

L'Chaim



Living with the Rebbe



This week's Torah portion, Pinchas, discusses how the land of Israel was apportioned among the tribes: "The land will be divided for an inheritance...to the large tribe you will give the more inheritance, and to the small you will give the less inheritance... nevertheless, through the lot the land will be divided."

From these verses we see that the land of Israel was divided up in two distinct ways: first, according to the logical, particular needs of each tribe, and second, according to lot.

The Book of Joshua mentions yet another method by which it was determined where each tribe dwelt -- "according to the word of G-d."

The High Priest, through his gift of prophecy, would consult the miraculous Urim and Tumim on his breastplate to ascertain the portion of each tribe. Interestingly, each of these three methods yielded exactly the same result!

For the inheritance of each tribe, and by extension, every Jew, is Divinely determined and carries deep spiritual significance.

Each way of apportioning the land, therefore, whether logically acceptable to the rational mind or supernatural, was but one means of determining the underlying absolute truth.

But if all three methods led to the same outcome, why does the Torah conclude that "nevertheless, through the lot shall the land be divided"?

The answer lies in the fact that these words refer not only to the first apportionment of land in the time of Moses, but to the division of the land among the entire Jewish people that will take place in the Messianic Era, when all Jews will return to the Holy Land.

At that time, may it come speedily, the land will be divided solely according to Divinely-ascertained lot, and not according to any other method.

The underlying principle behind the terms "inheritance" and "apportionment" is that a Jew can take a plot of ground that was formerly pagan and elevate it into "the land upon which the eyes of G-d perpetually gaze." The power to make such a transformation can come only from G-d, as He is the only One capable of effecting such a radical change. Indeed, according to human logic and understanding, such a transformation would be impossible!

Thousands of years ago, the first division of land was carried out in a manner in which G-d's supernatural Will was clothed in human understanding.

In the Messianic Era, the G-dliness hidden within all of creation will be uncovered, obvious to the human eye; there will be no need to resort to our limited understanding to arrive at ultimate truth.

At that time, therefore, the land of Israel will be apportioned solely according to Divine lot.

It Pays To Be Thorough

You're expecting some guests.

You clean the bathroom, straighten out the books on the bookshelf, dust the furniture, and hide all the bits and pieces in your junk drawer and clutter closet. Everything looks fine from the outside.

And then, like a bolt of lightning, it hits you. How could you have forgotten that among the guests will be your mom, a neat-nut if you ever saw one? Just doing the outside, surface stuff won't be enough.

So you start cleaning a little more seriously. You clean out the fridge, straighten up your bedroom (you were just planning on closing the door), and wash out the bathtub. Then run to get some of Mom's provisions: decaffeinated tea, bran flakes, and spring water.

"Next year in Jerusalem" "I believe with perfect faith..." smashing a glass under the chupa... At different moments in our lives, consciously or unconsciously, we have prayed for the Redemption.

Throughout our lives, the mitzvot we have done have helped to hasten the Redemption--the ultimate purpose for the creation of the world. Our mitzvot--those between ourselves and G-d and those between ourselves and our fellowmen--have been effecting spiritual changes in the world which will eventually lead to the spiritual and physical perfection of the world in the Messianic Era.

What does all of this have to do with guests and cleaning?

In our regular day-to-day lives, we straighten a little, take the garbage out, load up the dishwasher, do the laundry. We listen to a friend's tale of woe, give a coin to a street person, visit a sick friend, drive the kids to Hebrew school.

At special times, when "guests" are coming, we clean a little more vigorously and straighten a bit more enthusiastically. We go to a seder, light a Chanuka menorah, hear the sounding of the shofar.

Then, there's now. Not just any guest is coming, a very close relative will be arriving soon. And special measures need to be taken. We know we need to clean the insides--the insides of our fridge and the inside of the tub. We go beyond the closed doors of our bedrooms and closets and straighten those up, too.

A special guest will be arriving soon, a close relative to every one of us--Moshiach. It should hit us like a bolt of lightning: We have to do more than we've done in the past. We have to clean up the insides and behind the closed doors. We have to do more mitzvot, go to classes, read about Moshiach and the Redemption.

We have to go out of our way to have in our house the "necessities" that this special guest would like to see there: mezuzot on our doors, Jewish books, a tzedaka box in a place of importance.

