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| **Esnoga Bet Emunah****4544 Highline Dr. SE****Olympia, WA 98501****United States of America****© 2015**[**http://www.betemunah.org/**](http://www.betemunah.org/)**E-Mail:** **gkilli@aol.com** | **Menorah 5** | **Esnoga Bet El****102 Broken Arrow Dr.****Paris TN 38242****United States of America****© 2015**[**http://torahfocus.com/**](http://torahfocus.com/)**E-Mail:** **waltoakley@charter.net** |

**Triennial Cycle (Triennial Torah Cycle) / Septennial Cycle (Septennial Torah Cycle)**

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| **Three and 1/2 year Lectionary Readings** | **First Year of the Triennial Reading Cycle** |
| **Heshvan 11, 5776 – Oct 23/24, 2015** | **First Year of the Shmita Cycle** |

**Candle Lighting and Habdalah Times:**

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| **Amarillo, TX, U.S.**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 6:45 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 7:40 PM | **Austin & Conroe, TX, U.S.**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 6:34 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 7:27 PM | **Brisbane, Australia**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 5:42 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 6:37 PM |
| **Chattanooga, & Cleveland, TN, U.S.**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 6:39 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 7:34 PM | **Manila & Cebu, Philippines**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 5:14 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 6:04 PM | **Miami, FL, U.S.**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 6:28 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 7:20 PM |
| **Murray, KY, & Paris, TN. U.S.**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 5:49 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 6:45 PM | **Olympia, WA, U.S.**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 5:52 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 6:55 PM | **Port Orange, FL, U.S.**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 6:28 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 7:21 PM |
| **San Antonio, TX, U.S.**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 6:38 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 7:31 PM | **Sheboygan & Manitowoc, WI, US**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 5:37 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 6:37 PM | **Singapore, Singapore** Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 6:33 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 7:22 PM |
| **St. Louis, MO, U.S.**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 5:54 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 6:51 PM | **Tacoma, WA, U.S.**Fri. Oct 23 2015 – Candles at 5:50 PMSat. Oct 24 2015 – Habdalah 6:52 PM |  |
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**For other places see:** [**http://www.chabad.org/calendar/candlelighting.htm**](http://www.chabad.org/calendar/candlelighting.htm)

**Roll of Honor:**

His Eminence Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David and beloved wife HH Giberet Batsheva bat Sarah

His Eminence Rabbi Dr. Eliyahu ben Abraham and beloved wife HH Giberet Dr. Elisheba bat Sarah

His Honor Paqid Adon David ben Abraham

His Honor Paqid Adon Ezra ben Abraham and beloved wife HH Giberet Karmela bat Sarah,

His Honor Paqid Adon Yoel ben Abraham and beloved wife HH Giberet Rivka bat Dorit

His Honor Paqid Adon Tsuriel ben Abraham and beloved wife HH Giberet Gibora bat Sarah

Her Excellency Giberet Sarai bat Sarah & beloved family

His Excellency Adon Barth Lindemann & beloved family

His Excellency Adon John Batchelor & beloved wife

Her Excellency Giberet Laurie Taylor

Her Excellency Giberet Gloria Sutton & beloved family

His Excellency Adon Gabriel ben Abraham and beloved wife HE Giberet Elisheba bat Sarah

His Excellency Adon Yehoshua ben Abraham and beloved wife HE Giberet Rut bat Sarah

Her Excellency Giberet Prof. Dr. Emunah bat Sarah & beloved family

His Excellency Adon Robert Dick & beloved wife HE Giberet Cobena Dick

Her Excellency Giberet Jacquelyn Bennett

His Excellency Adon Eliseo Peña and beloved wife HE Giberet Eva Peña

His Excellency Adon Gary Smith and beloved wife HE Giberet Brenda Smith

His Excellency Adon Cory and beloved wife HE Giberet Mariam Felty

His Excellency Adon Jarod Barak Barnum and beloved wife HE Giberet Crystal Barnum

**For their regular and sacrificial giving, providing the best oil for the lamps, we pray that G-d’s richest blessings be upon their lives and those of their loved ones, together with all Yisrael and her Torah Scholars, amen ve amen!**

**Also a great thank you and great blessings be upon all who send comments to the list about the contents and commentary of the weekly Torah Seder and allied topics**.

**If you want to subscribe to our list and ensure that you never loose any of our commentaries, or would like your friends also to receive this commentary, please do send me an E-Mail to** **benhaggai@GMail.com** **with your E-Mail or the E-Mail addresses of your friends. Toda Rabba!**

**This Torah Seder is dedicated to Her Honor Giberet Karmela bat Sarah, praying that G-d, most blessed be He be filled with compassion for her to restore her health, to heal her, to strengthen her, and to make her whole. And may He send her speedily a complete recovery from heaven for all her organs and all her blood-vessels, among all the sick people of Israel, a wonderful recovery of the body and a wonderful recovery of the spirit, swiftly and soon. And we all respond, Amen ve Amen!**

**We also dedicate this Torah Seder to His Honor Paqid Adon Yoel ben Abraham and His Excellency Adon Jarod ben Abraham, praying that they may soon find suitable jobs for their professions and/or abilities so that they may fulfill their sacred duty of supporting their families. And we all say amen ve amen!**

**Blessings Before Torah Study**

**Blessed are You, Ha-Shem our G-d, King of the universe, Who has sanctified us through Your commandments, and commanded us to actively study Torah. Amen!**

**Please Ha-Shem, our G-d, sweeten the words of Your Torah in our mouths and in the mouths of all Your people Israel. May we and our offspring, and our offspring's offspring, and all the offspring of Your people, the House of Israel, may we all, together, know Your Name and study Your Torah for the sake of fulfilling Your delight. Blessed are You, Ha-Shem, Who teaches Torah to His people Israel. Amen!**

**Blessed are You, Ha-Shem our G-d, King of the universe, Who chose us from all the nations, and gave us the Torah. Blessed are You, Ha-Shem, Giver of the Torah. Amen!**

**Ha-Shem spoke to Moses, explaining a Commandment. "Speak to Aaron and his sons, and teach them the following Commandment: This is how you should bless the Children of Israel. Say to the Children of Israel:**

**May Ha-Shem bless you and keep watch over you; - Amen!**

**May Ha-Shem make His Presence enlighten you, and may He be kind to you; - Amen!**

**May Ha-Shem bestow favor on you, and grant you peace. – Amen!**

**This way, the priests will link My Name with the Israelites, and I will bless them."**

**These are the Laws for which the Torah did not mandate specific amounts: How much growing produce must be left in the corner of the field for the poor; how much of the first fruits must be offered at the Holy Temple; how much one must bring as an offering when one visits the Holy Temple three times a year; how much one must do when performing acts of kindness; and there is no maximum amount of Torah that a person must study.**

**These are the Laws whose benefits a person can often enjoy even in this world, even though the primary reward is in the Next World: They are: Honoring one's father and mother; doing acts of kindness; early attendance at the place of Torah study -- morning and night; showing hospitality to guests; visiting the sick; providing for the financial needs of a bride; escorting the dead; being very engrossed in prayer; bringing peace between two people, and between husband and wife; but the study of Torah is as great as all of them together. Amen!**

**Shabbat: “Eleh Toledot Noach” – Sabbath “These are the generations of Noah”**

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| **Shabbat** | **Torah Reading:** | **Weekday Torah Reading:** |
| **אֵלֶּה, תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ** |  |  |
| **“ELEH TOL’DOT NOACH”** | Reader 1 – B’Resheet 6:9-12  | Reader 1 – B’resheet 8:1-5 |
| **“These are the generations of Noah”** | Reader 2 – B’Resheet 6:13-16 | Reader 2 – B’resheet 8:6-9 |
| **“Estas son las generaciones de Noé”** | Reader 3 – B’Resheet 6:17-22 | Reader 3 – B’resheet 8:10-14 |
| B’resheet (Gen.) 6:9 – 7:24 | Reader 4 – B’Resheet 7:1-5 |  |
| Ashlamatah: Isaiah 54:9-17 + 55:5 | Reader 5 – B’Resheet 7:6-9 |  |
|  | Reader 6 – B’Resheet 7:10-16 | Reader 1 – B’resheet 8:1-5 |
| Psalms 5 | Reader 7 – B’Resheet 7:17-24 | Reader 2 – B’resheet 8:6-9 |
| N.C.: Mark 1:16-20 |  Maftir: B’Resheet 7:21-24 | Reader 3 – B’resheet 8:10-14 |
|  |  Isaiah 54:9-17 + 55:5  |   |

**Contents of the Torah Seder**

* The Building of the Ark – Genesis 6:9-22
* Entering the Ark – Genesis 7:1-9
* The Windows of Heaven Were Opened – Genesis 7:10-24

