



| City | Candle-Lighting | Shabbos Ends |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Jerusalem | 3:58 PM | 5:16 PM |
| Los Angeles | 4:30 PM | 5:27 PM |
| Seattle | 4:11 PM | 5:18 PM |
| New York City | 4:17 PM | 5:18 PM |
| Chicago | 4:07 PM | 5:11 PM |
| London | 3:49 PM | 5:01 PM |



Parsha Summary

- **וַיְהִי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה** Sarah Imeinu's life span of 127 years and the purchase of a burial place, *Me'aras HaMachpelah* in Chevron from Ephron.
- **וַלְקַחַת אִשָּׁה** Avraham sends his servant, Eliezer, to Charan to find a wife for his son, Yitzchak. He prays to Hashem for help and finds Rivka, the daughter of Avraham's nephew, Besuel.
- **וַיִּסַּף אַבְרָהָם וַיִּקַּח אִשָּׁה** Avraham remarries Keturah (Hagar).



Sefer HaChinuch Mitzvah Count

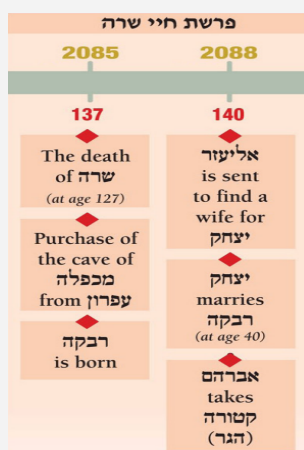
0 However, we are taught by our Sages, that of all the mitzvos in the Torah, "*Talmud Torah K'neged Kulam*" – the study of Torah is equivalent to all the other mitzvos. The *Vilna Goan (Shenos Eliyahu)* explains that each and every word of Torah studied is considered its own separate mitzvah with Divine reward, unlike other mitzvos where we only receive one Divine reward for each act of mitzvah performed.



Visions of History | By R' Hillel Haber שליט"א, Rosh Yeshiva Shaare Torah

(To receive a copy, please contact Yeshivas Shaare Torah)

Timeline of the Life of Avraham Avinu in Parshas Chayei Sarah



Judaic Curriculum | By R' Karmi Gross שליט"א, Rosh Yeshiva Derech Chaim

(To find more materials, visit JudaicCurriculum.com)

The 10 Tests of Avraham Avinu

| רבינו יונה | רמב"ם | רש"י | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| נמרוד | לך לך | נמרוד | 1 |
| לך לך | ויהי רעב | לך לך | 2 |
| ויהי רעב | ותקח האשה בית פרעה | ויהי רעב | 3 |
| ותקח האשה בית פרעה | מלחמת המלכים | ותקח האשה בית פרעה | 4 |
| מלחמת המלכים | לקח הגר אחר שהתייאש משרה | מלחמת המלכים | 5 |
| מילה | מילה | ברית בין הבתרים | 6 |
| וישלו אבימלך ויקח את שרה | וישלו אבימלך ויקח את שרה | מילה | 7 |
| גרש הגר וישמעאל | גרש הגר | וישלו אבימלך ויקח את שרה | 8 |
| עקדה | גרש וישמעאל | גרש הגר וישמעאל | 9 |
| קבורת שרה | עקדה | עקדה | 0 1 |



Parsha Trivia | Test your family at the Shabbos table with these trivia questions on the Parsha!



- How many years did Sarah Imeinu live?
 A 127 years
- How much did Avraham pay Ephron for Me'aras HaMachpelah?
 A 400 silver shekels
- How did Eliezer know that Rivka was the right wife for Yitzchak?
 A She did kindness and offered water to both him and his camels
- Isn't one obligated to feed their animals first and only after, take food for themselves? How did Rivka pass the test if she gave Eliezer to drink first (see Gemara Meseches Gittin 62A)?
 A The *Sefer Chasidim* (531) differentiates between eating and drinking. Animals come first applies only for eating, but not for drinking.
- What gifts did Eliezer give Rivkah at the well?
 A A golden nose ring and two bracelets
- When Avraham eulogizes his wife Sarah, he tells the children of Cheis that he is a "גַּר וְתוֹשֵׁב." What does that mean?
 A An alien and a resident. Rashi explains that he said, "I am both an alien from another land and a resident who has settled among you."



