

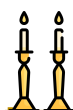


Shabbos Chizzuk

Inspirational & Interactive Divrei Torah
for the Shabbos Table

Issue #21

Parshas Va'eira



City	Candle-Lighting	Shabbos Ends
Jerusalem	4:22 PM	5:42 PM
Beitar Illit	4:23 PM	5:42 PM
Los Angeles	4:54 PM	5:53 PM
Seattle	4:34 PM	5:44 PM
New York City	4:41 PM	5:44 PM
Chicago	4:30 PM	5:36 PM



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Parsha Summary* Adapted from Chabad.org's Parsha in a Nutshell

- **וַאֲרָא** G-d reveals Himself to Moshe. Using the "four expressions of redemption" – (1) take out (וְהוֹצֵאתִי) the Children of Israel from Egypt, (2) deliver them (וְהוֹצֵאתִי) from their enslavement, (3) redeem them (וְנִגְדַלְתִּי), and (4) acquire them (וְלִקְחֶתִּי) as His own chosen people at "Mount Sinai"; He will then bring them (וְהִבֵּאתִי) to the land He promised to the Patriarchs as their eternal heritage.
- **שְׁלַח אֶת־עַמִּי וַיַּעֲבֹדֵנִי בַמִּדְבָּר** Moshe and Aharon repeatedly come before Pharaoh to demand in the name of G-d, "Let My people go, so that they may serve Me in the wilderness." Pharaoh repeatedly refuses. Aharon's staff turns into a snake and swallows the magic sticks of the Egyptian sorcerers. G-d then sends a series of plagues upon the Egyptians. The waters of the Nile turn to blood; swarms of frogs overrun the land; lice infest all men and beasts. Hordes of wild animals invade the cities; a pestilence kills the domestic animals; painful boils afflict the Egyptians. For the seventh plague, fire and ice combine to descend from the skies as a devastating hail. Still, "the heart of Pharaoh was hardened and he would not let the children of Israel go, as G-d had said to Moses."



Sefer HaChinuch Mitzvah Count

0*

* However, we are taught by our Sages, that of all the mitzvot in the Torah, *"Talmud Torah K'neged Kulam"* – the study of Torah is equivalent to all the other mitzvot. The *Vilna Gaon (Shenos Eliyahu)* explains that each and every word of Torah studied is considered its own separate mitzvah with Divine reward, unlike other mitzvot, where we only receive reward for each act of mitzvah performed. *R' Chaim of Volozhin זצ"ל* writes that the *kedusha* (holiness) of all the 612 mitzvot combined does not equal to the 1 mitzvah of *Limud Hatorah* which is the greatest way to connect and attach ourselves to Hashem.



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

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

The 10 Makkos

9 Months of מכות

(לפי רבנו בחיי)

ניסן	אדר	שבט	טבת	כסליו	חשוון	תשרי	אלול	אב	MONTH
מכת בכורות חשד	ארבה	ברד	שחין	דבר	ערוב	כנים	צפרדע	דם	
One Week of Makkah There was a Warning!	Six Days of Makkah No Warning!	One Week of Makkah Three Weeks of Warning!	One Week of Makkah Three Weeks of Warning!	One Week of Makkah No Warning!	One Week of Makkah Three Weeks of Warning!	One Week of Makkah Three Weeks of Warning!	One Week of Makkah No Warning!	One Week of Makkah Three Weeks of Warning!	LENGTH OF MAKKAH
מכה was brought by ה'	מכה was brought by משה	מכה was brought by משה	מכה was brought by משה	מכה was brought by ה' and משה	מכה was brought by ה'	מכה was brought by ה'	מכה was brought by אהרן	מכה was brought by אהרן	WHO BROUGHT THE MAKKAH?
									חרטומים did not copy it
פרעה sends out בני ישראל	פרעה does not ask משה to stop the מכה	STOP משה asks פרעה to stop the מכה	STOP משה asks פרעה to stop the מכה	פרעה does not ask משה to stop the מכה	פרעה does not ask משה to stop the מכה	STOP משה asks פרעה to stop the מכה	STOP משה asks פרעה to stop the מכה	פרעה does not ask משה to stop the מכה	פרעה COMPLAINS
18									19



Parsha Trivia

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

From *Torah Teasers* by R' Rabbi Moshe Atik ל"רצ"ל and *Chabad.org* by R' Menachem Posner שליט"א

Q What does "Va'eira" mean?

A And I (G-d) appeared (to Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov)

Q What was the 2nd plague?

A Frogs

Q What was inside the hail that came down in plague #6?

A Fire

Q How many of the 10 plagues are listed in this week's Parsha?

A 7

Q Which person mentioned in the Parsha has the same name as an ancient city in Eretz Yisrael?