**Rashi & Targumim for: B’Resheet (Gen.) 6:9 – 7:24**

| **Rashi &*****Keter Crown Bible - Chorev*** | **Targum Pseudo Jonathan** | **Targum Neofiti 1** |
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| 9. This is the history of Noach. Noach was a righteous/generous man, flawless in his generation; Noach walked with Elohim. ***9. These are the descendants of Noach; Noach was a righteous, wholehearted man in his generations, and Noach walked with GOD.*** | 9. These are the genealogies of the race of Noah. Noah was a just man, complete in good works in his generation, (and) in the fear of the Lord walked Noah.  | 9. This is the genealogical pedigree of Noah: Noah was a just man. He was perfect in good works in his generations;'' Noah served before the LORD in truth. |
| 10. Noach fathered three sons, Shem, Cham and Yafet.***10. Noach fathered three sons: Shem, Cham and Yephet.*** | 10. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Cham, and Japheth. | 10. And Noah begot three sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth.  |
| 11. The earth was corrupt before Elohim, and the earth was filled with violent crime.***11. The earth was corrupted before god and the earth was filled with violence.*** | 11. And the earth was corrupted through the inhabitants thereof, who had declined from the ways of righteousness/generosity before the Lord; and the earth was filled with rapine. [JERUSALEM. And the earth was filled with violences and frauds.]  | 11. And the inhabitants of the earth had corrupted their works before the LORD, and the earth was filled with deeds of violence and with robbers. |
| 12. Elohim saw the earth and beheld that it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted its way on the earth.***12. God saw the earth and indeed, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth.*** | 12. And the Lord beheld the earth; and, lo, it was corrupt; for all flesh had every one corrupted his way upon the earth. | 12. And the earth was manifest before the LORD and behold it had become corrupted, because all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth. |
| 13. Elohim said to Noach, The end of all flesh has come before Me. The earth is filled with violent crime because of them, and so, I will destroy them with the earth.***13. GOD said to Noach, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, because the earth was filled with violence on account of them, so I will now destroy them with the earth.*** | 13. And the Lord said to Noah, The end of all flesh cometh before Me, because the earth is filled with rapine by their evil works; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.  | 13. And the LORD said to Noah: “The outcry of all flesh has come up before Me, because the earth has become filled with violent men and robberies before them. Behold I am going to destroy both themselves and the earth. |
| 14. Make for yourself an ark of cedar wood. Make the ark into compartments and caulk the inside and outside with tar.***14. Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; make the ark with rooms and seal it with pitch on the inside and on the outside.*** | 14. Make for yourself an ark of the wood of cedars; and you will protect it within and without with pitch.  | 14. Make an ark (of) timbers of cedar, you will make the ark as having compartments, and plaster it inside and outside with asphalt. |
| 15. This is how you should make it; the ark's length shall be three hundred amot, its width fifty amot and its height thirty amot.***15. This is how you shall make it: the length of the ark, three hundred cubits; its breadth shall be fifty cubits and its height, thirty cubits.*** | 15. a hundred and fifty cells will you make to the ark in its left side, and thirty and six in its breadth; and ten cabins in the midst, to lay up in them provision; and five repositories on the right, and five on the left;  | 15. According to this plan will you make it: the length of the ark will be three hundred cubits, fifty cubits its breadth, and thirty cubits the measure of its height. |
| 16. Make a skylight for the ark, and finish it to one amah at the top. Place the opening of the ark in its side. Make a lower deck, a second and a third deck.***16. Make a light-source for the ark, taper it to a cubit from above, and place the entrance to the ark in its side; make it with a lower floor, second floor and third floor.*** | 16. Go you unto Phison, and take from thence a precious stone, and fix it in the ark to illuminate you: with the measure of a cubit (or span) will you complete it above. And a door will you set in the side of the ark; and with dwelling-places, inferior, second, and third, will you make it.  | 16. 16. You shall make a window for the ark; and you shall bring it to completion to the distance of one cubit from above, and you shall put the door of the ark at the side. You will make it with a ground story, a second, and a third one. |
| 17. Behold I am bringing the flood waters on the earth, to destroy all flesh in which there is the breath of life, from under the heavens. Everything that is on the land will perish.***17. As for Me, I am bringing the flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which there is a spirit of life beneath the skies; all that is in the earth will expire.*** | 17. And I, behold, I bring a flood of waters upon the earth to swallow up all flesh which has in it the spirit of life from under the heavens: whatever is upon the earth will be swept away.  | 17. And behold, I am bringing the flood of waters upon the earth to destroy from under the heavens all flesh in which there is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth will be blotted out.  |
| 18. I will establish my covenant with you. You shall go into the ark, **you, your sons, your wife and your son's wives, with you.*****18. I will establish My covenant with you; you will enter the ark: you, your sons, your wives and your son’s wives with you.*** | 18. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you will go into the ark, **you, and your sons, and your wife, and the wives of your sons with you.**  | 18. And I will establish My covenant with you and you will enter the ark: **you and your wife and the wives of your sons.**  |
| 19. From all living things, from all flesh, two of each shall you bring to the ark, to keep them alive with you. They shall be male and female.***19. You shall bring two of each from all that lives, from all flesh, into the ark to preserve alive with you; they shall be male and female.*** | 19. And of all that lives of all flesh, two of every (kind) will go into the ark, to be preserved alive with you: male and female will they be.  | 19. You will cause to enter the ark with you, to survive with you, from all living creatures, from all flesh, two from each (species); they will be male and female; |
| 20. From the birds of their kind, from the animals of their kind, from every creeping thing of the earth of its kind, two of each will come to you **to be kept alive.*****20. From the birds according to its kind, from the beasts according to its kind, from every crawling thing upon the earth according to its kind, two of each shall come to you to be kept alive.*** | 20. Of the fowl after its kind, and of all cattle after its kind, and of every reptile of the earth after its kind, two of every (sort) will enter to you by the hand of the angel, who will take and cause them to enter to you, **to be preserved.**  | 20. from the birds of the air according to their species, and from the cattle according to their species, and from every creeping thing of the earth according to its species, two of each shall go in to you **so as to survive.** |
| 21. You shall take for yourself from all [the] foods that are eaten, and gather it to yourself, and it will be food for you and for them.***21. As for you, take for yourself from all food that is eaten and gather [it] to you, that there may be for you and for them to eat.”*** | 21. And you, take to yourself of all food that is eaten, and let it be to you and to them for food.  | 21. And, as for you, take to yourself of all the food that can be eaten, and gather (it) to you so that it may serve you and them as food.”  |
| 22. Noach did so. All that he was commanded by El-him, he did.***22. Noach did so; he did in accordance with everything that GOD had commanded him.*** | 22. And Noah did according to all that the LORD had instructed him. | 22. And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. Thus he did. |
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| 1. Adonai said to Noach, Come into the ark, **you and your household**, for I have seen that you are righteous/generous before Me, in this generation.***1. The LORD said to Noach, “You and all your household enter the ark; for I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.*** | 1. And the Lord said to Noah, Enter, **you, and every one of your house**, into the ark; for you have I seen righteous/generous before Me in this generation.  | 1. And the LORD said to Noah: “Go into the ark, **you and the men of your house,** because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. |
| 2. Of every [ritually] **clean animal**, take to yourself seven pairs, male and its mate. Of every **animal that is not clean**, [take] two, the male and its mate.***2. From every [kind of] pure animal take seven [and] seven, male and female, and from the beast that is not pure, two: male and female.*** | 2. Of all **clean** cattle take you seven by seven, male and female, and of all cattle **not clean**, two (and two), male and female.  | 2. You shall take with you seven pairs of all **clean** animals, male and female and two of all the animals that are **not clean**, male and female;  |
| 3. Also of the birds of the heaven, [take] seven pairs, male and female; to keep seed alive upon the face of the earth.***3. Also from the bird of the skies, seven [and] seven, male and female, to maintain offspring on the face of the entire earth.*** | 3. But of birds of the heaven, seven by seven, male and female, to preserve from them seed upon the earth.  | 3. also seven pairs of the birds of the birds of the heaven, male and female, to keep alive on the face of the earth. |
| 4. Because in another seven days I will bring rain on the earth [and it will rain] **forty days and forty nights**, and I will obliterate every living substance that I have made, from the face of the earth.***4. For in another seven days I will rain down on the earth for forty days and forty nights; I will obliterate all the living things that I made from upon the face of the earth.”*** | 4. For, behold, I give you space of seven days; if they will be converted, it will be forgiven them; but if they will not be converted, after a time of days yet seven, I will cause rain to come down upon the earth **forty days and forty nights**, and will destroy all bodies of man and of beast upon the earth.  | 4. For, behold, after seven days I am going to make rain fall on the earth **for forty days and forty nights,** and I will blot out from the face of the earth all its creatures which I have created.” |
| 5. **Noach did all that Adonai commanded him.*****5. Noach did everything that the LORD had commanded him.*** | 5. **And Noah did according to all that the LORD had commanded him.**  | 5. **And Noah did everything that the LORD commanded him..**  |
| 6. Noach was six hundred years old when the flood waters were on the earth.***6. Noach was six hundred years old and the flood came as water upon the earth.*** | 6. And Noah was the son of six hundred years when the deluge of waters was upon the earth.  | 6. And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood—the waters—came upon the earth.  |
| 7. Noach went in, and his sons, his wife, and his son's wives, with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the Flood.***7. Noach entered with his sons, his wife and his sons’ wives into the ark, because of the floodwaters.*** | 7. And Noah entered, with his sons and his wife and the wives of his sons with him, into the ark, from before the waters of the deluge.  | 7. And Noah and his sons, his wife and his sons’ wives with him, entered the ark from the waters of the flood. |
| 8. Of **the [ritually] clean animals**, and **the animals that are not [ritually] clean**, of the birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth.8. ***From the pure animals and from the animals that are not pure; from the birds and all that creeps upon the earth.*** | 8. Of all cattle **clean**, and of cattle **unclean**, of birds, and of whatever creeps upon the earth,  | 8. Of the animals that are **clean,** and of the animals that are **not clean**, and of the birds and of everything that creeps upon the earth,  |
| 9. Two by two they came to Noach into the ark, male and female, as Elohim had commanded Noach.***9. Two by two they came to Noach into the ark, male and female, as god commanded Noach.*** | 9. two and two they entered unto Noah into the ark, male and female, as the Lord had instructed Noah. | 9. two pairs entered into the ark with Noah, male and its mate, as the LORD had commanded Noah. |
| 10. Seven days had passed, and the flood waters were on the earth.***10. And after seven days, the floodwaters came upon the earth.*** | 10. And it was at the time of seven days after the conclusion of the mourning for Methushelach, that the Lord beheld, and, lo, the sons of men had not turned. And the waters of the deluge came down hotly from the heavens upon the earth.  | 10. And at the end of seven days of the mourning of Methusaleh the waters of the flood came upon the earth. |
| 11. In the six hundredth year of Noach's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day, all the wellsprings of the great deep, burst open, and the windows of the heavens were opened.***11. In the six hundredth year of Noach’s life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day, all the springs of the great deep burst open and the floodgates of the heavens opened.*** | 11. In the six-hundredth year of the life of Noah, in the second month, which was the month of Marchesvan, for hitherto the months had been numbered from Tishri which was the beginning of the year at the completion of the world, in the seventeenth day of the month, in that day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up. And the giants were gathered there together with their sons and perturbed them, and afterwards the windows of heaven were opened. [JERUSALEM. And the windows of heaven were opened.]  | 11. And at the end of six hundred years of the life of Noah, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that very day, all the spring of the great abyss were rent and the apertures of the heavens were opened. |
| 12. There was rain on the earth forty days and forty nights.***12. The rain was upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.*** | 12. And the rain came down upon the earth **forty days and forty nights**.  | 12. And the rain fell upon the earth **for forty days and forty nights.** |
| 13. On that very day, Noach came along with Shem, Cham, and Yafet, the sons of Noach; Noach's wife and the three wives of his sons, with them, into the ark.***13. On that same day Noach, and the sons of Noach: Shem, Cham and Yephet, Noach’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark.*** | 13. In that same day entered Noah, and Shem, and Cham, and Yapheth, the sons of Noah, and the wife of Noah, and the three wives of his sons with him, into the ark:  | 13. And on the very same day, Noah and Shem, Ham and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and the wife of Noah, and the three wives of his sons with them, went into the ark, |
| 14. They, and every beast of its kind, and every animal of its kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth of its kind; and every flying creature of its kind, every bird, every winged creature.***14. They, with every wild beast according to its kind, every domesticated animal according to its kind, every crawling thing that creeps upon the earth according to its kind, and every bird according to its kind, every bird of every sort.*** | 14. they, and every animal after his kind, and all cattle after their kind, and every reptile that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after its kind, every bird which flieth.  | 14. they and every beast according to its species, and all the cattle according to their species, and every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth according to its species, and all the birds according to their species, and everything that flies and everything that hovers. |
| 15. They came to Noach, to the ark, two by two of all the flesh in which there was a breath of life.***15. They came to Noach into the ark, two by two of every flesh in which there is a living spirit.*** | 15. And they entered to Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh in which was the breath of life.  | 15. They went into the ark with Noah, two pairs of all flesh in which there is the breath of life. |
| 16. Those that came were male and female, of all flesh they came, as Elohim had commanded him. Adonai then [protectively] shut him in [the ark.]***16. Those coming in were male and female from every flesh, as GOD had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.*** | 16. And they coming entered, male and female, of all flesh unto him, as the Lord had instructed him; and the Word of the Lord covered over the door of the ark upon the face thereof. [JERUSALEM. And the Word of the Lord was merciful upon him.] | 16. And they that went in, male and female from all flesh, went in as the LORD had commanded him and the LORD protected him in His good mercies. |
| 17. There was a Flood on the earth for **forty days**. The waters increased and lifted the ark, and it rose [high] above the earth. ***17. The flood was upon the earth for forty days; the water increased and lifted the ark so that it was raised from the earth.*** | 17. And there was a flood **forty days** upon the earth, and the waters were multiplied and bare up the ark, and it was lifted from the earth.  | 17. And for **forty days** the flood was upon the earth; and the waters increased and bore the ark and it rose high above the earth.  |
| 18. The waters were powerful and increased greatly over the earth, and the ark moved on the surface of the waters.***18. The waters grew higher and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water.*** | 18. And the waters waxed mighty and increased greatly upon the earth, and the ark went floating upon the face of the waters.  | 18. And the waters grew strong and increased greatly upon the earth and the ark moved on the surface of the waters. |
| 19. The waters were very powerful over the earth, and they covered all the high mountains which were under all the heavens.***19. The waters became very, very high over the earth and they covered all the high mountains that are beneath all the heavens.*** | 19. And the waters prevailed greatly upon the earth, and all the high hills which were under the heavens were covered: | 19. And the waters grew so strong upon the surface of the earth that all the high mountains that are under all the heavens were covered.  |
| 20. Fifteen amoht above them [the mountains] did the waters prevail and they covered the mountains.***20. The waters rose fifteen cubits high, and the mountains were covered.*** | 20. fifteen cubits higher did the waters prevail, and the mountains were covered.  | 20. The waters increased fifteen cubits higher and covered the mountains. |
| 21. All flesh that moved on the earth perished; birds, animals, beasts, and all creeping creatures that creep on the earth and every man.***21. All flesh creeping upon earth perished — fowl, domesticated animal, wild beast and every swarming thing that swarms upon earth — and all mankind.*** | 21. And all flesh expired which moves upon the earth; of fowl, and of cattle, and of wild beasts, and every moving thing that moves upon the earth, and all the sons of men,-- | 21. And an end to all flesh that creeps upon the earth: birds, cattle, all wild beasts, all creeping things that creep upon the earth and all the sons of man.  |
| 22. All that has a breath of the spirit of life--- everything on dry land---died.***22. All which had the breath of a living spirit in its nostrils, everything on dry land, died.*** | 22. everything in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all on the dry land, died.  | 22. Everything that had the breath of life in its nostrils, from among whatsoever was on the dry land, died.  |
| 23. [He] obliterated every being that was on the surface of the ground; from man to animals, to creeping creatures, and to the birds of the heaven. They were obliterated from the earth. Only Noach and those with him in the ark survived.***23. He obliterated all the living things that were on the face of the earth, from man to beast, to crawling creatures, and to the birds of the skies—they were obliterated from the earth; only Noach and those with him in the ark remained.*** | 23. And all the bodies of men and of beasts upon the face of the earth, from man to cattle, to creeping thing, and to the fowl which wings in the air of heaven, perished from the earth; and Noah only was left, and they who were with him in the ark.  | 23. And he blotted out all the creatures that were on the face of the earth, from the sons of man to beasts, the creeping things and the birds of the heavens; they were blotted out from the earth and Noah alone was left, and whoever was with him in the ark.  |
| 24. The waters prevailed over the earth for **one hundred and fifty days**.24. ***The water rose over the earth for one hundred and fifty days.*** | 24. And the waters prevailed upon the earth **a hundred and fifty days**. | 24. And the waters swelled strong above the earth for **one hundred and fifty days.** |
|  |  |  |

**Welcome to the World of P’shat Exegesis**

In order to understand the finished work of the P’shat mode of interpretation of the Torah, one needs to take into account that the P’shat is intended to produce a catechetical output, whereby a question/s is/are raised and an answer/a is/are given using the seven Hermeneutic Laws of R. Hillel and as well as the laws of Hebrew Grammar and Hebrew expression.

The Seven Hermeneutic Laws of R. Hillel are as follows

[cf. <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=472&letter=R>]:

**1. Ḳal va-ḥomer:** "Argumentum a minori ad majus" or "a majori ad minus"; corresponding to the scholastic proof a fortiori.

**2. Gezerah shavah:** Argument from analogy. Biblical passages containing synonyms or homonyms are subject, however much they differ in other respects, to identical definitions and applications.

**3. Binyan ab mi-katub eḥad:** Application of a provision found in one passage only to passages which are related to the first in content but do not contain the provision in question.