Teachings - In-Depth Reflections on the Parasha | by. R' Asher Brander שליט"א author Teachings, Rosh Kollel and Dean of Link Kollel Los Angeles

Ruchnius Is Priceless

In search of a daughter-in-law, Avraham entrusts Eliezer with the sacred and difficult mission of finding the next Matriarch - a woman who could be a spiritual partner for Yitzchok's greatness.

But it is not without hesitation:

וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֶל־עֲבָדוֹ זֶקֶן בֵּיתוֹ הַמִּשְׁלָל בְּכָל־אֲשֵׁר־לוֹ שִׁים־נָא יָדְךָ תַּחַת יָרְכִי. וְאֲשָׁבִיעְךָ בַּיָּד אֱ-לֹהֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֱ-לֹהֵי הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־תִקַּח אִשָּׁה לְבְנִי מִבְּנוֹת הַכְּנַעֲנִי אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי יוֹשֵׁב בְּקִרְבּוֹ:

Avraham said to his servant, the senior of his household, who was in charge of all that he owned, 'Place your hand under my thigh. I will have you swear by Hashem, God of heaven and God of earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live (Bereishis 24:2-3).

Rabbi Chaim Soloveitchik zt"l sharply pointed out the text's priorities. Eliezer, Avraham's confidant par excellence on financial matters, does not receive a pass for all things spiritual; even after many years of loyal service, Eliezer must still vow allegiance to his matriarchal mission. **The message: life's greatest treasures don't have a cash value.**



A SHORT IDEA | From R' Isaac Bernstein זצ"ל and the Griz al HaTorah

Kindness Over Everything

וַתֹּאמֶר שְׂתֵה אֲדָנִי וַתְּמַהַר וַתִּרְדּוּ כַּדָּה עַל־יָדָהּ וַתִּשְׁקֶהוּ. וַתְּכַל לְהַשְׁקֶתוֹ וַתֹּאמֶר גַּם לְגַמְלֶיךָ אֲשָׂאב עַד אִם־כָּלוּ לְשֵׁתָת:

"Drink, my lord," she said, and she quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and let him drink. When she had let him drink his fill, she said, "I will also draw for your camels, until they finish drinking." (Bereishis 24:18-19).

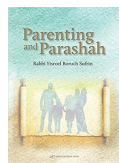
In this week's Parsha, Avraham's servant, Eliezer, goes on a mission to find a wife for Yitzchak. He asks for Hashem's help to find a *tzadekes* (a righteous woman), someone who does kindness and will offer him and his camels water to drink. Upon first seeing Rivkah, who happened to be on her way to draw water from the spring, Eliezer ran towards her. Why did he run to meet her? *Rashi* explains that when she came to draw water, the water automatically began to rise up on its own. R' Isaac Bernstein זצ"ל asks, shouldn't he have just scratched the test of having her give him and his camel water to drink? Water was miraculously coming up on its own! Why was the miracle not enough to determine that she was befitting for Yitzchak?

When Eliezer tells over the entire story and the miracles which had occurred to Yitzchak, Yitzchak doesn't immediately respond with excitement, but brings her into the tent of Sarah, his mother.¹ *Targum Onkelos* explains, "Yizchak brought her into the tent, watched her, and noticed that she had

good deeds and attributes like his mother Sarah." Miracles don't say much about a person and are not a criteria for finding a soul mate. One must find out who the person really is.

1 Verses 24: 66-67

2 "A tzadik decrees and Hashem fulfills" (Kesuvos 103B)



Parenting and Parashah | שליט"א R' Yisroel Boruch Sufrin

Living Life to Its Fullest

Why does the Torah describe Avraham as *zaken* (elderly) and also as *ba bayamim* (advanced in years)? "Avraham was *zaken* [elderly], *ba bayamim* [and advanced in years], and Hashem blessed Avraham with everything" (Bereishis 24:1). Our Sages deduce from the repetition in the text's language that there are two reasons Avraham receives blessings at this stage in his life. One is that he was *zaken* and the other is that he was *ba bayamim*.

In *Kiddushin 31a*, the Talmud teaches that the adjective *zaken* is used to define a person who is older and has acquired wisdom over time. Avraham was blessed in the latter stage of his life first and foremost because he was a student of Hashem's wisdom. However, this alone is not the only reason he was so blessed. He was also *ba bayamim*. The connotation of *ba bayamim* is that Avraham applied his wisdom in a way that allowed him to use every day to its fullest.