And we have to try to live like the Redemption is already here by being kinder, more considerate, less competitive, more truthful.

Slice of Life

Book It

by Tzvi Jacobs

It was 1999 and internet commerce was in its infancy. Six years earlier, I had received a blessing from the Lubavitcher Rebbe to publish a collection of my stories. I decided it was worth it for me to try to find a printer for my book on-line. I filled out a form and listed the specifications. During the next four weeks, I received quotes from six printing houses in the United States and one in Canada. The best price came from Canada.

I called the Canadian print house. The cover thickness, the paper, the binding, everything sounded top quality - and the American dollar could buy more in Canada. Canada was the place to print. "What do I do next?"

"There's also shipping," the man said with a flat voice. "\$1400."

"\$1400! You're kidding, aren't you?" I asked.

"We're in Winnipeg. It's 1260 miles from here to your door in Morristown, New Jersey."

I waited but no other bids came in from Canada. Maybe there was a printer in Canada a bit closer, like around Montreal, I wondered. I knew one person in Montreal, Rabbi Ronnie Fine, the Rebbe's emissary in Queen Mary, Montreal.

"Do you know anyone who owns a printing house?" I asked.

"Sorry, I can't help you there," Rabbi Fine said. "Actually, there's a printing agent. He handles some of our printing jobs. His name is also Jacobs, Lorne Jacobs. Maybe you're related."

"I doubt it, our name was originally Karesh. Is Lorne Jacobs involved in your Chabad House?"

"No. He politely says that he's not interested. But he makes sure the jobs are high quality and he gets us good prices. I'll give you his number."

Even though it was a Sunday morning, I left a brief message on Mr. Jacobs answering machine. That afternoon I received a call from a man with a distinctive Canadian English accent. "I understand that you want to print a 200-page hardcover book with library binding and a four-color book jacket, and-"

I was confused. I hadn't left those details on his answering machine this morning.

"I haven't checked today's messages yet," said Mr. Jacobs.

Now I was really confused. "So how do you know all those details?" I asked.

"I picked up this information from the internet a few weeks ago and then misplaced it. A few minutes ago I opened a folder and there it was. Hold on." Lorne played my message. "This is too uncanny! And we share the same last name. Quite a coincidence."

"Right, but nothing happens by accident, it's all orchestrated to the most minute detail by One Above! In fact, that's the theme of every story in my book."

I emailed the file of the book to Lorne. He called back two days later. "You know, it's your fault that I overslept this morning and missed an appointment," Lorne said with the voice of a teacher scolding a student. (He later told me that he was a retired college chemistry teacher.)

"Because of me?"

"Yes, I started reading your stories last night and Rhona, my wife, heard me laughing and crying. So she read the next story out loud and I read the next one. We couldn't go to sleep until we finished the book. I've read a lot of books - you're an excellent story teller."

"Thank you, but believe me, you should see my first drafts. My wife tears them up. Speaking of which, she wants to know when can we go to print?"

"Hold on. I see that you have never printed a book. Do you have an ISBN number? You need a barcode. And what's going to go on the inside flaps of your back jacket, and on the book cover itself..."

Lorne and I spoke almost every evening. He re-read the stories and asked questions about Divine Providence, do you really believe that G-d wrote the Bible and that the world was created in six days, don't you believe in evolution, if G-d is in charge why the Holocaust, are Jews better than Gentiles... The questions didn't end.

"If you're going to put so much effort and money into this book," Lorne said, "it has to look first class. I know you have no money to hire a professional typesetter. Let me see what I can do."

Day after day, story after story, Lorne tweaked every story, nearly every line of the book. The book became a labor of love and a journey to discover his own Jewish roots. One mitzva (commandment) at a time, Lorne and Rhona made their kitchen kosher, lit Shabbat candles and said the Kiddush prayer on a glass of wine, studied Torah and Chasidic teachings, until they blossomed into fully-observant Jews.

Lorne oversaw every step of the publishing and printing of the hardcover edition of my book From the Heavens to

the Heart. He found even a better price than the Winnipeg printer and shipping was two-thirds less. And when the inside flaps of the full color book jacket didn't fold exactly right, Lorne made sure all 3000 copies were reprinted. "A book with the Rebbe's blessing must be perfect," Lorne said.

