**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which verse or verses impressed your heart and fired your imagination?

I was fired up by v.67 of our Torah portion:

67. And Izhak introduced her into the tabernacle of Sarah his mother, and thereupon the light (again) shined which had gone out at the time of Sarah's death. And he took Rivkah, and she was his wife, and he loved her; for he saw her works that they were upright as the works of his mother. And Izhak was consoled after his mother's death.

As I contemplated that here we have the love that is the focus of Tu B’Ab.

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 24:42?

**So I came today** – What do we learn from this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 24:45?

**I had not yet finished** – What is the meaning of the tense of this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 24:47?

**And I asked...and I placed** – why did Eliezer reverse the order?

**to the right** – To whom does this refer?

**to the left** – To whom does this refer?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 24:50?

**And Laban and Bethuel answered** – Why is Laban mentioned first?

**We cannot speak to you to refuse in this matter** – Why were they unable to speak of this matter?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 24:55?

**And her brother and her mother said** - And where was Bethuel?

**a year** – How are יָמִים – ‘days’ to be understood?

**or ten** – what is the meaning of this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 24:62?

**coming from Be’er Lachai Ro’I** – Why was he at this place?

**and he dwelt in the land of the south** – Where was he in the south?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 24:64?

**and saw Isaac** – What did she see?

**and she let herself down** – What are we to understand from this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 25:6?

**Concubines** – Why is this word spelled defectively?

**Abraham gave gifts** – What were these gifts?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 25:17?

**And these are the years of the life of Ishmael, etc**. – Why are we told this information?

**and he expired** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: וַיִגְוַע?

1. How do we know that Ishmael returned to faithful obedience and passed away as a righteous/generous man?

1) The word 'expired' (וַיִגְוַע ) is only used of the righteous.

2) With the order of names recounted at the burial of Abraham, the name of Isaac precedes that of Ismael and this intimates that Ishmael gave him this precedence.

3) The Torah states the years of Ishmael's life and regarding this Ramban states, “In the Midrash of our Rabbis there are many reasons for the Scriptural account of Ishmael's years. The correct one among them is that ‎he was righteous, a man of repentance, and Scripture tells of him as it does with all righteous people.”

1. Why is the first Sabbath of Consolation the most joyous of Sabbaths?

Because of having passed the three weeks of constriction culminating in the mourning and fast of the 9th of Av, we now turn and enter the run up seven weeks to Rosh Hashanah.

Because the Gemara indicates this this particular Shabbat has the status of a yom tov, a festival.

1. Why has prophecy passed to the Sages from the times of His Majesty King Yeshua to this present day?

To show us that the study of Torah enables a man to discern the prophecy of HaShem from the Torah and to acquire merit thereby.

Prophesy today rests on study and interpretation of the Torah by the Hakhamim and their communicating that knowledge to the people. There is also the possibility that people will worship the prophet instead of the Holy One, Blessed be He, or that the prophet might think himself a god.

1. What does it mean that His Majesty King Yeshua is a “Prophet” “like unto” Moshe Rabbenu?

Because this was a tikkun that would take man back to the level of prophecy experienced by Adam.

The level of Prophecy the Master achieved was that of the Oral Torah, which was spoken before Har Sinai. This Reflects the prophecy of Moshe.

1. Explain why the plucking of grain on the Sabbath by His Majesty King Yeshua was not a violation of the Torah?

Because they were picking after the omer offering had been brought and because they were eating what they picked rather than storing it or selling it which would have violated the Shabbat.

1. Explain how it was the Boethusians and not the Pharisees who complained about His Majesty King Yeshua and his disciples eating grain on the Sabbath?‎

Because the Pharisees followed them oral Torah which permitted grain to be eaten after the omer was offered on Nisan 16 where the Boethusians belived that the grain was not permitted until the first day of the week.

1. What major Halakha can be learned this week from the mouth of Hakham Tsefet and written down by his scribe Mark (Mordechai)?

Therefore, we conclude that the halakhic duty of the Nazarean Jew is to keep the Sabbath(s) according to the Mesorah of our forefathers.

1. There are seven Sabbaths of Strengthening/Consolation and there are seven Paqidim (officers) in the congregation. Who of the seven officers is addressed this Shabbat by the Special Ashlamatah for the first Sabbath of Strengthening?

G’dolah/Chesed or the Evangelist. The highest of the Sabbaths of nachamu that corresponds to the highest of the sefirot and Paqidim. Were it not for HaShem’s chessed, we would be like Sedom and Gemorah. Therefore HaShem sent us the healing in chessed.

1. What consolation/s (strengthening/s) are offered in the readings for this very special Sabbath?

That the exiles will be returning to the land.

Dr. Elisheva Oakley: Isaiah 40:2 The people are told that the separation from God because of their iniquities has come to an end and God is no longer hiding his face from them. They will once again bask in the presence and favor of God.

HH Adon Eliyahu: Behold the Lord God shall come with a strong [hand], and His arm rules for Him; behold His reward is with Him, and His recompense is before Him.

1. ‎Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this ‎week?‎

This is a week of consolation that we should use to redouble our love, our chessed, for our spouses and for HaShem's people.