For Discussion: Are there moments in your day you could use for more productive things? List two things that you can change in your day that will make it more productive.



Hilchos Shabbos | שליט"א R' Mordechai Lebhav author Magen Avot, Rosh Kollel Link Kollel Los Angeles Redacted by Dr. Emile Amzallag

How does one break bread on Shabbat?

The *Shulchan Aruch* (O.H. 274:1) writes that upon reciting the blessing of *hamotzi* over two loaves, one should break pieces off the bottom loaf to eat and to distribute to those gathered. The *Rama* (*ibid.*) adds that according to Kabbalah, one should break off the bottom loaf on Friday night and the top loaf on Shabbat day. The *Bach* (O.H. 274) questions this custom because it would seem that on Friday night one is passing over the top loaf in order to break off from the bottom loaf, which seems to contradict the dictum of *En Ma'avirin Al Hamitzvot*, that is, one should not pass up the opportunity to fulfill a Mitzvah. The *Taz* (O.H. 274) concurs and says that the remedy is to tilt the two loaves such that the bottom loaf is the first to be accessible for breaking off. *Rabbi Ben Zion Abba Shaul* (*Or Lezion, vol II ch. 21, § 1*) says that one should hold the two loaves side to side and hold the lower loaf closer to oneself.

Despite the *Rama's* ruling, the *Kaf Hachaim* (K.H., O.H. 274:2) and many Kabbalists write that one should always cut the top loaf. Nevertheless, *Rabbi Amram Aburbia* (*Netive Am, pg. 150*) writes that upon close analysis of the *Arizal's* works, there is no mention of specifically giving preference to the top loaf. This may explain why *Rabbi Baruch Toledano* (*Kitzur Shulchan Aruch*), who normally follows the methodology of the *Kaf Hachaim*, actually concurs with the *Rama's* opinion. It should be noted that *Rabbi Yitzhak Ratzabi* (*Olat Yitzhak, vol. II, § 122*) says that the Yemenite custom is also like the *Rama*.

Summary: One should cut off pieces of bread from the lower loaf during the Shabbat night meal, and from the top loaf on the Shabbat day meal.



Stories of Tzadikim | From R' Daniel Weinstock שליט"א, Mashgiach Ruchani Link Kollel Los Angeles

The Blessing of Each Day

R' Yosef Chaim Sonnenfeld zt"l would visit a woman who was over a hundred years old every Erev Shabbos to make sure she was taken care of. She asked him for a blessing of *arichus yamim* (*lengthened days*). She said, each and every bracha I'm able to make each day is a tremendous opportunity to thank Hashem.



Stories of Tzadikim

Maase Shehaya - Hashgacha Pratis Stories | From R' Dovid Hoffman author of Torah Tavlin

The Ways of Hashem Are Hidden

A yeshiva student who was having difficulty finding a shidduch went to visit R' Chaim Kanievsky zt"l in order to receive a blessing and for practical advice for finding a match. He had a bright red scar running down one side of his face which he felt was scaring off the girls he met. After time he wondered, would he ever meet a girl who could look past his physical blemish and see him for who he really is?

When he entered R' Chaim's room in Bnei Brak, he broke down in sobs. With a broken spirit, he explained his challenge to the Rav. R' Chaim looked at the young man's face and said: "On your next date, the first thing you must do when you meet the young lady is to tell her the story of how you came to have this scar. Don't wait until a later time, tell her immediately."

Soon after, the student went out on a date and told the story behind his scar right away. He related that when he was younger, he had been walking in Jerusalem and all of a sudden, heard some frightful shrieks coming from a nearby alley. He turned to see what the commotion was all about and there was a Jewish girl being chased by a large Arab man. When he had tried to help, the Arab had attacked him instead and as a result, ended up with a large scar on his face. Baruch Hashem, the girl ran away and was saved.

