



Issue #4

City	Candle-Lighting	Shabbos Ends
Jerusalem	6:04 PM	7:19 PM
Los Angeles	6:40 PM	7:34 PM
Seattle	7:01 PM	8:03 PM
New York City	6:45 PM	7:42 PM
Chicago	6:38 PM	7:38 PM
London	6:55 PM	8:00 PM



Parsha Summary

- **בְּכוֹרִים** The obligation to bring the first-ripened fruits to the Beis Hamikdash after entering and cultivating in the Land of Israel (mitzvah was first mentioned in *Shemos* 23:19).
- **וּיְדֵי מַעֲשָׂוֹת** The laws of tithes given to Levi'im and the declaration one must give twice every seven years that he separated tithes as required.
- **לִלְכֵת בְּדַרְכֵי וְלִשְׁמֵר חֻקֵי וּמִצְוֹתַי וּמִשְׁפָּטַי וְלִשְׁמֵעַ בְּקוֹל** Moshe reminds Klal Yisrael that they are distinguished, chosen, and a holy nation and that the goal of learning Torah is to observe and fulfill its commandments with all one's heart and soul and to walk in God's ways.
- **וּבָאוּ עָלֶיךָ כָּל־הַבְּרָכוֹת** The blessings for fulfilling the commandments and the admonition (God forbid) for disobedience.



Sefer HaChinuch Mitzvah Count

6



THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTION: How can you give *Bikkurim* (first fruits) in our times?

Thanking Hashem = Faith

**וְלִקְחַתְּ מֵרֵאשִׁיתוֹ כָּל־פְּרִי הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר תְּבִיא מֵאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר ד' אֶלֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ וְשָׂמַת בְּטֵנָא וְהִלַּכְתָּ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם
אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר ד' אֶלֶיךָ לְשֹׁכֵן שְׁמוֹ שָׁם**

"You shall **take** every first fruit of the ground that you bring in from your Land that Hashem, your God, gives you, and you shall put it in a basket **and go the place that Hashem, your God, will choose**, to make His Name rest there " (Devarim 26:2).

In this week's Parsha, we learn that there's a beautiful connection with *hakaras hatov* (gratitude) and *bitachon* (faith) in Hashem. One of the foundational principles of *bitachon* is the knowledge that all of one's sustenance comes solely from G-d. ¹ After years of extraneous labor, plowing, sowing, and nurturing one's field and finally seeing the fruits of one's labor, one is commanded to bring their produce to the Beis Hamikdash and give it back to Hashem out of gratitude. Despite how challenging this may be for one to give up their first yield, when one witnesses the gifts and blessings Hashem has bestowed upon them, it is a proof that Hashem will continue to bestow blessing and sustenance. Just as Hashem has taken care of us in the past, so too, He will provide for us in the future. The verse may be read, "You shall take every first fruit" – contemplate and take in all that you have already received, "...and you shall go to the place that Hashem, your G-d, will choose" – that will give you the faith to know that Hashem will sustain and guide you in the future. As the continuation of the verses say, "You shall be happy with all the good that Hashem, you God has given you and your household" (Devarim 26:11).

As a lesson for the month of Elul and Rosh Hashana, and as we pray for all of our needs for the upcoming year, let us ponder all the blessings G-d has bestowed upon us in the past year and prior, and with that gratitude, let us strengthen our faith and trust that He will continue to take care of us, bless us with an even greater year, and take us to the exact places we need to be in order to serve our ultimate purpose – "to make His Name rest there" – spreading and glorifying Hashem's name in the world!

Wishing you and your family a Ketivah v'Chatima Tovah and a Shana Tova u'Metuka!

¹ Chovos HaLevavos, Sha'ar HaBitachon: Introduction

Challenge: Think about something you want to pray for on Rosh Hashanah or an area in your life that you need Hashem's help with and remind yourself of how Hashem helped you in the past and got you through that challenge.



Hilchos Shabbos

by. R' Mordechai Lebhav שליט"א author *Magen Avot*, Rosh Kollel
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Redacted by Dr. Emile Amzallag

May one study Torah instead of reciting *Shir Hashirim*?