These days, if you visit Chabad Queen Mary in Montreal on Shabbat, listen out for a voice that resonates with authority: "Please turn to page 200 and rise for Aleinu." That man with the smile - that's Shimon Leib - Lorne - Jacobs, Rabbi Fine's right hand man.

Tzvi Jacobs lives with his family in Monsey, New York and works as a medical writer at Purdue Pharmaceuticals. In his spare time, Tzvi writes stories.

SING IN THE NIGHT

We are currently in the period of mourning for the destruction of the Holy Temples in Jerusalem known as the "Three Weeks." It began this past Tuesday on the 17th of Tammuz and continues through the 9th of Av - "Tisha B'Av" (June 25 - July 16, this year).

If, G-d forbid, Moshiach has not come by Tisha B'Av, we will read the book of Lamentations (Eicha) on that day. In Lamentations it says, "Come and sing in the night." Chassidic interpretation explains this to mean that during the "night" of exile one can come and sing; despite the fact that it is dark.

The beauty and specialness of the Jewish people is that we can find reasons to "sing" in the night. While the whole world is enveloped in total darkness, we find a reason to sing.

What exactly is that reason? We view the darkness of night, the darkness which surrounds us, as if it were a tunnel. At the end of every tunnel, no matter how long, there is a light shining bright. And it is because of the fact that we are surrounded by the darkness of the tunnel that we can see the brightness of the light at the end. We realize, too, the darker the tunnel, the closer we are to the light at the end.

When the redemption and Moshiach will come, these days are going to be filled with the light of joy and happiness and glory. This is what we are waiting for, what we are hoping for. This is the reason we can and must sing and dance in the night. After all, we are already at the end of the tunnel.

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

Friday, 28 June 2013 – 20 Tammuz 5773

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Candle Lighting | 4:34 pm |
| Mincha | 4:45 pm |
| 'Bein Hashmoshos' L'Chaim (<i>Bochurim's apartment</i>) | 5:30 pm |
| Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv | 6:30 pm |
| Children Service | 6:45 pm |

Shabbat, 29 June 2013 – 21 Tammuz 5773

Parshat Pinchas

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Shiur on Chassidic Thought | 8:30 am |
| Morning Service | 9:30 am |
| Children Service | 11:00 am |
| <i>Kiddush following the service.</i> | |

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| Shiur with Rabbi Zalman Kastel | 4:00 pm |
| Mincha – followed by Seuda Shlishit | 4:30 pm |
| <i>Insights into Pirkei Avot chapter 1, by Eyal Dorfan</i> | |
| Maariv (Shabbat ends) | 5:37 pm |
| <i>Followed by 'Living Torah' multimedia presentation, featuring a discourse of the Rebbe.</i> | |

YAHRTZEITS

Wishing those commemorating Yahrzeits, a long and good life.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Roselyn Reichman | 26 Tammuz |
| Grandfather – Betzalel ben Tzvi Hirsch | |

MAZAL TOVS

Happy Birthday to...

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Jacky Stock | 21 Tammuz |
| Eyal Dorfan | 21 Tammuz |
| Olga Berkovsky | 22 Tammuz |
| Michael Ross | 24 Tammuz |
| Prem Toocaram | 25 Tammuz |
| Joel Ginges | 26 Tammuz |
| Mark Treisman | 27 Tammuz |

Happy Bat Mitzvah Anniversary to...

Sofia Parker

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Sunday/Public Holidays

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Shacharit | 8:30 am |
| Mincha and Maariv | 4:30 pm |

Monday-Friday

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Shacharit | 6:30 am |
| Maariv | 7:30 pm |

ONGOING WEEKLY CLASSES

| | |
|--|---------|
| TALMUD STUDY GROUP | 9:15 am |
| Sunday mornings, with Rabbi Nochum Schapiro | |
| TANYA STUDY GROUP | 8:15 pm |
| Monday evenings with Rabbi Nochum Schapiro at the home of Yehoshua & Tzivia Israel 20 Yarrabung Road, St Ives | |
| WISE WORDS & WHISKY | 8:00 pm |
| Wednesday evenings, with Rabbi Moshe Angyalfi | |
| CHASSIDIC THOUGHT | 8:30 am |
| Shabbat mornings, with Rabbi Nochum Schapiro | |
| WEEKLY INSIGHTS WITH RABBI KASTEL | 4:00 pm |
| Shabbat afternoons | |

starting 22 July



**IF YOU CAN'T
READ THIS,
YOU NEED...
CLASSES**

NEWS AND SHMOOZE

MAZAL TOV

Mazal Tov to **Shawn and Mandy Rogut** on the occasion of **Nathan's Bar Mitzvah** this week.