**4. Binyan ab mi-shene ketubim:** The same as the preceding, except that the provision is generalized from two Biblical passages.

**5. Kelal u-Peraṭ and Peraṭ u-kelal:** Definition of the general by the particular, and of the particular by the general.

**6. Ka-yoẓe bo mi-maḳom aḥer:** Similarity in content to another Scriptural passage.

**7. Dabar ha-lamed me-'inyano:** Interpretation deduced from the context.

**Reading Assignment:**

**The Torah Anthology: Yalkut Me’Am Lo’Ez - Vol I**

By: Rabbi Ya’aqob Culi

Published by: Moznaim Publishing Corp. (New York, 1988)

Vol. I, pp. 337-364

**Rashi’s Commentary for: ‎** **B’resheet (Genesis) 6:9 – 7:24**

**Verse 9: Question 1**

**Response:**

**אֵלֶּה, תּוֹלְדֹת נֹחַ This is the progeny of Noach.** Since [the text] mentions him, it tells of his praiseworthiness. As it is said: “The mention of a righteous/generous person is a blessing” (Prov. 10:7). An alternate explanation: This (.e., the fact that after saying, “These are the progeny of Noach,” it does not immediately mention the names of the children) teaches that the main progeny of the righteous/generous are their good deeds (Ber. Rab. 30, 6).

**Verse 9: Question 2 - What about other generations?**

**Response:**

**בְּדֹרֹתָיו** **In his generation. T**here are those among our Sages who infer from it to his praise (i.e., he was righteous/generous even in his generation when everyone else was not). Certainly, had he lived in a righteous/generous generation he would have been [even] more righteous/genrous. There are others who infer from it to his discredit (i.e., only in his generations would he be considered righteous/generous). Relative to his generation he was righteous/generous, but had he lived in the generation of Abraham he would not have been considered significant (Ber. Rab. 30, 9).

**Verse 9: Question 3**

**Response:**

**אֶת-הָאֱלֹהִים, הִתְהַלֶּךְ-נֹחַ Noach walked with Elohim.** Whereas, concerning Abraham [Scripture] says: [“G-d,] before whom I walked” (Ber. 24, 40). [This is because] Noach required [G-d's] support to uphold him [in his righteousness/generosity] whereas, Abraham drew strength from within himself and walked in his righteousness/generosity by himself.

**Verse 9: Question 4**

**Response:**

**הִתְהַלֶּךְ** **Walked.**

[HIT’HALEKH, here is] in the past tense. That is the usage of the Hithpael form. One form can be used for future and for past. [For example,] “Arise, walk!” (Gen. 13:17) is future (the imperative being in the future since it calls for an action in the future), “Noach walked” is past. “Pray for your servants,” (2 Sam. 14:19) is future. “Come and pray in this house” (1 Kings 8:42) is past, but the vav at the beginning [of the word changes the tense] to the future (according to the rule that a vav at the beginning of a verb in the past tense changes it to the future tense).

**Verse 11: Question 5**

**Response:**

**וַתִּשָּׁחֵת הָאָרֶץ The earth was corrupt.** Meaning lewdness and idolatry (wherever Scripture refers to sin as TISHACHAT it refers to lewdness and idolatry - Sanhedrin 56b v. Rashi ibid.), as in the verse: “Lest you become corrupt” (Deut. 4:16); “All flesh had become corrupted” (Gen. 6:12).

**Verse 11: Question 6**

**Response:**

**וַתִּמָּלֵא הָאָרֶץ, חָמָס And the earth was filled with violent crime.** [Meaning] robbery.

**Verse 12: Question 7 - Why does it not say KOL HA-ADAM ---all people?**

**Response:**

**כִּי-הִשְׁחִית כָּל-בָּשָׂר For all flesh had corrupted.** Even cattle, beasts and fowl consorted with dissimilar species (Sanhedrin 108a, Tanchuma Noach 12).

**Verse 13: Question 8 -** **It is inconceivable that absolutely all flesh became corrupt, why then does the Torah say “all flesh”?**

**Response:**

**קֵץ כָּל-בָּשָׂר The end of all flesh.** Wherever you find lewdness and idolatry upheaval comes upon the world killing the good and the bad [alike] (Ber. Rab. 26, 5).

**Verse 13: Question 9 - If mankind was totally corrupt, why is only robbery singled out?**

**Response:**

**כִּי-מָלְאָה הָאָרֶץ חָמָס The earth was filled with violent crime**. Their fate was sealed only because of robbery (Sanhedrin 108a).

**Verse 14: Question 9 There are many ways to bring relief and deliverance available to Him. Why, then, did He burden him [Noach] with this construction [of the ark]?**

**Response:**

**עֲשֵׂה לְךָ תֵּבַת Make yourself an ark.** So that the people of the Flood generation see that he is occupied by it for one hundred twenty years and ask him “For what do you need this?” And he would respond to them: “G-d is destined to bring a flood upon the world. Perhaps they will repent” (Tanchuma 58).

*Cf. Hakham Tsefet’s comment: “who sometime were disobedient, when once the long-suffering (patience) of God did wait, in [the] days of Noah--an ark being preparing--in which few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water” (1 Pet. 3:20).*

**Verse 14: Question 10 - Why from this specie [גֹפֶר - GOFER]?**

**Response:**

**עֲצֵי-גֹפֶר** **Of cedar wood.** Because of its name relating to GOFERIT [sulfur] with which it was decreed that they be destroyed (the waters of the flood were boiling hot, heated by sulphur).

**Verse 14: Question 11**

**Response:**

**קִנִּים** **Compartments.** Separate compartments for every animal and beast (Ber. Rab. 31, 10).

**Verse 14: Question 12**

**Response:**

**בַּכֹּפֶר** **With tar.** This is the Aramaic word for tar. We find in the Talmud the same noun [for tar] (Shabbat 67a). Where the ark [cradle] of Moshe was concerned, because the waters were calm, it was sufficient to have clay on the inside and tar on the outside (Ber. Rab. 31, 10). Another reason (that there was no tar on the inside of Moshe's ark): so that that righteous/generous man [Moshe] not be subjected to the foul odour of tar, But, here [at the Flood], because of the force of the water, he tarred it on the inside and the outside.

**Verse 16: Question 13**

**Response:**

**צֹהַר** **A skylight.** Some say this was a window. Others say it was a precious stone that supplied them with light (Ber. Rab. 31, 11; Sanhedrin 108b. The latter opinion holds that a window would have served no purpose since the sun and moon provided no light during the flood).

**Verse 17: Question 14**

**Response:**

**וַאֲנִי, הִנְנִי מֵבִיא Behold I am bringing.** [Meaning:] “I am now prepared to agree with those (i.e. the angels) who urged me long ago (when I was about to create man) “What is man that You should consider him” (Tehillim 8, 5; Ber. Rab. 31, 12).

**Verse 17: Question 15**

**Response:**

**אֶת-הַמַּבּוּל Flood waters.** There are three versions for the etymology of MABUL:

1. It ruined everything, [בלה],
2. It confused everything, [בלל],
3. It brought everything from higher levels to lower levels [הוביל].

This (the last version) is the basis for Onkelos translation because it caused everything to float and brought it to Babylon which is a low-lying land. It is for this reason that it is called SHINAR because there were “shaken out” all those who died in the flood (Ber. Rab. 37, 4; Shabbat 113b).

**Verse 18: Question 16**

**Response:**

**וַהֲקִמֹתִי אֶת-בְּרִיתִי** **And I will establish my covenant.** A covenant was necessary for the fruits, so that they not rot and become putrid and so that the evil people of that generation not kill him (Ber. Rab. 31, 12).

**Verse 18: Question 17**

**Response:**

**אַתָּה, וּבָנֶיךָ וְאִשְׁתְּךָ You, your sons, your wife.** The men separate and the women separate. [we derive] from this that marital relations were prohibited to them during their confinement in the ark [While in the ark. It would be unseemly to propagate while the world is being destroyed. (Sanhedrin 108b, Ber. Rab. 31, 12; Tanchuma 11)].

**Verse 1: Question 18**

**Response:**

**כִּי-אֹתְךָ רָאִיתִי צַדִּיק For I have seen that you are righteous/generous.** Here it does not state “righteous/generous and wholehearted”! [We learn] from this that we tell only part of a man's qualities in his presence, and all of them when he is not present (above when the Torah tells us of Noach it relates all his qualities, “righteous/generous and wholehearted,” but here, G-d is addressing Noach and, therefore, tells him only some of his qualities, omitting. “wholehearted.”

**Verse 2: Question 19**

**Response:**

**הַטְּהוֹרָה** **[Ritually] clean**. [The distinction between the “clean” and “unclean” animals was not made until the giving of the Torah!] I.e., that is destined to be “clean” [and permitted] for Israel. We learn [from this] that Noach studied Torah (Zevachim 116a. Otherwise, how could Noach have known which are “clean”?).

**Verse 2: Question 20 - Why were more of the clean animals saved in the ark?**

**Response:**

**שִׁבְעָה שִׁבְעָה Seven pairs.** So that he might use some as sacrifices upon leaving [the ark] (Ber. Rab. 34, 9).

**Verse 3: Question 21 - Earlier (6:20) it states that there were two of each and now seven, how do we explain this difference?**

**Response:**

 **גַּם מֵעוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִםAlso of the birds of the heaven, etc.** This verse is speaking of the “clean” [fowl] in following the [Mishnaic] principle that states: what is not explicit can be learned from that which is explicit. [Though, here Scripture does not state which of the fowl were saved seven per specie. We derive this from v. 2 where we see that only the "clean" animals were saved, seven per specie.]

**Verse 4: Question 22 - Why the "extra" word עוֹד ? The inference is that an additional seven days were given.**

**Response:**

**כִּי לְיָמִים עוֹד שִׁבְעָה Because in another seven days.** This refers to the seven days of mourning for Metushelach, the righteous/generous one, for whose honour G-d had regard and postponed punishment [so that there will be someone to eulogize him. (Sanhedrin 108b)]. Go and calculate the years of Metushelach and you will find that they ended during the six hundredth year of Noach's life [The year of the Flood. Let us calculate: Metushelach was 187 when Lemech was born. Lemech was 82 when Noach was born. Thus, Metushelach was 369 when Noach, his grandson, was born. Metushelach was 969 at his death, making Noach 600 years old at the death of Metushelach.] [We may learn all this from the additional word **עוֹד**].

**Verse 4: Question 23 -** Why [the word] **עוֹד** ?

**Response:**

 **כִּי לְיָמִים עוֹד שִׁבְעָה Because in another seven days.** [It is] a period of time following a period of time, that which was added to the 120 years.

**Verse 4: Question 24 -** Why [the word] **עוֹד** ?

**Response:**

**אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם Forty days.** This corresponds to the period of a fetus' formation for they had sinned by troubling their Creator to form embryos for illegitimate children (Nidah 83a).

**Verse 11: Question 25 – Which month precisely?**

**Response:**

**בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשֵּׁנִי** **In the second month.** R. Eliezer says: this refers to Cheshvan (Cheshvan is second to Tishri). R. Yehoshua says: this refers to Iyar (Iyar is second to Nissan. This is based on their argument in Rosh Hashanah 11b. R. Eliezer holds that the world was created in Tishri, R. Yehoshua---Nissan).

**Verse 11: Question 26**

**Response:**

**נִבְקְעוּ** **Burst open.** To release their waters.

**Verse 11: Question 27**

**Response:**

**תְּהוֹם רַבָּה The great deep.** [A punishment] measure for measure; they sinned with “Great is the evil of man” (Gen. 6:5) and they were punished with “the Great deep” (Sanhedrin 108a).

**Verse 12: Question 28 - Why further on (v.17) it states: “And the Flood was”?**

**Response:**

**וַיְהִי הַגֶּשֶׁם, עַל-הָאָרֶץ** **There was rain on the earth.** But, [it should be explained thusly:] When He [G-d] brought them [flood waters] down He [first] brought them down mercifully so that if they repent they would yet be rains of blessing. And when they did not repent they became flood waters (Ber. Rab. 31, 12).

**Verse 12: Question 29**

**Response:**

**אַרְבָּעִים יוֹם Forty days** The first day is not included in this number because its night (i.e., the preceding night which is considered as the beginning of the following day) was not included with it, for it is written: [v. 11] “On that day all the wellsprings ... burst open” (Meaning literally during the daytime. Thus, during the first night there was no flood.). Consequently, the forty days ended on the twenty-eighth day of Kislev according to R. Eliezer's [opinion] – [See verse 11. According to R. Yehoshua the forty days ended 28 Sivan], for when the months are counted regularly [then] one is complete and one deficient [the lunar month can have either 30 days---("complete") or 29 days--- ("deficient")], so, there are 12 days of Cheshvan (i.e., it rained 12 days in Cheshvan for it rained from the 17th of Cheshvan until the 29th) and 28 days of Kislev.

**Verse 13: Question 30 - Why would it have been insufficient to just say "On this day"? Why the addition of B’ETSEM?**

**Response:**

**בְּעֶצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה On that very day.** Scripture teaches that the people of his generation were saying: “If we see him entering the ark we will break it up and kill him.” So G-d said: “I will bring him in before the eyes of everyone, then we will see whose word prevails” (Sifri, Ha'azinu 337; Ber. Rab. 32, 8).