A Chevron, the ancient city in Eretz Yisrael, is also the 3rd son of Kehas Ben Levy and a brother to Amram (6:18).

Q Which 6 parts of the body are referred to in the Parsha?

A 6 parts of the body are referred to in the Parsha: the hand, heart, palm of a hand, eyes, finger, and lips.

(1) A hand (יד) is mentioned several times, mostly referring to the hand of Hashem that will punish the Egyptians (7:4).

(2) The heart also appears several times referring to the heart of Pharaoh (7:3 is the first place).

(3) Moshe informs Pharaoh that he will spread out the palms of his hands (כפי) to stop the plague of hail (9:29).

(4) Moshe is told by Hashem to take a handful of ashes and throw them towards the sky in front of the eyes of Pharaoh (7:8).

(5) The magicians of Pharaoh admit that the plague of lice is "אֶצְבַּע אֱלֹהִים הוּא" ("the finger of G-d") (8:15).

(6) Moshe refers to himself as an "עֶרְל שְׂפָתַי" ("one with blocked lips") (6:30).

Q After which two plagues does Pharaoh state "חטאתי" ("I have sinned")?

A Pharaoh admits that he has sinned after the plague of ברד-hail (9:27), and after the plague of ארבה-locust (9:17).



Keep Going, Keep Growing

In this week's Parsha, Hashem commands Moshe to speak to Pharaoh with his brother, Aharon, that he should send the Children of Israel from his hand. Then, Hashem forewarns Moshe and says-

וְאֲנִי אֶקְשֶׁה אֶת־לֵב פַּרְעֹה וְהִרְבִּיתִי אֶת־אֹתוֹתַי וְאֶת־מוֹפְתֵי בְּאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם:

But I shall harden Pharaoh's heart and I shall multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt (Shemos 7:3).

Hashem tells Moshe that his efforts will only cause Pharaoh to withdraw and refuse freeing Israel even more. Yet, Hashem will still increase His wonders. What message is Hashem giving Moshe and how is this supposed to motivate and encourage Moshe to carry out his mission?

Perhaps one message Hashem is communicating to Moshe is that his efforts will make an impact even though he may not see the immediate results. The main thing is to try and try again. In the same way, we must know that every Mitzvah we do and every act of *hishtadlus* (effort) to serve Hashem and connect with Him is incredibly precious to Hashem even if we may not see the direct results that come from them. As taught in the *Zohar*, if only the Jewish people knew how much Hashem has nachas and loves them, they would roar like a lion! ¹

In this regard, someone once asked R' Avigdor Miller זצ"ל if they should continue praying for something that they want, even though they have been praying for it for so long and haven't seen any results. R' Miller answered, "קְוֵה אֶל־הַשֵּׁם חֲזַק וַיִּאֲמַץ לִבְךָ וְקְוֵה אֶל־הַשֵּׁם" (*'Hope to Hashem, strengthen your heart, and keep on hoping to Hashem,' (Tehillim 27:14)*). Never give up hope. Keep talking to Hashem. There are 2 benefits of doing so:

(1) First of all, by continuously repeating your request, maybe Hakadosh Baruch Hu will consider you worthy and grant your request just because of your turning to Him all the time. And even if, *chalilah* (G-d forbid), Hakadosh Baruch Hu sees fit to ignore your requests, you have gained immensely! **(2)** Because prayer changes a person. When you call out to Hashem from the bottom of your heart, you're actually talking to Somebody, and you become more aware that He is standing in front of you and listening. And that's one of the greatest benefits that you could ever gain - more awareness of Hashem. That's why davening to Hashem is so important. When a person stands up to say *Shemoneh Esrei*, he's standing before the King. We don't see Him, but He sees us. He hears every word. "כי אתה שומע - *'You are listening to Your people. And You're listening with compassion.'*" ² When people daven, and they daven again and again, they should know that they're learning a great lesson - the great lesson of believing in Hashem. And there's nothing greater in life than coming to a true belief in Hashem. And therefore, if Hashem will listen to you and grant you your request, very good. And if He won't, it's also good, because you have gained immensely. ³

May we always feel motivated to do the right thing even if we don't always see immediate results, maintain the strength and faith to know that Hashem's salvation is soon on the way, and see real wonders in our lives!

¹ Zohar 2:5B, adapted from *Kuntres Ma'amrei Chizuk* by R' Tzvi Meir Zilberberg שליט"א

² From the *Amidah* Prayer

³ TAPE # 489 (December 1983), *Toras Avigdor: Rav Avigdor Miller on Asking Hashem and Not Getting Answered*



A SHORT IDEA | Heard from R' Dovid Levy שליט"א, Mashgiach Ruchani Yeshivas Nesivos Ahron

Hashem's Winter Coat

The *Chofetz Chaim* זצ"ל would say that the Parshios of *Yetzias Mitzrayim* (Exodus from Egypt) always fall during the height of the winter. These Torah readings are rich in *emuna* (faith), *bitachon* (trust), and seeing Hashem's involvement in the world and totally above nature. These comforting messages are like a cozy coat that keeps us warm during the colder winter months.

