

Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA

ISSUE 54

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YOM KIPPUR

10TH Tishrei 5775

SHACHARIS (MORNING) LEINING: Vayikra Chapter 16, verses 1 - 34

Kohen - First Aliya: Chapter 16, verses 1 - 3

- ✚ After the death of Aaron's two eldest son's Nadav and Avihu, Hashem teaches him the correct procedure for entering the Holy of Holies, in the Mishkan (tabernacle), once annually on Yom Kippur.

Levi - Second Aliya: Chapter 16, verses 4 - 6

- ✚ Before he can enter, The Kohen Gadol (Aaron) must immerse himself in a Mikvah and put on his white priestly garments.
- ✚ He then offers up a Korban (Sacrifice) to confess and atone for any sins his family and himself may have committed.

Sh'lishi - Third Aliya: Chapter 16, verses 7- 11

- ✚ Two goats are then presented to the Kohen Gadol who randomly places two lots upon them.
- ✚ The first goat will offered up to Hashem as a Korban while the second goat is made ready to be sent to Azazel.
- ✚ Aaron makes a new confession, this time for the sins committed by the other Kohanim and Levi'im.

R'VI' - Fourth Aliya: Chapter 16, verses 12 - 17

- ✚ Aaron enters the Holy of Holies chamber inside the Mishkan amid a cloud of burning incense, sprinkling the blood which was taken from both Korban's as he went.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya: Chapter 16, verses 18 - 24

- ✚ Aaron concludes by confessing the sins committed by all of Bnai Yisrael over the Goat designated for Azazel. The goat is then dispatched into the desert where it was then thrown off a cliff.
- ✚ Aaron then donned his regular golden High Priest vestments, and offers up two more korbanos.

Shishi - Sixth Aliya: Chapter 16, verses 25 - 30

- ✚ Hashem establishes an eternal decree that on every tenth day of the seventh month (Yom Kippur) we must all fast and abstain from performing any work to purify ourselves from our sins.

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya: Chapter 16, verses 31 - 34

- ✚ Yom Kippur is dubbed the "Shabbat of Shabbatim," the once-a-year opportunity to atone for all our sins.

MAFTIR – Bamidbar Chapter 29, verses 7 - 11

- ✚ The Maftir details other korbanos which were offered up on Yom Kippur, along with the accompanying wine libations, oil and meal offering

HAFTORAH –: Yishayah Chapter 57, verse 14 to Chapter 58, verse 14

- ✚ The Haftorah focuses on the correct mind-set a person should have while they are fasting in order to repent and perform true teshuva on Yom Kippur (returning back to Hashem) enabling them to become pure (devoid of all sin) once more

MINCHAH (AFTERNOON) LEINING: Vayikra Chapter 18, verses 1 – 30

Kohen - First Aliya: Chapter 18, verses 1 - 5

- ✚ Hashem instructs Bnai Yisrael not to follow the immoral practices of the Egyptians and Canaanites. They are to instead observe His 613 Mitzvot, for which they will be truly blessed and rewarded for.

Levi - Second Aliya: Chapter 18, verses 6 - 21

- ✚ Continuing on the same theme, this Aliyah recites a list of prohibited sexual relationships. Including; committing adultery, incestuous relationships and cohabiting with a woman who is menstruating etc.

Sh'lishi - Third Aliya: Chapter 18, verses 22 - 30

- ✚ The prohibitions against homosexuality and bestiality are mentioned.
- ✚ Bnai Yisrael are warned that engaging in any of these forbidden acts or relationships will result in their expulsion from the holy Land of Israel because it cannot tolerate immoral behaviour in its midst.

HAFTORAH –: The book of Yonah (Jonah)

- ✚ The story of Yonah opens with Hashem speaking to Yonah, son of Amittai, commanding him to preach repentance to the city of Nineveh.
- ✚ Yonah found this order unbearable. Not only was Nineveh known for its wickedness, but it was also the capital of the Assyrian empire, one of Israel's fiercest enemies. Yonah, a stubborn fellow, did just the opposite of what he was commanded to do. He went down to the seaport of Joppa and booked passage on a ship to Tarshish, heading directly away from Nineveh. In effect running away from Hashem.
- ✚ In response, Hashem sent a violent storm, which threatened to break the ship to pieces. The terrified crew cast lots, determining that Yonah was responsible for the storm. Yonah told them to throw him overboard. First they tried rowing to shore, but the waves got even higher. Afraid of Hashem's wrath, the sailors finally tossed Yonah into the sea, and the water immediately grew calm. The crew made a Korban to Hashem, swearing their allegiance to him.
- ✚ Instead of drowning, Yonah was rescued and swallowed up by a large fish, (not a whale) which Hashem provided. In the belly of the fish, Jonah cries out in prayer to Hashem and repents.
- ✚ Remaining in the giant fish for three days. Jonah was finally spat out back onto dry land. This time Yonah obeys Hashem. He walked throughout the entire land of Nineveh proclaiming that in forty days the city would be destroyed. Surprisingly, the Ninevites believed Yonah's message and performed teshuva, wearing sackcloth's and covering themselves in ashes. Hashem showed his compassion by forgiving them instead of wiping them out completely.
- ✚ Once again Yonah questions Hashem, because he was angry that Israel's enemies had been spared. When Yonah stopped outside the city to rest, Hashem provided a vine to shelter him from the hot sun. Yonah was happy with the vine, but the next day Hashem provided a worm that began consuming it, making it wither. Growing faint in the sun, Yonah began complaining again.
- ✚ Hashem scolds Yonah for being concerned about a vine, but not about the population of Nineveh, where 120,000 people had lost their lives.
- ✚ The book of Yonah concludes with the message that Hashem expresses his concerns regarding everyone, even if they happen to be wicked because as we read 'People can change for the best.'

THOUGHT OF THE DAY:

Yonah thought he knew better than Hashem. But in the end he learned a valuable lesson about the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.

On this awe inspiring day, take time to reflect on some area of your life in which you are possibly defying Hashem, and trying to rationalize it. Remember that Hashem wants you to be open and honest with him because at the end of the day, Hashem loves us dearly and only wants the best from us and to watch us all succeed.