**Verse 16: Question 31 - 1) Why did not Noach himself close the ark? 2) Why the stress, that the ark was closed for Noach's sake?**

**Response:**

**וַיִּסְגֹּר יְהוָה, בַּעֲדוֹ Ha-Shem shut him in.** He protected it so they would not break it (cf. v.13). He surrounded the ark with bears an lions which killed some of them (Ber. Rab. 32, 8). The simple explanation of the verse is that He shut the door before him against the waters.

**Ketubim: Targum Tehillim (Psalms) 5**

| **JPS TRANSLATION** | **TARGUM** | ***Keter Crown Bible (Chorev)*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. For the Leader; upon the Nehiloth. A Psalm of David.  | 1. ¶ For praise, with dancing. A hymn of David.  | 1. For the conductor, on the flutes, a psalm by David.  |
| 2. Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. | 2. Hear my utterance, O LORD, consider my murmuring. | 2. Hear my words, O LORD, perceive my thoughts. |
| 3. Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God; for unto You do I pray. | 3. Hear the sound of my petition, my king and God, for I will pray in Your presence. | 3. Hearken to the sound of my outcry, my King and my GOD, for to You do I pray. |
| 4. O LORD, in the morning will You hear my voice; in the morning **will I order my prayer unto You**, and will look forward. | 4. O LORD, in the morning hear my voice; in the morning **I set myself** **before You** and keep watch. | 4. O LORD, hear my voice in the morning, **as I arrang**e **my prayer before You in the morning,** and I wait expectantly. |
| 5. For You are not a God that has pleasure in Lawlessness; evil will not sojourn with You. | 5. Because You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness/ Lawlessness; evil does not abide with You.  | 5. For You are not a GOD Who desires wickedness; no evil abides with You. |
| 6. The boasters will not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of Lawlessness. | 6. Scoffers will not stand before Your eyes; You hate all deeds of falsehood. | 6. Revelers cannot stand firm before Your eyes; You despise all evildoers. |
| 7. You destroy them that speak falsehood; the LORD abhors the man of blood and of deceit. | 7. ¶ You will destroy tellers of lies; the LORD will loath the man who sheds innocent blood and the deceiver. | 7. May You doom the speakers of deception; the LORD abhors a bloodthirsty and deceitful man. |
| 8. But as for me, in the abundance of Your loving-kindness will I come into Your house; I will bow down toward Your holy temple in the fear of You. | 8. And I, through Your great goodness, will enter Your house; I will bow down to Your holy temple in awe of you. | 8. As I/me, through Your abundant kindness I will enter Your righteous house; I will prostrate myself toward Your holy House in awe of You. |
| 9. O LORD, lead me in Your righteousness/ generosity because of them that lie in wait for me; make Your way straight before my face. | 9. O LORD, guide me by your righteousness/ generosity; because of my hymn, make firm Your paths before me. | 9. O LORD, guide me in Your righteousness, because of my watchful enemies; make Your way straight before me. |
| 10. For there is no sincerity in their mouth; their inward part is a yawning gulf, their throat is an open sepulchre; they make smooth their tongue. | 10. Because there is no reliability in the mouths of the wicked/Lawless; their bodies are full of tumult; like Sheol, their throat is open; their tongues flatter. | 10. For there is no sincerity in the mouth of any of them, their inner thought is treacherous; their throat is an open grave, their tongue is glib. |
| 11. Hold them guilty, O God, let them fall by their own counsels; cast them down in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against You. | 11. God has accused them; they will be done away with by their counsel; for their great sin He overturned them, for they rebelled against Your command. | 11. Declare them guilty, O GOD, may they fall short in the schemes; cast them away because of their many sins, for they have rebelled against You. |
| 12. **So will all those that take refuge in You rejoice, they will ever shout for joy, and You will shelter them; let them also that love Your name exult in You**. | 12. **And all who trust in Your Word will rejoice forever; they will give praise and You will protect them; and those who love Your Name will rejoice in You.** | 12. **But all who take refuge in You will rejoice, they will sing joyously forever, You will shelter them; and those who love Your Name will exult in You.** |
| 13. For You do bless the righteous/generous; O LORD, You do encompass him with favor as with a shield. | 13. Because You will bless the righteous/generous, O LORD; as with a shield, You will crown him with good will. | 13. When You will bless the righteous, O LORD, You will envelop him with favor like a shield. |
|  |  |  |

**RASHI’S COMMENTARY ON PSALMS**

**Psalm Five**

**1. ON NEHILOTH.** Menahem [b. Jacob Ibn Saruq] explained that all of the terms nehiloth, alamoth (Ps. 46:1), gittith (Ps. 8:1; 81:1; 84:1), and Jeduthun (Ps. 39:1; 62:1; 77:1) are names of musical instruments and that the melody for the psalm was made appropriate to the music characteristic of the particular instrument named in the title of the particular psalm. An aggadic midrash on the Book [of Psalms] interpreted **nehiloth** as a synonym of **nachalah** “inheritance,” but this is not the meaning of the word. Moreover, the subject matter of the psalm does not refer to inheritance. It is possible to interpret **nehiloth** as a synonym of **gayasót** “military troops” as is suggested by the expression **nachil shel deborim** “swarm of bees.” [Thus our psalm could be understood as] a prayer referring to enemy troops who attack Israel. The poet has composed this psalm on behalf of all Israel.

**2a. GIVE EAR TO MY SPEECH** when 1 have the strength to ask of You what I need, but when I do not have the strength to pray to You and anguish is locked in my heart

**2b. UNDERSTAND MY THOUGHT** [i.e.], understand the thought of my heart; so is it interpreted in a midrash. Throughout the Bible every example of [the verb] bináh has the stress under the bét [i.e., on the penultimate syllable].

**3a. HEAR MY VOICE ... AT DAYBREAK. AT DAYBREAK** I call to You concerning them because that is the time appointed for the punishment of the wicked/Lawless just as it is said, “Each morning I will destroy all the wicked/Lawless of the land” (Ps. 101:8); “Be their arm every morning” (Isa. 33:2); “Each morning it [disaster] will pass by” (Is. 28:19).

**3b. AT DAYBREAK I PLEAD BEFORE YOU** concerning this, **AND WAIT** for You to punish them.

**5a. FOR YOU ARE NOT... WHO DESIRES WICKEDNESS/LAWLESSNESS**, and it pleases You to eliminate the wicked/Lawless from the world.

**5b. EVIL CANNOT ABIDE WITH YOU**. It will not abide near You.

**6. holelim “MAD PEOPLE.”** [I.e.], “people who act like imbeciles.”

**7. MURDEROUS, DECEITFUL MEN**. This refers to Esau and his progeny.

**8. BUT I, THROUGH YOUR ABUNDANT LOVE, ENTER YOUR HOUSE** to bow down to acknowledge You **FOR YOUR ABUNDANT LOVE** that You have worked wonders for us so as to cause us to experience vindication from them [Esau and his progeny].

**9. MY WATCHFUL FOES.** [I.e.], those who look at me with enmity [**oyenai**] watching to see if we [Israel] will rebel against You so that You will abandon us. [The word] **shor’rai** “ΜΥ WATCHFUL FOES” comes from the same root as [the verb ashurennu “I will see him” in Num. 24:17]: “I will see him but not soon.”

**10. FOR THERE IS NO SINCERITY ON THEIR LIPS.** They appear to be friends, but they are enemies. **THEIR HEART IS MALICE.** Their design is treachery. **THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE** [ready] to swallow the wealth of other persons like a grave, which swallows the body. **THEIR TONGUE MAKES SMOOTH TALK** [i.e.], words of flattery.

**11. BY THEIR OWN DEVICES,** which they devise against Israel, and

**l2a. then ALL WHO TAKE REFUGE IN YOU WILL REJOICE.**

**12c. AS YOU SHELTER THEM** [i.e.], as You put a shield and a canopy over them.

**12d. WILL EXULT IN YOU** when they see that

**13a. YOU BLESS THE RIGHTEOUS MAN** [i.e.], Jacob and his progeny.

**13c LIKE A SHIELD,** which encompasses three sides of a person, ratsόn “FAVOR” [i.e.], nachalat ruach “satisfaction;”

**13b. ENCOMPASSING HIM** [i.e.], You encircle him. The verb employed here is the same verb as is employed in “Saul and his men were surrounding David and his men ...” (1 Sam. 23:2).

**Meditation from the Psalms**

**Psalm 5:1-13**

**By: H.Em. Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David**

In the previous psalm, David spoke to the masses who followed Absalom.[[1]](#footnote-1) He admonished them for adopting alien, Gentile values. In this psalm he describes the ideologists of the revolt, specifically Achitophel,[[2]](#footnote-2) whose crime surpasses that of the masses. Achitophel has not imitated foreign ways; rather he has taken the most authentic of Jewish concepts, the Holy Torah itself, and grotesquely distorted it to serve his own ends. Instead of studying Torah for the sake of pure truth which penetrates to the very core of one’s being, filling it with a love and awareness of HaShem, Achitophel learned only for the sake of presenting an outer appearance of brilliance and originality. Inwardly he yearned only for power and honor. Because he sought to impress people with his ability to be a self-made man, he never accepted the authority and discipline of a ‘Hakham’, a teacher and so he had no link with tradition.

Achitophel closely resembled another arch enemy of David, Doeg[[3]](#footnote-3) the Edomite, a great prodigy and scholar. He, too, was insincere and hated the successful David with a passion. He, too, resorted to bloodshed and deceit in an attempt to obliterate David’s name.

Thus, we can well appreciate why this psalm is dedicated to Nechilot - נחילות, which Midrash Shocher Tov renders as נחלות ‘an estate, an eternal inheritance’. This refers, we are told, to the Torah which is an inheritance for all of Israel, for all times. The Midrash continues: ‘Rav Chanan said: The Torah mourns because Torah scholars are impoverished. Hasn’t it been promised otherwise, that those who engage in Torah will receive riches and honor’? To this the Holy Spirit replies: ‘That I may cause those who love me to inherit a substance of value’.[[4]](#footnote-4) ‘I keep the scholars impoverished now so that riches should not corrupt them and lure them away to material pursuits causing them to forget their Torah.’

For Doeg and Achitophel the Torah was not an ‘inheritance’. They were too proud to receive it from teachers, so their Torah was not genuine. They were ruined by the lure of riches and fame and so their studies did not remain with them as an ‘estate’ for all time.

Since this psalm is dedicated to condemning the insincere, David presents a sharp contrast to them in the four opening verses where he describes the man of faith who calls out to HaShem in total sincerity.[[5]](#footnote-5)

The superscription for this psalm attributes it to King David. Some[[6]](#footnote-6) have suggested that this psalm is an admonishment against those who followed Absalom, like Achitophel, David’s counsellor. Our Sages teach that Achitophel had no teacher because he studied Torah only to demonstrate his own brilliance and originality.[[7]](#footnote-7) This meshes well with our Torah portion where we see Noach preaching to his generation the whole time he was building the ark. Rashi indicated that it took one hundred and twenty years to build the ark.[[8]](#footnote-8) The people of Noach’s generation did not want a teacher any more than did Achitophel.

King David connects this psalm to our Torah portion with his constant references to the wicked of the world. V.4 in particular speaks directly to the generation of the flood:

***Tehillim (Psalm) 5:4*** *For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.*

This psalm contains several references[[9]](#footnote-9) to the destruction of the wicked which correlates well with the destruction of the wicked by the flood.

As I reviewed Our Torah portion and Psalm 5, I noticed that our Torah portion repeatedly uses ‘Elohim - אלהים’ as the name of G-d. This name is the name that G-d used when He is exercising the attribute of strict justice. The only time the name became ‘HaShem’, is when G-d was dealing with Noach rather than the wicked of his generation.

However, when I reviewed our psalm I noted that G-d used the name of ‘HaShem’ repeatedly when he was dealing with King David. The only times that He switched to the name ‘Elohim’ was when He was dealing with the wicked. Thus to connect our psalm to our Torah portion, only the name of ‘Elohim’ is found in the opening words of our Torah portion. Clearly our Torah portion focuses on the judgment of the wicked.

Never the less, the verbal tally also connects the Ish - איש, the noble man with the tzadik - צדיק, the righteous/generous. Thus we connect Noach and King David using two terms for the upright.

Our Torah portion, in v.11, speaks of the seventeenth day of the second month,[[10]](#footnote-10) which is a date very close to the Shabbat (the twentieth day of the second / eighth month) on which we read this portion. In fact, our Sages teach that Heshvan / Iyar 18 was the first full day of the flood. What makes this date so interesting is that this is the Shabbat which is normally closest to Iyar 18. Further, Iyar 18 is also known a Lag B’Omer, the thirty-third day of the counting of the omer. Most Jews celebrate Lag B’Omer as the most important day of the omer count.

Most folks understand that the word ‘omer’ is a unit of measure. However, ‘omer’ also means ‘ear’ or ‘sheaf’. Our psalm contains a hint to the word ‘omer’ in the second verse of our psalm. The direct object האזינה, “give ear to”. The form of this noun (האזינה) in the absolute state is אמר, omer, with a holam.[[11]](#footnote-11) What makes this so fascinating is that during the Middle Ages, Lag B’Omer became a special holiday for Hakhamim and Rabbinical students and was called the *Scholar’s festival*. This name is surely related to the fact that only the most diligent talmid can understand the secrets of the Torah as revealed in the Zohar, the esoteric part of the oral law. This adds emphasis to “give ear to - omer” that which is given orally. Thus on the Shabbat closest to Lag B’Omer, the Scholar’s Holiday, King David beseeches HaShem, in v.2, to “give ear to” him. The only reason he has to expect HaShem to give him an ear is because he already gave ear to the oral law of HaShem.