Hashem is with us, Hashem loves us!



Hilchos Shabbos | by R' Mordechai Lebar שליט"א author *Magen Avot*, Rosh Kollel

[Link Kollel Los Angeles](#)

Redacted by Dr. Emile Amzallag

The Order of Shabbat Mincha

The *Rama* (O.H. 292:1) writes that in Mincha of Shabbat, *Ashrei*, *Uva Letzion* and *Va'ani Tefilati* are recited. The *Kaf HaHaim* (*ibid*) notes that the Sephardic custom is to recite *Va'ani Tefilati* twice. This appears as well in the Siddur of Rabbi Shalom Sharabi.

When the *Heichal* (ark) is opened, the *Siddur Tefilat HaHodesh* does not mention *Berich Shemei* but only the *Mizmor 23* (*Mizmor LeDavid Hashem Ro'i*) is recited. Indeed the *Hida* (*Nitotze Orot Zohar Vayakhel*) writes that *Berich Shemei* is to be recited only during Shacharit of Shabbat. Nevertheless, the *Kaf HaHaim* (*ibid*) explains that since Mincha of Shabbat is an especially auspicious time, one should recite the special prayer of *Berich Shemei* at that time as well. In Morocco, it appears that both customs existed. When asked personally, Rabbi Yehoshua Maman stated that his custom was to recite it in Mincha of Shabbat. On the other hand, *Rabbi Baruch Toledano* (*Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* § 270) does not mention the *Berich Shemei* for Mincha. In any event, it is not considered a deviation from a Minhag if one wishes to recite *Berich Shemei* as it is simply an additional communal prayer.

The *Shulchan Aruch* (*ibid*:2) continues by saying that the three verses beginning with *Tzidkatecha* are recited in Mincha of Shabbat as well. They are recited after the Amida and are only recited on a day that, had it not been Shabbat, *Tahanun* would not be recited. For example, if Rosh Hodesh falls on Shabbat, *Tzidkatecha* is not recited. *Tzidkatecha* is a form of justification of Divine judgment (*Tziduk Hadin*) which is typically said when one passes away as an affirmation that Hashem and His decrees are perfect and just. In the case of Mincha of Shabbat, Yosef, Moshe Rabbenu and David Hamelech all passed away during this time and the first, second and third verses refer to each of these people, respectively. The *Tur* (*ibid.*) writes that the Ashkenazic custom is to recite the verses "*Tzidkatecha Tzedek Le'Olam, Vetzidkatecha E-lohim, Tzidkatecha Keharere E-l*," while the Sephardic custom is in the reverse order. He also writes that the latter custom is more correct since this is the order in which they appear in *Tehillim*.

The *Siddur Bet Menuha*, which was commonly used in Morocco, cites (pg. 230) the *Seder Hayom* and says that it behooves all who wish to be scrupulous in their observance to be saddened by the passing of the aforementioned righteous people. Even though Shabbat is not a time of mourning, the passing of the Tzadikim is not taken lightly by Hashem and thus, although outward acts of mourning are not observed, one should at least have in mind the passing of our righteous forefathers. One proof that there is an element of sadness in *Tzidkatecha* is that, as mentioned above, it is not recited on a day that *Tahanun* would not be recited, which tends to be happier days. Nevertheless, *Rabbi Meir Mazuz* (*Mekor Ne'eman* § 375) writes that there is no connection between the two. *Rabbi Yehiel Ben Yekutiel* (*Tanya Rabati*) writes that just as *Tziduk Hadin* is normally recited standing up, so too should *Tzidkatecha* be recited in this manner, and the *Kaf*

HaHaim (ibid:15) concurs.

Summary: Some Moroccan communities recite *Berich Shemei* during Minha of Shabbat while other do not. *Tzidkatecha* is recited standing up and when reciting these verses, one should be mindful of the passing of Yosef, Moshe and David which took place at that time of the week.



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

Everyone Can Lead

When the Torah is about to begin the narrative leading to the ten plagues and the redemption from Egypt, the Torah digresses and lists Moshe and Aharon's genealogy. The fact that the Torah inserts the genealogy at this point indicates an inherent message for the reader of the exodus story, tied in to the theme of emancipation.

Rav Samson Raphael Hirsch explains that in many societies, leaders are described as and expected to be supernatural beings. The Torah teaches that In Judaism, everyone can become a leader. The Torah lists Moshe and Aharon's genealogy to clarify that they live a regular life and raise families like everyone else.

