Torah does not state so in so many specific words, it is obvious that Moshe, so to speak, is disappointed in God as well.

The Lord patiently sends him back to his task and reassures him that all will yet turn out well for him and his people. And by the end of the parsha, we find Moshe in full strength and confidence delivering his message of redemption to Pharaoh and to the Jewish people.

This crisis of faith has somehow passed, though we do not find that Moshe's earlier concerns have been addressed. The Lord merely reiterates the message that Moshe has already heard from Him a number of times. Yet Moshe is revitalized now that he hears God's promise once again, of Jewish redemption from Egyptian bondage.

Repeated promises rarely if ever inspire. So what causes this change of spirit and attitude within Moshe's thoughts and actions? What is the catalyst for his new found optimism and boldness of speech and purpose?

I have often felt that it was the very crisis of faith that Moshe endured that was the main contributing factor to his future steadfastness and strength of purpose. Only someone who has experienced doubt can truly come to faith.

The Lord created a world that tests our faith in Him daily. Life automatically introduces doubt into our existence. It is in dealing with our omnipresent doubts, with the unfairness of life itself and with the illogic and irrationality of it all that one achieves the plateau of faith and spiritual strength. Only the doubter can become a strong believer.

It is Moshe's crisis of faith that now anneals and strengthens his belief in his mission as the savior of Israel from Egyptian bondage. The rabbis stated that, "All things are in the hand of Heaven, except for fear and belief in Heaven itself." Therefore the Lord, so to speak, does not respond to Moshe's complaints directly. He does not explain to Moshe why the process of redemption has seemingly taken on such a difficult and negative turn. The Lord makes no excuses for what has occurred. He only tells Moshe to keep on persevering and redemption will eventually arrive.

Moshe has to overcome his crisis of faith on his own. There is no one that can help make one believe except for the person himself. This is probably the most important message that one can derive from the study of this week's parsha.

Adapted from <http://www.rabbiwein.com/Weekly-Parsha/2010/12/505.html> by Rabbi Berel Wein

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

בס"ד

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Parshas Vaera
Dec 31 - Jan 1

פרשת וארא
כ"ה טבת



Shabbos Schedule *Mevorchim haChodesh*



Candle lighting:	4:27pm
Mincha - Friday:	4:27pm
Parsha Chaburah by Reuven Kovacs:	7:55am
Rabbi's Mishlei Shiur:	8:15am
Shacharis:	8:45am
Sof Zman Krias Shema:	9:43am
Kiddush is community sponsored.	
Mincha:	4:20pm
Special Shiur by Rabbi Steinberg on The Holy Letter of Rebbe Shimshon: A Study of the Ten Plagues	
Medical Halacha Shiur given by Dr Daniel Eisenberg.	
Maariv:	5:31pm



▪ Mazel Tov to Russel and Cathy Lyons on the naming of their granddaughter, Shifra Lyons.

Weekday Davening Times

Shacharis:	Sunday:	8:00am
	Monday:	6:40am
	Thursday (Rosh Chodesh):	6:30am
	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:	6:50am
Mincha/Maariv:	Sunday:	4:35pm
Maariv:	Monday through Thursday:	7:45pm
Mincha and Candle Lighting	Friday:	4:33pm

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:	Thursday at 10:10pm

Check with Dr Daniel Eisenberg to confirm.

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

Women's Learning Experience - Winter Session

Mon at 10:15am: Tehillim for Cholim.
Mon at 10:45am: Rabbi Greenspan - Parsha haShavua.
Tues at 9:30am: Rabbi Shmidman - Sefer Tehillim, at LMS.
Tues at 8:00pm: Stacey Goldman - The Imahot, at the Werrin home, 161 Highland Circle, Bala.
Wed at 9:00am: Rachael Biberfeld - Michtav m'Eliyahu.
Thu at 9:30am: Rabbi Steinberg - Chazon Ish: Faith and Trust.
All classes at 8 Concord Circle, unless otherwise noted. For information or free babysitting, call Janis Fine 610-888-0477.

To subscribe to the YIML email list, visit
<http://mail.chaseplanet.us/mailman/listinfo/yiml>

Bnos of Bala Cynwyd from 2:45 to 3:45pm at LMS. Contact Meira Friedman 610-617-9529 for information.

Pirchei of Bala Cynwyd from 2:45 to 3:45pm at LMS in the Social Hall. Contact Rabbi Ari Silver at 610-6686-6833.

Dear Members and Friends of Young Israel of the Main Line, I am pleased to announce that, be"H, I hope to be publishing a sefer in the near future.

I am most grateful, and feel uniquely privileged, for the profound Torah thirst of the Shul and community which I have the merit to serve. Our members' unending love of Torah has encouraged me over the years to give shiurim and lectures on numerous and varied Torah subjects.

The content of this Hebrew sefer will be based on some of those shiurim given at YIML – some originally delivered as ongoing series and others as special lectures on Shabbosos and Yomim Tovim, etc. There will be a section on the laws of tzedaka, another on the laws of damages (nizkei mammon), and another section containing miscellaneous halachic and aggadic insights, and some Rabbinic correspondences.

Dedications for the sefer are available and will serve as a fundraiser for YIML. Dedication texts can be in Hebrew or English. Texts can be e-mailed to me at rabbi@yiml.org and the monies can be sent to the Shul or given to Sid Laytin. (Checks should be made to the Young Israel of the Main Line, and have a memo: "Sefer Dedication.")

Half page: \$250 Full page: \$500

Thank you very much, and may the love of Torah continue to grow and radiate in our community. Warmly, Rabbi Steinberg

Updated Kiddush Options and Prices:

Basic kiddush with veggie cholent: \$225 and a bottle of booze
Upgrade to meat cholent: + \$50
Kugels: + \$54
Platters (Vegetables, Israeli Salads, or Fruit): + \$48 each
Sheet Cake: + \$36