It is worth noting that at the beginning of this commentary we noted that Our Sages teach that Achitophel had no teacher because he studied Torah only to demonstrate his own brilliance and originality.[[12]](#footnote-12) The above hint to the omer period and to Lag B’Omer in particular, suggests that Achitophel is specifically in King David’s mind as He contemplates Lag B’Omer as the holiday of the Zohar which can *only* be taught by a teacher to one student at a time. This environment does not lend itself to boasting about one’s knowledge.

Finally, the flood was a “do over”, of sorts, for Noach and his family. As it was in the days of Adam, so it was in the days of Noach. Noach’s family, like Adam and Eve, had a chance to start over in a new world. They had the opportunity to make the world into what HaShem desired. This “second chance” is also a hint to Pesach Sheni, the second Passover. Pesach Sheni is celebrated on Iyar fifteen, the fifteenth day of the second month. Pesach Sheni is a second chance to draw near to HaShem after one has been far away, whether because of a trip or because of sin. As man was given a second chance to make the world into a place where he could draw near to HaShem, so Pesach Sheni gave those who were far off the opportunity to draw near.

I would like to spend some time examining the ‘mouth’ as it appears in:

***Tehillim (Psalms) 55:10****For there is no sincerity in their* ***mouth****; their inward part is a yawning gulf, their* ***throat*** *is an open sepulcher; they make smooth their* ***tongue****.*

The mouth is composed of the following sephirot:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Sefirah*** | **Part of Mouth** |
| *Chachmah* | Palate |
| *Binah* | Throat |
| *daat* | Contact point of tongue and throat |
| *chesed* | Upper jaw and teeth |
| *Gevurah* | Lower jaw and teeth |
| *Tiferet* | Length of the tongue |
| *Netzach* | Upper lip |
| *hod* | Lower lip |
| *yesod* | Tip of the tongue |
| *malchut* | Cavity of the mouth |

We know that everything that exists in the material world is paralleled in the spiritual world. Smell and taste refer to Torah and mitzvot. Taste and smell are the spiritual core and the living essence of everything and Torah and mitzvot are similarly the living essence of everything.

The dimple of the upper lip is the inclusion of the ten *sefirot* within the mouth.

The lips also hide a deep secret. This is the secret of our conscience which guides us in life. It is the secret that explains how a man might derive a novel understanding of the Torah that has not been explained by others. This secret is expressed in the body by the dimple of the upper lip. Chazal[[13]](#footnote-13) teach the following about this dimple:

**Midrash Tanchuma (S. Buber Recension) for Vayikra (Leviticus) 12:1 – 13:28**

**4.1 Leviticus 12:lff, Part I**

(Lev. 12:1-2) THEN THE LORD SPOKE UNTO MOSES, SAYING: SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, SAYING: WHEN A WOMAN EMITS HER SEED AND BEARS A MALE. This text is related (to Job 29:2): O THAT I WERE AS IN THE MONTHS OF OLD, AS IN THE DAYS WHEN GOD WATCHED OVER ME! In regard to this verse, Job spoke it when the afflictions had come upon him. He said: O THAT I WERE [AS IN THE MONTHS OF OLD], and would that I had the days which I had when I was in my mother’s belly! AS IN THE DAYS WHEN GOD WATCHED OVER ME!

<These words> teach that the infant is watched over while it is in its mother’s belly.

[(Job 29:3) WHEN HIS LIGHT SHONE OVER MY HEAD. From here you learn that the infant has light in its mother’s belly.]

(Job 29:4) WHEN I WAS IN THE DAYS OF MY YOUTH (horef), [WHEN THE GOD’S COMPANY WAS OVER MY TENT. These words teach about the infant.] Just as the rain is at work in the soil for it to become muddy, so the infant is muddy in its mother’s womb. {WHEN THE GOD’S COMPANY WAS OVER MY TENT. These words teach about the infant.} Moreover, just as the infant stays muddy, [so is a person muddied] by sins, so that misfortunes come upon him. At that time <Job> said (in Job 29:2): O THAT I WERE AS IN THE MONTHS OF OLD, AS IN THE DAYS WHEN GOD WATCHED OVER ME, and would that I had the days which I had when I was in my mother’s belly! What does he finally say (in vs. 4)? WHEN I WAS IN THE DAYS OF MY YOUTH. R. Abbahu said: The infant comes out of the mother’s belly covered with slime and covered with blood; yet everyone praises and cherishes it, especially when it is a male. Ergo (in Lev. 12:2): WHEN A WOMAN EMITS HER SEED AND BEARS A MALE.

TONGUE

The place of circumcision is the medium through which man pours his physical life force into the universe, while the tongue is the medium through which man pours his thoughts and ideas into the world.[[14]](#footnote-14)

The life force in man is focused in three places, his intelligence, his organs of reproduction, and his heart. Two of these he has the obligation to circumcise. On the eighth day his parents circumcise his organ of reproduction. It is up to them to turn their child into a channel for HaShem’s goodness to enter the world through proper training and education. If they do their job well, parents can correct this defect.

It is up to the individual himself to circumcise his tongue, to employ his adult intelligence to open his eyes and ears to the positive in other people and in the world.

The circumcision of the heart is more complex and awaits the end of days. Yet, we have no access to the spiritual world except through the physical. Thus we understand that the circumcision of the heart begins with the circumcision of the male organ.

***Devarim (Deuteronomy 30:6)*** *The Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, to love the Lord your God, with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*

This ultimate circumcision has the affect of removing the evil inclination entirely and shuts down the present era of human history by bringing free will to an end.

***Midrash Tehillim Psalms 120:2-4*** *In my distress I called unto the Lord ... Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.[[15]](#footnote-15) The children of Israel said to the Holy One, blessed be He: Even as You have delivered us from all kinds of distress, deliver us from this one, and we will have no other distress, for lying lips—ín them is our distress. Hence it is said Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, etc.*

*Of all the organs of a man’s body, some are fixed in place and some have freedom of movement; his feet make him free to come and go, his hands make it possible for him to give and take. Only the tongue is neither fixed nor free. Being set inside it is isolated and hemmed in. And yet the tongue can smite the great and the small, the near and the far. It could smite all the more fatally, if it were outside a man’s body, or if like some other parts it could give and take, or if like the feet it were free to come and go.*

***III.*** *What will it profit you, or what will be added unto you, you false tongue?:[[16]](#footnote-16) What will your falseness profit you, or what good can it do you? The tongue sins, but not for its own advantage.*

*The Holy One, blessed be He, says to the tongue: When a thief steals, he steals to eat. Though it is written You will not steal,[[17]](#footnote-17) a thief will steal for the need of the moment, as it is said Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry.[[18]](#footnote-18) And though it is written You will not commit adultery,[[19]](#footnote-19) a man will commit adultery and for the moment satisfy his appetite, as is said He that commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he that does it destroys his own soul.[[20]](#footnote-20) Though the adulterer destroys his own soul, yet for the moment he satisfies his lust. But you, O tongue, what good have you done yourself by your slaying? I will tell you, O evil/lawless tongue, how I am going to act towards you! Even as you did act towards the world from the beginning—as a serpent you spoke evil to Adam—so will I act towards you. You were also the serpent tongue of the wilderness, when, as it is written, The people spoke against God and against Moses.[[21]](#footnote-21) And how did the Lord act towards them? The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people.[[22]](#footnote-22) Why serpents? Because it was a serpent that spoke evil/lawlessness, as is said They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; vipers’ venom is under their lips.[[23]](#footnote-23) And so I made those evil-tongued children of Israel into the dust that I had decreed for the serpent: Dust will you eat.[[24]](#footnote-24)*

***IV.*** *What will it profit you, or what will be added unto you, you false tongue?[[25]](#footnote-25) The evil/lawless tongue is called “triple-slaying.” Why? Because it slays three: the one who owns it, the one who listens to it, and the one of whom it speaks. And so you find in the story of Doeg that it slew three. It slew Doeg himself, for he has no portion in the world-to-come; it slew Ahimelech the priest, for it is said And Nob the city of the priests [Doeg] smote with the edge of the sword;[[26]](#footnote-26) it also slew Saul, who listened to it and accepted its words, for it is said So Saul died, and his three sons[[27]](#footnote-27) And the wicked/lawless kingdom (Rome) slays with its tongue as does a serpent, for it is said The voice thereof will go like a serpent.[[28]](#footnote-28)*

*The tongue is like an arrow. Why? Because if a man takes his sword in hand to slay his fellow, who thereupon pleads with him and begs for mercy, the would-be slayer can repent and return the sword to its sheath. But an arrow—once the would-be slayer aims and lets it go, he cannot bring it back even if he wants to bring it back. Hence it is said, "Sharp are the arrows of the mighty, like coals of broom,[[29]](#footnote-29) for a broom-shrub once set on fire makes coals that cannot be extinguished".*

*Once it happened that two men going through the wilderness sat down under a broom-shrub, gathered some fallen twigs of the broom, broiled for themselves what they wanted to eat, and ate their victuals. A year later when they came back into the wilderness to the place of the broom-shrub and found the ashes of the fire which they had kindled, they said: “It is now twelve months since we came through here and ate in this place.” Thereupon they raked up the ashes, and as they walked over them, their feet were burnt by the coals under the ashes, for they were still unextinguished. Hence the evil tongue is said to be like coals of broom, as in the verse Sharp are the arrows of the mighty, like coals of broom.[[30]](#footnote-30)*

*A wicked/lawless man can slay other men with his tongue. Like an arrow which a man is unaware of until it reaches him, so is the evil tongue. A man is unaware of it until its arrows from the kingdom of Esau come suddenly upon him. A man remains unaware of it until suddenly a sentence of death or imprisonment is released against him. For while the man is given over to his own affairs, the scribes libel him wherever he may be and so slay him. Hence it is said Sharp are the arrows of the mighty. Thus Moses said to Israel: You will not be afraid of the terror by night[[31]](#footnote-31) —that is, of the terror of the kingdom of Esau; and he went on to say, Nor of the arrow that flies by day (ibid.)—that is, the arrow of the scribes of Esau. Hence it is said Sharp are the arrows of the mighty.*

LIPS

The human body, on its surface, is peach or tan, while the inner lining is red. The lips, on the other hand, are the opposite. The inner red lining is revealed on the outside, while the outer tan part is covered over by the bottom lip. Hashem made the lips of a person different from all other parts of the body in order to stress this concept that the language of a person reflects his inner self. The lips are the final stage that one’s words must pass before being exposed to the outside. Symbolizing the fact that the words of a person reveal his true inner self, the lips are flipped inside out, revealing the inner part of the person.

TEETH

Teeth are used to reduce the bulk and consistency of food to a level that enables the digestive system to deal with it in an optimal manner. In fact, without the teeth, not only would eating not be a pleasure, but eating would be literally a “belly-ache”.

One of Jacob’s sons, Yehuda, received the blessings of “redness of eyes from wine, and whiteness of teeth from milk”. Just as wine promotes the expansion of veins in the eyes, it also allows the inner person to feel more at ease and also more pensive. “Wine” thus refers to the level of Torah where the “inner secrets” are located. Hence the teaching in the Talmud: “When wine enters, secrets are released”. *Whiteness* of teeth refers to the process of clarity (whiteness) of mind and emotion, refining these to conform with the *Chessed* (compassionate) nature of the universe. This involves the “chewing over” of one’s day or year at the appropriate moments, daily and annually.

Have you ever wondered why it is that when we wish to show warmth and friendliness to another person, we instinctively smile and reflexively display our teeth? If we were creating the body would you suggest opening your mouth and showing your teeth as a way to show friendship? Why did G-d make our bodies react in this manner? Why is displaying our teeth associated with being open and pleasant?

A hint may be found in the following Midrash about teeth.

***Yalkut Shimoni*** *Just as the strength of a person is held within his teeth* (if one has no teeth or weak teeth, he cannot eat, and gain strength -ed.)*, so too, strength is found within the Torah.*

Teeth are linked here to wisdom.

We have thirty-two[[32]](#footnote-32) (32) teeth[[33]](#footnote-33) corresponding to the thirty-two paths of wisdom (often understood as the ten sefirot and the twenty-two letters of the Hebrew alphabet) as taught in Sefer Yetzirah.

A malfunction in a particular tooth must represent a malfunction in a particular aspect symbolized by one of the paths of wisdom. I have no idea which tooth corresponds to which path, although I would take note of functions (biting, grinding, etc.) as well as age of development (a good clue to the late-coming wisdom teeth).