We welcome the family and friends joining us for Shabbat: proud siblings Ella and Seth; grandparents Charles Rogut, Norman and Rocky Goldfoot (London); uncles and aunts Barbie and David Barzalai and family (Hong Kong), Nadine and Rick (London), Brian and Samantha Rogut and family, Craig Rogut, cousins Denise Berman and family (Melbourne).

GREAT JOB BOYS

What a fantastic job the post Bar Mitzvah boys did last week. The Topsy Turvey Youth Shabbat held last week was a great success. From leading the service, delivering the sermon, announcements, call-ups and questions etc. etc. Thank you boys for your contribution and we look forward to your continuous involvement in the future.

PUSHKAH'S

One of the best ways to give Tzedakah (Charity) is give a small amount on a consistent daily basis. At Chabad we have distributed Tzedakah boxes (Pushkah's) to many of you in the past, and we ask you to please come forward and let us know when your box is full so we can organise a collection, and replace it with a new one.

If you have a Pushkah in need of collection, or would like a new one please contact Tony Mitchell or Chanoch Sufrin.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

As mentioned last week, as the financial year comes to a close, we are turning to you, our members for assistance with a major leaking problem on the top floor. The repairs will cost \$24,000. This cannot wait, we only have very temporary materials in place to ensure no further damage to the bedrooms on the top floor.

These donations will be tax-deductible, and now before the end of the financial year is the perfect time to contribute.

We have already received over \$3000 and appeal to you to consider a donation of any amount, large or small.

Please contact Tony Mitchell, Reuel Kofsky or Chanoch Sufrin if you at all able to assist.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Kiddush and Yigdal will be recited by our Bar Mitzvah **Nathan Rogut**.

KIDDUSH

This week's Kiddush is kindly sponsored by the **Shawn and Mandy Rogut** and family in honour of Nathan's Bar Mitzvah.

SPECIAL EVENT

Touching upon the interface of religion and politics. Dr David Adler will be introducing and presenting a DVD featuring expert commentators on the changing social demographics of Europe. These commentators have had substantial media coverage throughout the western world. A major theme will be the impact of Islamic immigration and what it means for Western societies.

One of the effects of the changing demographics has been a significant rise in anti-Semitic events in Europe with many reports of Jews feeling unsafe in the areas in which they live.

Are we witnessing in action the beginning of the statement in the Haggadah ...? עומדים עלינו לכלותנו - "However in every generation they rise up against us to annihilate us."

Date: Saturday 13 July, 2013

Time: Commencing 7:30pm to approx. 9:45pm

Place: Chabad North Shore, 27 College Cres, St Ives

Coffee, tea & light refreshments

Note: Chabad North Shore does not endorse or take responsibility for the content of this presentation.

It Happened Once

When the stranger entered the little synagogue, the regulars were curious - who was he and why had he come to their town. But he was in a great hurry and so, he was relieved to see a quorum of men already assembled, ready to begin the morning prayers. There was no rabbi there, and not wanting to wait, the stranger ascended the bima. The "regulars" were surprised and offended that this unknown man presumed to lead the prayers. After all, who was this fellow, who didn't even have the courtesy to wait a few minutes for the rabbi or the president of the congregation?

The stranger had already begun the morning service when the president arrived. Seeing a stranger at the bima, he rushed up to him and said, "What a chutzpa! Who do you think you are to begin the prayers before the rabbi or I have arrived!" And he continued berating the man in this fashion.

The stranger, however, just kept silent. But his refusal to respond infuriated the president even more and he blurted out, "Don't you see who's speaking to you?"

Finally the stranger replied in a quiet voice, "You also do not see to whom you are speaking."

No sooner had those words been uttered than everything went dark before the president's eyes. He rushed to a doctor, then to a specialist - to several specialists - but no one could find a cause for his sudden blindness. He tried every treatment that was suggested to him, but nothing proved a cure.