Rabbi Israel Ya'akov Algazi (*Hemdat Yamim*) writes that it is a universal custom for *Shir Hashirim* to be recited before Shabbat. The Moroccan custom is for it to be recited between Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat. Rabbi Shalom Messas (*Shemesh Umagen, vol. IV, Orach Haim, § 15:12*) discusses a case in which a community prefers to have *Shir Hashirim* between Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat, in which case he says that *Shir Hashirim* may be recited before Mincha. If this is not practical, however, he writes that such a community could forgo *Shir Hashirim* in deference to a Torah class. On the other hand, Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky was asked about a similar case involving a Moroccan community, and he ruled that, because of its spiritual loftiness, *Shir Hashirim* should be recited at its proper time. Rabbi Haim Binyamin Pontrimoli (*Petah Hadevir, § 260:9*) writes that one should not speak during *Shir Hashirim*, even in Hebrew, as it causes an interruption of the holy words.

Regarding the last stanza of *Lecha Dodi*, the Arizal (*Sha'ar Hakavanot*) writes that the source of turning to the west is in the *Gemara (Shabbat 119a)*, which notes that Rabbi Hanina would go out to the fields to greet the Shabbat, which is compared to a queen. This idea is alluded to in the Piyut "*Mizmor Shir Leyom Hashabbat*" of Rabbi Mas'ud Abuhatzira when it says "*Yetziat Shabbat Lehakbil Et Pene Shabbat Malketa*". Even though the custom is no longer to go out to greet Shabbat but rather to remain in the synagogue, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (*Igrot Moshe, vol. III, Orach Haim, § 45*) based on the *Pri Megadim (§ 262)*, writes that one should still turn to the west when reciting the last stanza of *Lecha Dodi*. He explains that Hashem's Presence is to the west and therefore, even if the Hechal is not exactly to the east, one should not turn opposite the Hechal, but rather still to the west. It appears as though the original Moroccan custom was not to turn to the west during the last stanza, but over time, the universal custom has evolved to do so.

Summary: *Shir Hashirim* is recited between Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat, and it should not be skipped. One should turn to the west when reciting the last stanza of *Lecha Dodi*.

Maase Shehaya - Hashgacha Pratis Stories

&



Stories of Tzadikim | R' Paysach Krohn שליט"א from *Stories to Inspire*

The Power of a Thank You!

Once, R' Paysach Krohn שליט"א was traveling and he had brought with himself many items and luggage which he placed in numerous bins that would go through the X-ray machine in the airport. Afterward, he took his belongings and went to the gate where he would wait until his flight would take off. Suddenly, two security officials approached him, took out a cell phone, and asked, "Is this your cell phone?" Just to be sure, R' Krohn started looking for his phone and checked his pockets but couldn't find it! In disbelief, he actually did forget his phone! The officer said, "When you walked through security, you had so many belongings and bins and you had left your cell phone in one of the bins!" R' Krohn thanked them and just as they were about to leave, he asked them, "There are 2,000 people in this terminal, how did you recognize me and find me?" They responded, "Do you remember what you said to us as you walked through the security gate? You looked at both of us and said, 'Thank you gentlemen for both being here, I feel safer that you are here.'" He then added, "Thousands of people walk through security every day and no one says a word of thank you. You said thank you so we were going to find you even if you were the last person in the terminal!"



Zemirots | An Everlasting Love by R' Shlomo Katz

Before Shabbos, scan the QR-Code below to listen and prepare this week's song for the Shabbos table!



Jokes: Mitzvah Gedolah Lihiyot B'Simcha!

1. Gefilte Fish

Q) Who do the fishermen know which fish is the gefilte fish?

A) *It's the one with the little carrot on top!*

2. Shofar

Q) How did the shofar get its name?

A) *Because you can hear it shofar away!*



Reader Submissions

We are super excited to announce the newest addition to the *Shabbos Chizzuk* Newsletter! We welcome and would love to include your Divrei Torah, art, stories, jokes, or any other idea you may have!

Scenes for the Soul | by Ami Adler



Mineral Gulch - Slot Canyon, Utah

Do you ever feel small? Sometimes we feel small compared to Hashem or small compared to others. We may see a scene in nature and it reminds us how great G-d is and how small we are. But we should always remember that we have the unique ability to recognize G-d's greatness and the wonders of creation - and to share them with others! Hashem has a special mission for each of us - one that only YOU can do - there is no one like you in the entire world and Hashem created you just the way you are! So next time you feel small - remember that Hashem thinks you are GREAT!

In his blog, Scenes for the Soul, Ami shares a photo he has taken, along with some background details and a spiritual message that we can apply in our daily lives.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, beautiful, happy, uplifting, and restful Shabbos Kodesh!

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