*“He established twenty-two letters fundamentally by the voice, formed by the breath of air and fixed them on five places in the human mouth, namely:*

***One*** *at the throat {guttural sounds}, Aleph, Hay, Chet, Ayin.*

***Two*** *at the palate {palatal sounds}, Gimel, Yod, Kaf, Qof.*

***Three****, at the tongue {lingual sounds}, Dalet, Tet, Lamed, Nun, Taw.*

***Four****, at the teeth {dental sounds}, Zain, Shin, Samech, Resh, Tzaddi.*

***Five****, at the lips {labial sounds}, Bet, Vav, Mem, Peh.”* (Sefer Yetzirah chapter two, section three.)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Teeth |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tooth Name** | **Number** |
| Central **Incisors** | Four (4) |
| Lateral **Incisors** | Four (4) |
| **Cuspids** (canine or eye teeth) | Four (4) |
| Second **Bicuspids** (2nd Premolars) | Four (4) |
| First **Molars** (6-year Molars) | Four (4) |
| Second **Molars** (12-year molars) | Four (4) |
| Third **Molars** – (Wisdom Teeth) | Four (4) |

 |

According to Chazal, our Sages, the number four signifies completion or fullness.

The letter *shin* has five definitions.[[34]](#footnote-34) The first is *shein*, which means “tooth”, or “teeth”. The second is *lo shanisi*, meaning “stead­fastness in one’s faith”. The third is *shinoy*, which is “to change for the good”. The fourth is *shuvah*, which means “to return”. The fifth is *shanah,* or “year”.

The general use of one’s teeth (*shein*) is to chew food. The teeth break up and grind food. This action represents an indi­vidual who carefully “chews over”, or is careful with his actions. Additionally, the teeth represent strength. Many times, if we don’t have the strength to break something with our hands, we use our teeth.

According to mystical sources there are 32 paths of wisdom. So too there are 32 sources of wisdom within a person (found in the head) which are channeled to each one of the entire set of 32 adult teeth. The number 32 has the *gematria*, the numerical value of the Hebrew word ‘lev’, which means ‘heart’. This means that our 32 teeth represent what is in our heart.

Teeth are linked to the heart and to wisdom. What does this all mean?

The wisdom of a human being begins with thoughts in the heart, but if it remains there the wisdom is self-serving. In order for that wisdom to make the world a better place it needs to be expressed through the mouth. When we open our mouths and speak we share ourselves with the world. Smiling is a symbol of our willingness to open ourselves up to others.

Our many teeth represent the many thoughts that run through our heads; thoughts which have the potential to help others, to make a positive impact upon those around us and indeed the entire world.

When we open our mouths and smile at someone we are communicating the following message: “I want to show you what is inside of me.” When we smile and display our teeth, we are showing others that there’s a lot inside that we want to share.

Whether we realize it or not, when we smile we are showing a glimpse of our wisdom. HaShem created us so that when we are happy, we smile, we laugh, we show our teeth. This is as if to say, “I am in a wonderful mood”. I feel the grandeur of life. I am happy to be alive in this world. Thus, I am showing my teeth to the world, and through my teeth, I am displaying my wisdom. I have a precious role to play in this world by tapping into and utilizing my wisdom and sharing it with others. This is why I’m smiling; this is the reason I am showing you my teeth.”

When we greet someone, we are supposed to smile at them. Smiling exhibits our kindness and openness to relate to another person. When I frown I close my mouth tightly; I hide my teeth. I am saying that I do not wish to open myself or my wisdom up to anyone. But when I smile, I say to my fellow man, “Yes, I want to get to know you. I want to share my wisdom, my insights, my personal contributions to this world with you. I am showing you my teeth, the window to my world and my wisdom, and I want you to partake in what I have to offer”.[[35]](#footnote-35)

HaShem is referred to exclusively by the name *Elohim* in the account of creation, and this name is mentioned **exactly 32 times** in the course of this section of the Torah. As we said above, the 32 teeth correspond to the 32 paths of wisdom. This provides another connection to our psalm.

**RASHI’S COMMENTARY ON PSALM THREE verse eight:** YOU BREAK THE TEETH OF THE WICKED. [‘THE TEETH’ is a metaphor for] their might.

One who suffers from a toothache and other oral woes might find their remedy in the recitation of Kiddush Levana.[[36]](#footnote-36) Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky teaches[[37]](#footnote-37) that for a toothache, it is a segula from early generations, to add several words to the Kiddush Levana at a specific point in the prayer for relief from toothaches. After one has recited the passage of “so too, may my enemies not be able to harm me”, one should immediately add “and I should no longer have a toothache”.

It seems that the Lubavitcher Rebbe concurred with the efficacy of this segula, as well.[[38]](#footnote-38) This segula is also cited in the siddur “Beit Yaakov” of Rabbi Yaakov Emden. Rabbi Kanievsky adds that his father would recite these additional words not only for himself when needed, but also on behalf of others who were suffering from toothaches. The reason why teeth are associated with the moon and Kiddush Levana is because these words are all closely related to the word, lavan.[[39]](#footnote-39)

The upper and lower jaws with their two rows of teeth correspond to the two *sefirot* of *chesed* and *Gevurah* within the mouth. Chewing food is like processing an idea to make it digestible. This process depends upon the two primary emotive powers of the soul. Love, *chesed*, motivates the desire of the soul to “integrate” the sparks present in external reality. Might, *Gevurah*, performs the actual grinding of the teeth, breaking the food into digestible pieces, of which is said, “*malchut* [in our context, the mouth] is built [i.e., made able to perform its function to eat] out of the [states of] *Gevurah*”.

Similar to the upper and lower jaws and teeth, the upper and lower lips correspond to the two *sefirot* of *Netzach* and *hod* within the mouth. These “guard” the entrance to the mouth from the outside (in Kabbalah, *Netzach* and *hod* are described as “outside the body”). In addition, the lips serve to convey an expression of the soul deeper than words, the kiss.[[40]](#footnote-40) Here, they join together with the tip of the tongue, the union of the triplet *Netzach-hod-yesod* within the mouth. Just as “tongue” means “language,” so does “lip” (*safah*) mean “language” in Hebrew. This alludes to the language of the kiss.

We have thus completed the analysis of the inter-inclusion of the ten *sefirot* within the mouth.[[41]](#footnote-41)

Now we can begin to appreciate the depth of these simple words in our psalm. ☺

**Ashlamatah: Yeshayahu (Isaiah) ‎54:9-17 + 55:5‎**

| **Rashi’s Translation** | **Targum** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. ¶ "Sing you barren woman who has not borne; burst out into song and jubilate, you who have not experienced birth pangs, for the children of the desolate one are more than the children of the married woman," says the Lord.  | 1. ¶ ‎54.1 Sing, 0 Jerusalem who was as a barren woman who did not bear; shout in singing and exult, [you who were] as a woman who did not ‎become pregnant! For the children of desolate Jerusalem will be more than the children of inhabited Rome, says the LORD.  |
| 2. Widen the place of your tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of your habitations, do not spare; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. | 2. Enlarge ‎the place of your camping, and cause the cities of your land to be inhabited; hold not back, increase the people of your armies and ‎strengthen your rulers. |
| 3. For right and left shall you prevail, and your seed shall inherit nations and repeople desolate cities. | 3. For you will be strengthened to the south and to the north, and your sons will possess peoples and will cause ‎desolate cities to be inhabited. |
| 4. Fear not, for you shall not be ashamed, and be not embarrassed for you shall not be put to shame, for the shame of your youth you shall forget, and the disgrace of your widowhood you shall no longer remember. | 4. Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be put to shame; for you will ‎forget the shame of your youth, and the reproaches of your widowhood you will remember no more. |
| 5. For your Master is your Maker, the Lord of Hosts is His name, and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, shall be called the God of all the earth. | 5. For your Maker is your husband, ‎the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. |
| 6. For, like a wife who is deserted and distressed in spirit has the Lord called you, and a wife of one's youth who was rejected, said your God. | 6. For the Shekhinah ‎of the LORD has summoned [you] like a wife forsaken and distressed in spirit, like a wife of youth who is cast off, says your God. |
| 7. "For a small moment have I forsaken you, and with great mercy will I gather you. | 7. In ‎a little anger I forsook you, but with great compassion I will bring your exiles near. |
| 8. With a little wrath did I hide My countenance for a moment from you, and with everlasting kindness will I have compassion on you," said your Redeemer, the Lord. **{S}** | 8. In a ‎ brief hour. for a time. I took up the face of my Shekhinah from you, but with everlasting benefits which do not cease I will have ‎compassion on you, says the LORD, your Redeemer. **{S}** |
| 9. "For this is to Me [as] the waters of Noah, as I swore that the waters of Noah shall never again pass over the earth, so have I sworn neither to be wroth with you nor to rebuke you. | 9. This is like **the days of Noah before Me**: as I swore by My Memra that t**he ‎waters of the flood** which were in the days of N oah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that my anger will not turn upon ‎you and I will not rebuke you. |
| 10. **For the mountains shall depart and the hills totter, but My kindness shall not depart from you, neither shall the covenant of My peace totter," says the Lord, Who has compassion on you. {S}** | 10. **For the mountains may pass and the hills be split, but my goodness will not pass from you. ‎Jerusalem. and My covenant of peace will not be cast away, says He who is about to have compassion on you, says the LORD. {S}** |
| 11. O poor tempestuous one, who was not consoled, behold I will set your stones with carbuncle, and I will lay your foundations with sapphires. | 11. ‎‎O needy one, suffering mortification, city concerning which the peoples say it will not be comforted, behold I am setting your pavement ‎stones in antimony, and I will lay your foundations with good stones. |
| 12. And I will make your windows of jasper and your gates of carbuncle stones, and all your border of precious stones. | 12. I will make your wood as pearls and your gates of ‎carbuncles, and all your border of precious stones. |
| 13. **And all your children shall be disciples of the Lord, and your children's peace shall increase.** | 13. **All your sons will be taught in the law of the LORD, and great will be the ‎prosperity of your sons.** |
| 14. With righteousness shall you be established, go far away from oppression, for you shall not fear, and from ruin, for it will not come near you.  | 14. In innocence you will be ‎ established; be far from oppression, for you will not fear; and from breaking, for it will not come to you.  |
| 15. Behold, the one with whom I am not, shall fear, whoever mobilizes against you shall defect to you. | 15. Behold, the exiles of ‎your people will surely be gathered to you at the end; the kings of the peoples who are gathered to distress you, Jerusalem, will be ‎cast in your midst. |
| 16. Behold I have created a smith, who blows on a charcoal fire and produces a weapon for his work, and I have created a destroyer to destroy [it]. | 16. Behold, I have created the smith who blows fire in coals, and produces a vessel for its worth. I have also ‎created the destroyer to destroy; |
| 17. Any weapon whetted against you shall not succeed, and any tongue that contends with you in judgment, you shall condemn; this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and their due reward from Me, says the Lord. **{S}** | 17. no weapon that is prepared against you, Jerusalem, will prosper, and you will declare a sinner ‎every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their innocence before Me, says ‎the LORD." **{S}** |
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| 1. Ho! All who thirst, go to water, and whoever has no money, go, buy and eat, and go, buy without money and without a price, wine and milk. | 1. ‎"Ho, everyone who wishes to learn, let him come and learn; and he who has no money, come, hear and learn! Come, hear and learn, ‎without price and not with mammon, teaching which is better than wine and milk.  |
| 2. Why should you weigh out money without bread and your toil without satiety? Hearken to Me and eat what is good, and your soul shall delight in fatness. | 2. Why do you spend your money for that which ‎is not to eat, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Attend to My Memra diligently, and eat what is good, and your soul shall ‎delight itself in that which is fat. |
| 3. **Incline your ear and come to Me, hearken and your soul shall live, and I will make for you an everlasting covenant, the dependable mercies of David.** | 3. **Incline your ear, and attend to my Memra; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with ‎you an everlasting covenant, the sure benefits of David.** |
| 4. Behold, a witness to nations have I appointed him, a ruler and a commander of nations. | 4. **Behold, I appointed him a prince to the peoples, a king and a ruler over ‎all the kingdoms.** |
| 5. Behold, a nation you do not know you shall call, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, for the sake of the Lord your God and for the Holy One of Israel, for He glorified you. **{S}** | 5. Behold, people that you know not will serve you, and people that knew you not will run to offer tribute to you, ‎for the sake of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. **{S}** |
| 6. **Seek the Lord when He is found, call Him when He is near.** | 6. **Seek the fear of the LORD while you live, beseech before Him while you live;**  |
| 7. The wicked shall give up his way, and the man of iniquity his thoughts, and he shall return to the Lord, Who shall have mercy upon him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon. | 7. let the wicked forsake his wicked way and man who robs his conceptions: let ‎him return to the service of the LORD, that He may have mercy upon him, and to the fear of our God, for he will abundantly pardon. |
| 8. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," says the Lord. | 8. For not as my thoughts are your thoughts, neither are your ways correct as the ways of my goodness, says the LORD. |
| 9. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts [higher] than your thoughts. | 9. 55.9 **For just ‎as the heavens, which are higher than the earth, so are the ways of My goodness more correct than your ways, and My thoughts prove ‎‎(to be) better planned than your thoughts.** |
| 10. **For, just as the rain and the snow fall from the heavens, and it does not return there, unless it has satiated the earth and fructified it and furthered its growth, and has given seed to the sower and bread to the eater,** | 10. **For as the rain and the snow, which come down from the heavens, and it is not ‎possible for them that they should return thither, but water the earth, increasing it and making it sprout, giving seeds, enough for the ‎sower and bread, enough for the eater,** |
| 11. **so shall be My word that emanates from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, unless it has done what I desire and has made prosperous the one to whom I sent it.** | 11. **so is the word ‎ of my goodness that goes forth before me; it is not possible that it will return before Me empty, but accomplishes that which I please, and ‎prospers in the thing for which I sent it** |
| 12. For with joy shall you go forth, and with peace shall you be brought; the mountains and the hills shall burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap hands. | 12. For you will go out in joy from among the Gentiles. and be led in peace to your land; the ‎mountains and the hills before you will shout in singing, and all the trees of the field will clap with their branches. |
| 13. Instead of the briar, a cypress shall rise, and instead of the nettle, a myrtle shall rise, and it shall be for the Lord as a name, as an everlasting sign, which shall not be discontinued." **{P}** | 13. Instead of the ‎wicked will the righteous/generous be established; and instead of the sinners shall those who fear sin be established; and it will be before the ‎LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign which will not cease." ‎ **{P}** |
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**Rashi’s Commentary for: Yeshayahu (Isaiah) ‎54:9-17 + 55:5‎‎**

**Chapter 54**

**1 Sing, you barren woman** Jerusalem, who was as though she had not borne.

**you who have not experienced birth pangs** Heb. חָלָה , an expression of childbirth, for the woman in confinement gives birth with pains and writhing.