Then, it dawned upon him: when had his blindness begun? After he had angry words with the stranger in the shul. Undoubtedly he had offended a hidden tzadik with his words, and this was the consequence of his anger.

In despair, he decided to travel to the Baal Shem Tov. He had heard about this great tzadik; maybe he could help.

"Rebbe, I have heard that you can perform miracles. I have been blind since I angered a certain hidden tzadik. My problem is that I don't know who he is or where I can find him."

The Baal Shem Tov replied, "The man is my disciple, Reb Yaakov Koppel, and you sinned against him with your angry speech. Go to him and beg his forgiveness. If he forgives you, your blindness will be cured."

The man indeed traveled to Reb Yaakov, who accepted his apology. His sight returned as quickly as it had vanished.

The morning prayers had just ended. The Baal Shem Tov, who was an esteemed visitor in the town, was about to wash his hands before partaking of a meal, when a distraught woman approached him. She had waited throughout the whole service and could contain herself no longer.

"Rebbe! My husband has been missing for a very long time. I have done everything I can think of to try to find him, but I have no idea where he went. What will happen to me? Please, Rebbe, help me find him," the woman wept.

The Baal Shem Tov stood there, his washing cup poised to pour water on his hands in preparation for the blessing on bread, but instead of continuing, he stopped and responded to the woman.

"You will find your husband in the city of M."

Infused with new hope, the woman departed. But the rabbi of the

city, who had heard a great deal about the Baal Shem Tov, had been watching the exchange. Now he had what seemed to him to be a serious question of Jewish law.

"I beg your pardon," began the rabbi, "I was watching your exchange with the woman, and it seems to me that you were saying words of prophecy to her. If that was true, I think you were required to have washed your hands before speaking."

The Baal Shem Tov responded to the rabbi with a question: "If you saw chickens suddenly fluttering about your table set with expensive glassware, what would your reaction be? I think you would automatically reach out to chase them away."

The rabbi acquiesced, but he clearly was not following the Baal Shem Tov's logic.

"I did what came naturally to me," the Baal Shem Tov continued. "I saw standing before me a woman who was in utter despair almost to the breaking point. I knew where her husband was. Do you imagine that I should have continued washing my hands while she stood suffering before my eyes?"

MOSHIACH MATTERS

In this week's Torah portion we read, "G-d said... 'take the sum of all the congregation of the Children of Israel from 20 years and upward.'" (Num. 26:1,2) The Midrash explains that the Jewish people have been counted nine times; the tenth and final census will be taken in the Messianic Era. This will be done either by Moshiach - according to the Aramaic translation and commentary of Rabbi Yonatan ben Uziel, or by G-d Himself - according to the Midrash.

(Lubavitcher Rebbe, Shabbat Chukat 5750)

Upcoming Week

Friday, 5 July 2013 – 27 Tammuz 5773

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Candle Lighting | 4:37 pm |
| Mincha | 5:00 pm |
| 'Bein Hashmoshos' L'Chaim (<i>Bochurim's apartment</i>) | 5:30 pm |
| Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv | 6:30 pm |
| Children Service | 6:45 pm |

Shabbat, 6 July 2013 – 28 Tammuz 5773

Parshat Matot-Massei, Shabbat Chazzak

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Tehillim | 8:00 am |
| Shiur on Chassidic Thought | 8:30 am |
| Morning Service | 9:30 am |
| Children Service | 11:00 am |
| <i>Kiddush following the service.</i> | |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Shiur with Rabbi Zalman Kastel | 4:00 pm |
| Mincha – followed by Seuda Shlishit | 4:30 pm |
| <i>Insights into Pirkei Avot chapter 2</i> | |
| Maariv (Shabbat ends) | 5:40 pm |
| <i>Followed by 'Living Torah' multimedia presentation, featuring a discourse of the Rebbe.</i> | |

What Page?

| | ArtScroll | Gutnick |
|----------------|-----------|---------|
| PARSHAH/MAFTIR | 876 | 1040 |
| HAFTORAH | 1190 | 1460 |

Please respect others by remaining quiet throughout the Torah reading.

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PLEASE DO NOT TAKE HOME THE 'L'CHAIM' ON SHABBAT.

Dedicated to
Nathan Rogut
On the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah