

Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA

SECOND EDITION / ISSUE 1

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BERESHIT

24th Tishri 5775

Kohen - First Aliya: Page 1, Chapter 1, verses 1-13

- ✚ Hashem starts creating the Heaven and the Earth by uttering those famous words 'Let There Be Light'
- ✚ On the 2nd day the firmament is fixed in place by separating the water which was covering the entire earth.
- ✚ Dry Land appears on the 3rd day as grass; different types of trees and plant life are produced.

Levi - Second Aliya: Page 4, Chapter 1, verses 14-23

- ✚ On the 4th day, Hashem placed the Sun, moon and stars into the sky to distinguish the night from the day.
- ✚ The 5th day saw Fish being introduced to the oceans and seas, Insect life on the ground and the creation of Birds to fly in the sky.

Sh'lishi - Third Aliya: Page 5, Chapter 1, verse 24- Chapter 2, verse 3

- ✚ The 6th day saw the creation of the rest of the animal kingdom.
- ✚ The final thing Hashem fashioned was an image of himself; 'Man'
- ✚ Hashem then rests on the 7th day and sanctifies it as the Sabbath.

R'VI' - Fourth Aliya: Page 8, Chapter 2, verse 4- Chapter 3, verse 21

- ✚ 'Man' who Hashem called Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden where he was given the task to name every living creature that Hashem created.
- ✚ While Adam slept, Hashem took one of his ribs and formed 'Woman' who Adam named as Chava. (Eve)
- ✚ Hashem tests both Adam and Chava to see if they would listen and comply with his command of not eating the fruit from the tree in the centre of the garden. Unfortunately due to the trickery of a serpent that convinced Chava that no harm would be done if indeed the fruit was partaken. Adam and Chava failed the trial and because of their shame and embarrassment, tried to hide themselves away but the all-knowing Hashem finds them and chastises them accordingly.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya: Page 16, Chapter 3, verse 22- Chapter 4, verse 26

- ✚ As punishment for eating the forbidden fruit, Hashem banishes them from the Garden of Eden.
- ✚ Kayin (Cain) and Hevel (Abel) are born.
- ✚ Kayin murders his brother Hevel because he was jealous of the fact that Hashem declined his Korbanas (sacrifice) and accepted Hevel's instead. Kayin tries to deceive Hashem, claiming that he was not his brother's keeper when questioned by Hashem of Hevel's whereabouts.

Shishi - Sixth Aliya: Page 21, Chapter 5, verses 1-24

- ✚ The Torah now starts going through the lineage of Adam via the descendants of Adam's and Chava's third child Shais (Seth)

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya: Page 24, Chapter 5, verse 25- Chapter 6, verse 8

- ✚ Noach (Noah is born) and later has three sons Shem, Ham and Japheth.
- ✚ Immorality and violence is now rife amongst all the men and women at this time and Hashem is beginning to regret having created the human race and decides to wipe them out completely.
- ✚ Hashem finds favour and grace with Noach and decides to give Mankind a second chance.

Haftorah – Page 27, YISHAYAH (ISAIAH) Chapter 42 verse 5 to Chapter 43 verse 10

OVERVIEW:

- ✚ Hashem speaks to the Navi (prophet) Yishayah (Isaiah), reminding him of his life's purpose and duty, namely that of arousing the Jewish people to return to being a light unto the nations in order to be ready to receive the coming of Mashiach,
- ✚ The prophecy then continues with a discussion regarding this great event to celebrate the start of the 'Final Redemption' The Messianic Era, and the song that all of creation will sing united to Hashem on that day.
- ✚ Hashem would then fulfil his promises to punish all the nations that have persecuted Israel during the time while they were in golus (exile).
- ✚ Yishayah also rebukes Israel for their sinful ways, but assures them that they will return to the correct path and will be redeemed.

LINK TO SEDRA READING:

- ✚ There are two main connections between the Sedra of Beraishis and the Haftorah.
- ✚ The first is the creation itself. Yishayah is reminding us that Hashem is the Creator of the world and that the miracle of the creation itself did not just happen the once but is constantly being updated and recreated on a daily basis.
- ✚ Secondly We as Human beings are the only living creature to have the ability and power to decide what is right and what is wrong and to choose to act accordingly.
- ✚ Therefore Yishayah stresses to us that as Hashem has chosen us The Jewish Nation to be "A light for all nations" it is vital that we should be very vigilant and choose and act the right way in order to set an example to the other nations so that they too can hopefully follow in our footsteps in order that they can also become closer to Hashem.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION: What we can learn from this week's Parsha

The episode related to Kayin and Hevel has many messages, but I think the main theme demonstrates how dangerous carrying a grudge and harbor bitter feelings against others can be; as it can easily lead to horrific consequences. Tragically Kayin killed his own brother because he was jealous of him. Hashem had accepted Hevel's offering, but rejected Kayin's.

The Torah tells us that Hashem was unhappy with Kayin's Korban (sacrifice), but not the reason why. Our sages demonstrates one possible reason for the rejection. Hashem did not discard Kayin's Korban per se. He did so because of the manner in which Kayin presented it .Hevel brought the best of his flock (the firstborn) whereas Kayin just brought what he had on hand at the time. The amount and quality of the Korban each brother was willing to offer was much less for Kayin than it was for Hevel.

What I find fascinating is the similarities and differences in the wrongful actions of both Adam eating the forbidden fruit and Kayin's sinful act. The character differences between the two are evident. Adam had to be persuaded to sin by his wife Chava (Eve) while Kayin could not be dissuaded, even by Hashem himself. Secondly, Adam told the truth about his sin when confronted by Hashem, whereas Kayin lied and even tried to make a joke about it. "How should I know where he is? I'm not my brother's keeper". Finally, Adam accepted, with respect Hashem's decree and punishment of banishing him from Gan Eden (The Garden of Eden) while Kayin argued with Hashem and refused to accept any responsibility for his actions.

There are many lessons to learn from this but the main one for me is to try and follow in the footsteps of Adam. Yes! We all do bad things at times but it's what you do next which is important. As we've just learnt over the past few weeks during the Yom Noraim. Hashem hates sins but he loves the sinners. Just recognising what we've done wrong, doing teshuva and accepting the consequences of our actions quietly and respectfully goes a long way to be totally forgiven by Hashem in the end.