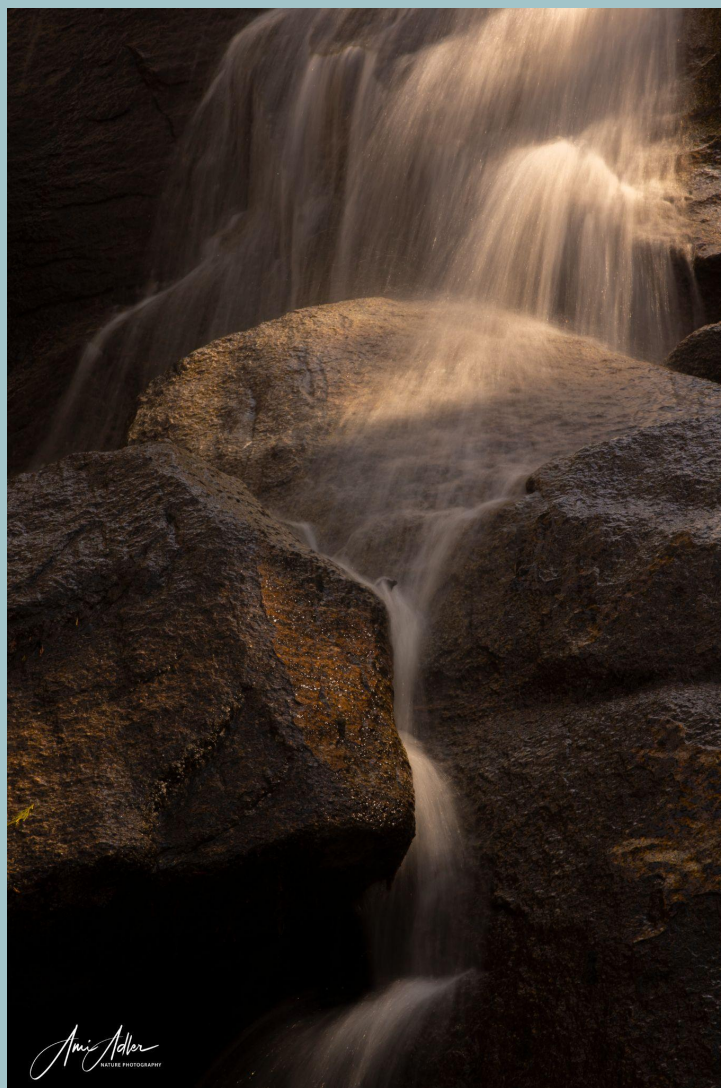
As he was speaking, the girl could barely control herself and with a tone of great emotion said, "It was you! For all these years, I have been hoping to be able to personally thank the Heavenly Angel who came out of nowhere to rescue me. Now I know who you are, I am so fortunate to be given this opportunity to meet you and thank you!" They both began to recount the details of her rescue.

The two got engaged and afterward, they went to R' Chaim to thank him for his miraculous blessing. When people asked R' Chaim about the amazing match, he responded that the ways of Hashem are hidden.



Scenes for the Soul | by Ami Adler

In his blog, "Scenes for the Soul," (<https://scenesforthesoul.com/blog>) Ami shares a photo he has taken, along with some background details and a spiritual message that we can apply in our daily lives.



Waterfall in Sequoia National Park, California

The Background: This photograph was taken in Sequoia National Park in California. As I was driving out of the park, I noticed this small waterfall on the side of the road. The melting snow was flowing down this rock face, with amazing light giving portions of the scene a beautiful and magical glow.

The Message: What struck me most about this image was the ethereal glow of the water. There is something otherworldly about the delicate flow of the water coupled with the dramatic lighting. However, if we take a step back, we will see that the bright glow is present in only a small portion of the image. The vast majority of the picture consists of shadows and darker shades. In fact, without those darker rocks and the deeper shadows, the light and the water would not stand out and would not be as dramatic. I think that realization can help us in our lives as well – the exciting, beautiful and meaningful moments in life are sometimes only a small portion of our lives – the mundane, the challenging and the monotonous can sometimes be the majority of our days. However, taken as a whole, we can appreciate that not every moment can be filled with light – but even the darker moments, help us appreciate the vibrance of the light and to cherish the glow that those moments can bring to the rest of our lives.



Zemiros | Lecha Dodi (Meet The Bride) By. Eitan Gedalya

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. **Ring**
Q) How did the french-fry propose to the hamburger?
A) *He gave her an onion ring!*
2. **Bees**
Q) Why did the bee get married?
A) *He found his honey!*
3. **Ship**
Q) What ship is found throughout the world?
A) *Friendship!*



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!

This Week's Challenge

Submit a Dvar Torah, art, story, or joke, and we will send you a free Hashem Loves U wristband of your choice! Please submit entries to info@HashemlovesU.com.

KEEP SHTEIGING!
#Torah is my life!

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

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