Each of our children has the potential for greatness. Our role is to support them and give them the infrastructure to succeed. In turn, our children will become aware that each of them can achieve greatness through their perseverance and accomplishments.

For Discussion: Choose a person who you think is a great leader. What leadership quality does that person have that you admire? How can you use that leadership quality in your life to become a leader?



Stories of Tzadikim | From *VeShinantam*, a publication of Pirchei Agudas Yisroel, Rabbi Boruch Brull

A Little Thing You Do May Affect Someone's Life

Rabbi Avrohom Leventhal was enjoying himself at a friend's wedding, when a Yeshiva bochur came up to him and asked, "Do you recognize me?" Rav Avrohom was a little embarrassed since the bochur looked familiar, but somehow he just couldn't place him.

"I didn't think you would remember me. The last time we were together was over twelve years ago when I was one of the boys in a group that you brought to a Pirchei Siyum Mishnayos trip to New York. I will never forget that trip. My family and I were not very religious, and the Shabbos I spent that weekend with a frum family was really nice." On Sunday you took us to the home of Harav Hagaon Rav Avrohom Pam, the Rosh Hayeshiva of Yeshivas Torah Vodaath. Each moment with Rav Pam was special to me. I remember Rav Pam opening the door himself and welcoming us into his home. He set up the chairs and went into the kitchen to make popcorn for us. I couldn't get over the fact that Rav Pam, such a famous Rosh Hayeshiva, was popping popcorn just for us! He spent time with all of us and asked each one of us our names and a little bit about ourselves. Rav Pam's phone rang constantly while we were there. Each time he would answer the phone and patiently tell the caller, 'I'm sorry, but I cannot speak right now, I have very important guests at my table.' You can imagine how special we all felt! As we left, he gave us each a bracha. I took one last look at his kind face and warm smile, and I knew he really cared. I guess a spark inside me must have ignited, because I decided right then and there that after finishing eighth grade, I would go to a Yeshiva."

Rabbi Leventhal was touched by the bochur's beautiful and moving story. He looked at him and asked, "Are you aware that Rav Pam is at this very wedding tonight? Would you like me to introduce you to him?"

"Of course," replied the bochur with great excitement. Together they approached Rav Pam, and the bochur retold his story. Rav Pam embraced the bochur warmly. He then turned to Rabbi Leventhal and said, "You never know when a little thing you do will have an effect on someone's life."



Maase Shehaya - Hashgacha Pratis Stories | שליט"א R' Paysach Krohn

Judging Others Favorably

A volunteer member of Chaveirim in Lakewood (volunteer emergency services organization) told R' Krohn this story. It was on a Friday afternoon an hour before a 3 day Yom Tov (Shabbos and Shavuos) the volunteer gets a call from someone who requests help fixing his flat tire. "Oy vey, an hour before Shabbos!," he responds in shock, "You're coming to Lakewood now?! Where are you stuck? Route 9? On the Garden State Parkway?"

The caller responded, "No, the car is in my driveway."

"It's in your driveway and you're calling me right before a 3 day Yom Tov at a time when everyone is so busy?," the volunteer asks.

"I'm on Hatzolah (volunteer emergency medical services) and I might need the car on Shabbos and Yom Tov," the caller replies.

The Chaveirim volunteer was sorry for responding to him in that way and for suspecting the caller for troubling him since everyone knows that Hatzolah always needs to have a car ready. He apologized and offered to come himself to fix the flat tire.

On Saturday night, the first night of Yom Tov, the Chaverim volunteer was sitting at the dinner table with his children, his wife, his father-in-law, and his mother-in-law and all of a sudden, his mother-in-law wasn't feeling well and they immediately called Hatzolah. The same exact person who he had fixed the flat tire for happened to be the closest Hatzolah member to them who speedily showed up, rushed her to the hospital, and saved her life.



Zemiros | Vehi Sheamda By. Yonatan Razel

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

*V'hee she'amda lavoteinu
V'hee she'amda la-voteinu ve-lanu
Shelo echad bilvad omed aleinu le-chaloteinu,
Omed aleinu le-chaloteinu*



*VeHakadosh Baruch Hu matzileinu, matzileinu miyadam
VeHakadosh Baruch Hu yatzileinu, yatzileinu miyadam*

*Shelo echad bilvad amad aleinu le-chaloteinu,
le-chaloteinu*

*VeHakadosh Baruch Hu matzileinu
Hakadosh Baruch Hu matzileinu, miyadam*



Jokes: Mitzvah Gedolah Lihiyot B'Simcha!

1. **Frogs**

Q) What do stylish frogs wear?

A) *Jumpsuits!*

2. **Toad** (From *You're Joking!* by Tzvia Ehrlich-Klein)

Q What did the toad say when he was given a gift?

A) *Toadah rabah!*



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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We would love to hear your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions! Contact info@HashemLovesU.com

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