**for the children of the desolate one** The daughter of Edom.

**2 and let them stretch** forth far off.

**lengthen your cords** These are thin ropes that hang at the bottom of tents, and that are tied to stakes called ‘chevills’ in French, which are thrust into the ground.

**3 shall you prevail** Heb. תִּפְרֽצִי , shall you prevail.

**4 your youth** Heb. עֲלוּמַיִךְ , your youth.

**6 who was rejected** When she is rejected at times that her husband is a little wroth with her.

**8 With a little wrath** Heb. שֶׁצֶף . Menahem (Machbereth p. 179) interprets this as, “with kindling of wrath,” and Dunash (Teshuvoth p. 20) states, “with a little wrath,” paralleling “For a small moment have I forsaken you,” and so did Jonathan render.

**and with everlasting kindness** that will exist forever.

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**9 For this is to Me [as] the waters of Noah** [i.e.,] it is an oath in My hand, and He proceeds to explain His words, “as I swore that the waters of Noah shall never again pass over the earth, etc.”

**10 For the mountains shall depart** Even if the merit of the Patriarchs and the Matriarchs is depleted, My kindness shall not depart from you.

**11 tempestuous one** whose heart storms with many troubles.

**I will set with carbuncle** I pave your floor with carbuncle stones.

**12 jasper** Heb. כַּדְכֽד , a kind of precious stone.

**your windows** Jonathan renders: your woodwork, and Menahem associated it with (Dan. 7:10): “ministered to Him (יְשַׁמְּשׁוּנֵהּ) .” (Menahem, apparently renders: your utensils, i.e., the vessels that serve you.) And some interpret it as an expression of a sun (שֶׁמֶשׁ) , windows through which the sun shines, and they make opposite it a barrier of kinds of colored glass for beauty, and Midrash Psalms interprets שִׁמְשׁוֹתַיִךְ as well as שֶׁמֶשׁ וּמָגֵן (Ps. 84:12) as “the pinnacles of the wall.”

**of carbuncle stones** Heb. אֶקְדָּח . Jonathan renders: of gomer stones. Gumrin is the Aramaic translation of גֶּחָלִים , coals. He interprets אֶקְדָּח as an expression similar to (supra 50:11) “who kindle (קֽדְחֵי) fire,” and they are a type of stones that burn like torches and that is the carbuncle (karbokle in O.F.), an expression of a coal. Others interpret it as an expression of a drill, i.e., huge stones of which the entire opening of the doorway is drilled, and the doorposts, the threshold, and the lintel are all hewn from the stone.

**of precious stones** Desirable stones [from Jonathan].

**14 go far away from oppression** [Although grammatically this is the imperative, here it is the future,] like (supra 52:2) “Shake yourself from the dust.” You will be far away from those who oppress you. Printed editions of Rashi contain the following addendum:

**(go far away from oppression** You will stay far from oppressing other peoples in the manner the wicked do, that they accumulate money through robbery, but you will not need to rob, for you will not fear poverty or straits, or ruin, for it shall neither come nor shall it approach you. [Abarbanel])

**(With righteousness** that you will perform, you will be established with an everlasting redemption, and you will be far from people’s oppression for you will not fear; you will not even have terror or fear of them, and you will be far from ruin, for it will not come near you. [Ayalah Sheluchah])

**15 Behold, the one with whom I am not, shall fear** Heb. גּוֹר יָגוּר . Behold, he shall fear and dread evil decrees, he with whom I am not, i.e., Esau. ([Mss. read:] the wicked Esau and his ilk.)

**whoever mobilizes against you** Heb. גָר . Whoever mobilizes against you for war. Alternatively, מִי גָר [means:] whoever contends with you (וְנִתְגָּרֶה) . And our Rabbis explained it as referring to the proselytes (גֵּרִים) , [i.e.,] to say that we will not accept proselytes in Messianic times. And even according to the simple meaning of the verse it is possible to explain: whoever became sojourners with you in your poverty, shall dwell with you in your wealth. Comp. (Gen. 25:18) “In the presence of all his brethren he dwelt (נָפָל) .”

**16 Behold I am He Who created a smith who devises a weapon**, and I am He Who has created a destroyer that destroys it. That is, to say: I am He Who incited the enemy against you; I am He Who has prepared retribution for him.

**and produces a weapon** for his work For necessity. He completes it according to all that is necessary.

**17 Any weapon whetted against you** Any weapon that they will whet and sharpen for you, i.e., to battle with you. whetted Heb. יוּצַר , an expression similar to (Jos. 5: 2) “sharp knives (חַרְבוֹתצֻרִים) ,” also (Ps. 89:44) “You have also turned the edge of his sword (צוּר חַרְבּוֹ) .”

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**Chapter 55**

**1 Ho! All who thirst** Heb. הוֹי . This word הוֹי is an expression of calling, inviting, and gathering, and there are many in Scripture, [e.g.,] (Zech. 2:10) “Ho! Ho! and flee from the north land.”

**go to water** to Torah.

**buy** Heb. שִׁבְרוּ . Comp. (Gen. 42:3) “To buy (לִשְׁבּֽר) corn,” buy.

**wine and milk** Teaching better than wine and milk.

**2 Why should you weigh out mone**y Why should you cause yourselves to weigh out money to your enemies without bread?

**3 the dependable mercies of David** For I will repay David for his mercies.

**4 a witness to nations** A prince and a superior over them, and one who will reprove and testify of their ways to their faces. ([Mss., however, read:] One who reproaches them for their ways to their faces.)

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**5 Behold, a nation you do not know you shall call to your service**, if you hearken to Me, to the name of the Lord that is called upon you.

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**6 when He is found** Before the verdict is promulgated, when He still says to you, “Seek Me.”

**8 For My thoughts are not your thoughts** Mine and yours are not the same; therefore, I say to you, “The wicked shall give up his way,” and adopt My way...

**“and a man of iniquity his thoughts**” and adopt My thoughts, to do what is good in My eyes. And the Midrash Aggadah (Tanhuma Buber, Vayeshev 11 explains:)

**For My thoughts are not, etc.** My laws are not like the laws of man [lit. flesh and blood]. As for you, whoever confesses in judgment is found guilty, but, as for Me, whoever confesses and gives up his evil way, is granted clemency (Proverbs 28:13).

**9 As the heavens are higher, etc.** That is to say that there is a distinction and a difference, advantages and superiority in My ways more than your ways and in My thoughts more than your thoughts, as the heavens are higher than the earth; you are intent upon rebelling against Me, whereas I am intent upon bringing you back.

**10 For, just as the rain and the snow fall and do not return empty**, but do good for you.

**11 so shall be My word that emanates from My mouth** to inform you through the prophets, will not return empty, but will do good to you if you heed them.

**12 For with joy shall you go forth** from the exile.

**the mountains and the hills shall burst into song before you** for they will give you their fruit and their plants, and their inhabitants shall derive benefit. ([Some editions read:] And their inhabitants shall sing.)

**13 Instead of the briar, etc.** Our Rabbis expounded [Targum Jonathan]: Instead of the wicked, righteous people shall arise.

**briar...and...nettle** They are species of thorns; i.e., to say that the wicked will be destroyed and the righteous will take their rule.

**Verbal Tallies**

**By: H.Em. Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David**

**& HH Giberet Dr. Elisheba bat Sarah**

**Bereshit (Genesis) 6:9 – 7:24**

**Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 54:9-17 + 55:5**

**Tehillim (Psalm) 5**

**Mk 1:12-13, Lk 4:1-13, Acts 2:1-13**

**The verbal tallies between the Torah and the Ashlamata are:**

Noah - נח, Strong’s number 05146.

God - אלהים, Strong’s number 0430.

**The verbal tallies between the Torah and the Psalm are:**

Just / Righteous - צדיק, Strong’s number 06662.

Man - איש, Strong’s number 0376.

God - אלהים, Strong’s number 0430.

**Bereshit (Genesis) 6:9** These are the generations of Noah <05146>: Noah <05146> was a just <06662> man <0376> and perfect in his generations, and Noah <05146> walked with God <0430>.

**Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 54:9** For this is as the waters of Noah <05146> unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah <05146> should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.

**Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 55:5** Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God <0430>, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

**Tehillim (Psalm) 5:2** Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God <0430>: for unto thee will I pray.

**Tehillim (Psalm) 5:6** Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man <0376>.

**Tehillim (Psalm) 5**:12 For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous <06662>; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

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| **NAZAREAN TALMUD****Sidra Of B’resheet (genesis) 6:9 -7:24** **“Tol’dot Noach” “The generations of Noach”****By: H. Em. rabbi Dr. Adon Eliyahu ben Abraham &****Hakham Dr. Yosef ben Haggai** |
| **School of Hakham Shaul****Tosefta****(Luke 4:1-13)****Mishnah א** | **School of Hakham Tsefet****Peshat****(Mark 1:12-13)****Mishnah א** |
| **א** Yeshua was full[[42]](#footnote-42) of the Ruach HaKodesh (breath of holiness – i.e. Mesorah) returning from the Yarden was led by the Ruach into the wilderness (desert), where he was tempted by the adversary (the Yetser HaRa) **for forty days.[[43]](#footnote-43)** And he ate nothing for those days, and when those (days) were accomplished he was hungry. And the adversary (the Yetser HaRa)[[44]](#footnote-44) said to him, “If you are the Son of G-d (Messiah the King of Yisrael), command this stone to become bread.” And Yeshua answered[[45]](#footnote-45) (from hermeneutic) “it is written – And He humbled you, and suffered you to hunger, and fed you with manna, which you did not know (understand), neither did your fathers know; **that He might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD does man live.** (De 8:3)[[46]](#footnote-46) And (then) the adversary (the yetser hara) led him to a high mountain bringing to his (Yeshua’s) attention all the kingdoms of the entire earth (governed by human kings and intermediaries) in an instant of time. And the adversary (the yester hara) said to him (Yeshua), “I will give you their glory and all this authority; for all authority has been given to me[[47]](#footnote-47) and I can give to whoever I desire. If you will submit to me, all this will be yours.” And Yeshua replied “**You will fear the LORD your God, and serve Him, and will swear by His name** (De 6:13).” Then the adversary (yester hara) took him to Yerushalayim and stood him on the peak of the Temple (referring to the southeast corner of the Temple), saying to him (Yeshua) “If you are the Son of G-d (Messiah the King of Yisrael), throw yourself down from here, for it is written **“For He will give His angels (messengers) charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.** (Psa 91:11-12).” And Yeshua answered saying, “**You will not tempt the LORD your God, as you tempted him in Massah.** (De. 6:16).” When the adversary (the Yester HaRa) completed every test, he (the Yester HaRa) no longer hindered him (Yeshua) waiting (for a more opportune) time. | **And immediately[[48]](#footnote-48) the [Holy] Spirit (breath of holiness – the Mesorah) drives[[49]](#footnote-49) him (Yeshua) out into the wilderness (desert), And he (Yeshua) was there in the wilderness (desert) forty days, being tested by the adversary (the yetser hara); and he (Yeshua) was with the animals[[50]](#footnote-50) of the wilderness, and the messengers ministering to him.** |
| **School of Hakham Shaul****Remes****(2 Luqas. 2:1-13)****Pereq א** |
| When the day of Shavuot had come, they (Yeshua’s Talmidim) were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from the heavens a noise like a violent rushing wind (the voices of the Hakhamim – elucidating Torah), and it filled the whole house (temple of living stones) where they were sitting (studying Torah). And tongues as of fire appeared to them divided among them, distributing themselves (the tongues of – the words of the Hakhamim running back and forth to elucidate the Torah), and they rested on each one of them[[51]](#footnote-51). And they were all filled[[52]](#footnote-52) with the Holy Spirit (holy breath of the Mesorah as elucidated by the Hakhamim) and began to speak in foreign languages (of the Diaspora), according to the Ruach (Mesorah) that was given (transmitted) to them. Now there were Jews living (visiting during the feast of Shavuot) in Yerushalayim, devout (God fearing) men from every nation under the heavens. And when this sound (the voices of the Hakhamim – elucidating Torah) began, the congregation assembled was astonished, because everyone heard them speaking in his own language.[[53]](#footnote-53) Being amazed and astonished they asked “Are not all of these who are speaking from the Galil? And how is it that each of us hears in his own language? We are Parthians, Medes, Elamites: residents of Mesopotamia, Y’hudah, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phyrgia, Pamphilia, Mitzrayim, and the parts of Libya bear Cyrene; visitors from Rome; Jews by birth with proselytes; Judeans from Crete and from Arabia! – We hear them speaking about G-d’s wonderful works in our own language.” And all were amazed and perplexed saying to each other, “What does this mean?” But others mockingly said “They are filled with new wine (drunk).” |

**Commentary to Hakham Tsefet’s School of Peshat**

As we have been aptly taught by the Hakhamim the key to understanding Scripture is through questions. And, without a question there is no purpose in the answer. The present materials contain several questions.

* How is it that the “Mesorah – Oral Torah can drive Yeshua into the wilderness?
* Why is the Master “driven” into the wilderness “immediately”?
* What would be the purpose of being “tested” in the wilderness?
* How does the 40 days of temptation (testing) of the Master relate to the 40 days of the earth’s flooding?
* What role do the “wild animal’s” play in the testing of the Master?
* What role do the “messengers” play in the Master’s wilderness testing?

Such being the case, the big question is where do we begin? We will not endeavour to answer all these questions for the sake of brevity. However, these questions deserve honest contemplation and answer.

**And immediately[[54]](#footnote-54) the [Holy] Spirit (breath of holiness – the Mesorah) drives him (Yeshua) out into the wilderness (desert)**

The Ruach (breath – wind – spirit) in the present text refers to an awareness of the Mesorah and its divine workings on the soul. While most scholars detest the thought of the Yester HaRa (usually translated as “the evil inclination”), we must come to an awareness that without the Yester HaRa there is no such thing as spiritual growth. The Yester HaRa provides a dynamic tension necessary for spiritual maturity. Through pleasure, we can be led astray. However, when pleasure is mastered it drives the human being with positive force. We should note that there are 248 positive (constructive) mitzvoth. Through these, we are able to build and repair the world. These 248 mitzvoth focus the energy of the soul towards building the world rather than maintenance or destruction. These energies have a positive impact on man’s soul strengthening and empowering it with divine connection. Furthermore, through the 248 mitzvoth we are able to strengthen our connection with G-d. The 365 negative mitzvoth serve to restrain the natural impulses of the soul (the Yester HaRa) from destroying the world. Therefore, the 365 energies of restraint serve to protect the world from further damage. The 248 energies channel the energy of the soul towards building and repairing the damages, which have already transpired in the world.

**Desert Hostility**

The desert is often analogous of a hostile life-threatening environment. However, the analogy of the present pericope relates to the Torah Seder **“Tol’dot Noach,” “The generations of Noach.”** The generation of Noach was a generation that brought the world to the brink of total destruction by violating the 365 negative mitzvoth. The Ramban tells us that the generation of Noach was guilty of “robbery[[55]](#footnote-55) and injustice.”[[56]](#footnote-56) The violation of these negative mitzvoth brought about the destruction of the earth. If only two negative mitzvoth were violated in that generation, how much more will the earth deserve destruction when a generation violates all 365 mitzvoth?

The Ramban notes that Noach was considered “righteous/generous because he did not succumb to the worship of idols.”[[57]](#footnote-57) The sages of blessed memory teach us that the wilderness of Sinai had five names.

**b Shabbat 89a-b** ﻿For R. Hisda and Rabbah the son of R. Huna both said, What is [the meaning of] Mount Sinai? **The mountain whereon there descended hostility [sin'ah] toward idolaters**. And thus R. Jose son of R. Hanina said: It has five names: The Wilderness of Zin, [meaning] that Israel were given commandments there;[[58]](#footnote-58) the Wilderness of Kadesh, where the Israelites were sanctified [kadosh], the Wilderness of Kedemoth, because a priority [kedumah] was conferred there;[[59]](#footnote-59) the Wilderness of Paran, ﻿because Israel was fruitful [paru] and multiplied there; and the Wilderness of Sinai, because hostility toward idolaters descended thereon. Whilst what was its [real] name? its name was Horeb. Now they disagree with R. Abbahu, For R. Abbahu said: its name was Mount Sinai, and why was it called Mount Horeb? **Because desolation [hurbah] to idolaters descended thereon**.

Idolatry, like the above-mentioned negative energies brings the world to the brink of destruction. The intermediaries governing the world must function according to the Divine plan for the universe. If the role of these intermediaries is altered, the structure of the universe is altered proportionately.

Yeshua’s wilderness test demonstrates the Master’s full control over his emotions and passions. The second component of the Masters “testing” as recorded by Hakham Shaul, through Luqas his scribe is a possible allusion to idolatry. When we apply “corral hermeneutics”, derived from Hillel’s seventh rule,[[60]](#footnote-60) we would surmise that Yeshua was possibly tempted to yield to idolatry. The best place to test the soul in such cases is the desert. This is because there the intermediaries have a measure of inordinate control and influence over the cosmos. It was for this reason that they became the objects of idolatry. In the wilderness the passions of the soul cry the loudest. Thirst for food and water is amplified in the harsh environment of the wilderness when one engages in fasting. Hakham Shaul notes that Yeshua passed every test of the Yester HaRa. “When the adversary (the Yester HaRa) completed every test, he (the Yester HaRa) no longer hindered him (Yeshua) waiting (for a more opportune) time.”

When the Lucan temptation is studied, we see that they are divided into three basic components. However, the first component reveals a summation of the subsequent components. Likewise, it demonstrates the purpose for the Mesorah’s driving Yeshua into the wilderness to be tested. The implied test is not related to hunger. The phrasing of the Lucan text demonstrates the cunning wisdom of the *nachash kadmon* (archetypical serpent)[[61]](#footnote-61) as a prototype for the Yester HaRa. The Master is being compelled to use his office as Messiah illegitimately. In other words, the adversary wants the Master to use the Torah as a spade, so to speak.

﻿**m. Abot 4:5** R. Ishmael, his son, says, “He who learns so as to teach —they give him a chance to learn and to teach. “He who learns so as to carry out his teachings— they give him a chance to learn, to teach, to keep, and to do.” R. Sadoq says, “**Do not make [Torah teachings] a crown with which to glorify yourself or a spade with which to dig**. (So did Hillel say [M. 1:13], “He who uses the crown perishes.”) “Thus have you learned: Whoever derives worldly benefit from teachings of Torah takes his life out of this world.”

Self-aggrandizement through Torah is the destruction of the entire universe. He who takes a life is as though he destroyed the universe.[[62]](#footnote-62) Yeshua’s response is most apropos.

**that he might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD does man live.** (De 8:3)[[63]](#footnote-63)

Furthermore, abuse of power by Paqidim, Hakhamim and Nazarean Jews bring a destructive force into the world. Pandering towards favourites and personal bias brings negative energy into the Esnoga. It is our duty to bring positive constructive energies to the Esnoga in the wake of Lag B’Omer. Inordinate affection towards favourites retards the construction of the Temple of living stones. In a measure, the Paqidim and Hakhamim can be like the intermediaries of the Noachic generation. When they are revered inappropriately with inordinate affection, our relationship with G-d wanes.

Yeshua demonstrates the perfect balance of control over his soul. He demonstrates for us that the key to mastery is through the Mesorah and its channelling of energies in the appropriate direction. While we need the Yester HaRa, it MUST be used as an agent for our Divine mission and personal growth.

**Peroration**

While the Master’s wilderness test may have included tests concerning the inordinate use of the intermediaries’ power, we can determine with certainty that he was tested with regard to self-aggrandizement and abuse of the authority of his office. We therefore conclude that an attitude of superiority when teaching and governing G-d’s “living stones” is despotic and repressive. As a final test, Yeshua teaches us the nature of self-aggrandizement and inordinate abuse of office. Yeshua states that this type of life is “**tempting the Lord our G-d**.”[[64]](#footnote-64)

The Hakhamim have modelled the fatherly attitude of a mentor and true Hakham. In emulating this fatherly approach, we emulate our Hakhamim and our master Yeshua, who mastered his soul. In mastering his soul, he mastered and balanced the Yester HaRa and the Yetser HaTov. May we find the grace and energy to do the same.

**Remes Commentary to Hakham Shaul**

When we begin our investigation of Remes materials, we must do as we did above, we must ask lots of questions. We will posit only one question here. What is Hakham Shaul trying to tell us through the Remes “hint?”

Citing again “corral hermeneutics”, as derived from Hillel’s seventh rule,[[65]](#footnote-65) which is R. Ishmael’s 12th rule, we see that Hakham Shaul clearly associates the inauguration of the Master with the Lag B’Omer experience. In other words, Yeshua’s being “filled” with the Ruach – i.e. Mesorah is celebrated by his talmidim on Lag B’Omer.

However, I will here expand on this scenario. Last Wednesday evening (April the 9th, 2012) initiated Lag B’ Omer. We have seen from the previous pericope of the Nazarean Codicil that, “**it is the duty of every Nazarean Hakham to raise up many talmidim and make them stand by themselves**.” We contend that the inauguration of Yeshua’s talmidim may very well have occurred on Lag B’ Omer rather than on Shavuot. Our argument is from the 4th – 5th  and 12th hermeneutic rules of R. Ishmael (**Kelal u-Peraṭ:** The general and the particular - **Dabar ha-lamed me-'inyano:** Interpretation deduced from the context. Deduced from scripture that is close together (i.e. corral hermeneutics), #5 **u-Peraṭ u-kelal:** The particular and the general. And the #12, **Deduction from the context.**).

**The General and Particular Statements**

When the day of Shavuot had come, they (Yeshua’s Talmidim) were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from the heavens a noise like a violent rushing wind (the voices of the Hakhamim – elucidating Torah), and it filled the whole house (temple of living stones) where they were sitting (studying Torah).

The general statement of “Yeshua’s talmidim being together in one place is elucidated by the particular statement…

Being amazed and astonished they asked “Are not all of these who are speaking from the Galil? And how is it that each of us hears in his own language?

Therefore, we see that the amazement is at the ability of the Nazarean Talmidim as they produce the “astonishing events” of the 2 Luqas 2:1-13, “**And suddenly there came from the heavens a noise like a violent rushing wind** (**the voices of the Hakhamim – elucidating Torah**).” The “voices of the Hakhamim elucidating Torah” on Shavuot are the “voices” of the Nazarean Hakhamim who have already been inaugurated as Hakhamim on Lag B’ Omer. Through their immersion in the Ruach – i.e. Mesorah they are able to reproduce the events of Har Sinai.

And tongues as of fire (voices of the Hakhamim elucidating Torah) appeared to them divided among them, distributing themselves (the tongues of – the words of the Hakhamim running back and forth to elucidate the Torah),

**D’barim (De.) 5:21** and ye said: 'Behold, the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and **we have heard His voice out of the midst of the fire**; we have seen this day that God speaks with man, and he lives.

The particular statement of contiguity, “**And in those days Hakham Tsefet stood up among the Talmidim with the faithfully obedient (congregation of about one hundred and twenty),**”[[66]](#footnote-66) teaches us that Tsefet was already inaugurated as a Hakham prior to this event. This implies a past tense inauguration of the Nazarean Hakhamim. Therefore, we deduce from these statements that the Nazarean Hakhamim did not inaugurate their office as Hakhamim on Shavuot. The presence of the Nazarean Hakhamim produces a phenomenal result on Shavuot. Their voices echo Har Sinai. The “wind of their voices,” sounds like the thunders (*kolot*) of Sinai. Furthermore, their “voices” are an echo of Adam Kadmon (Messiah) as he gave the daily lesson of Oral Torah in Gan Eden.

Their voices inspire their audience. As we have learned the Greek word **θεόπνευστος -** *theopneustos* means, “G-d breathed.” However, the idea of “inspiration” means, “to breathe in” and “**set the mind aflame**.”[[67]](#footnote-67) Another term for this is “brain sweat!” The Nazarean Hakhamim are “breathing the Mesorah into the audience of Jews and prostyles from every part of the known world.

The statement “Are not all of these who are speaking from the Galil?” is elucidated from the Midrash,

R. Judah applied the verse[[68]](#footnote-68) to the students of the Torah (Hakhamim). LOCKS BLACK LIKE A RAVEN: **these are the Hakhamim**; they look repulsive and black in this world, but in the time to come, **The appearance of them will be like torches**, **they [will] run to and fro like the lightnings** (Nah. II, 5).[[69]](#footnote-69)

Consequently, there are those who “mock” with amazement the Nazarean Hakhamim, as it is written: “But others mockingly said “They are filled with new wine (drunk).”

**Another Particular Statement**

**Mat 28:16-20** Then the eleven talmidim went away into Galil, into a mountain (Tzfat) where Yeshua had **appointed them (Ordained them as Hakhamim).** And when they saw him, they honoured him (as their Hakham): but some (of those from the community) doubted. And Yeshua came and spake unto them, saying, All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth (as Messiah the King). Go ye therefore, and teach (talmudize) all nations, immersing them (bringing them to conversion) by the authority of the Father, and of the (His) son (Messiah), and of the Ruach HaKodesh (Oral Torah): Teaching them to observe all commandments (the mitzvoth as I have taught) you: and, behold, I am always with you, even unto the end of the age.

Again, we must rely on hermeneutics to help us with this material. Before we apply the needed hermeneutics, we should take note that these events took place BEFORE Shavuot (2 Luqas - Acts chapter 2).

We find the particular statement in the words, “**appointed them (Ordained them as Hakhamim).**” Our Greek text use the verb **ἐτάξατο** rooted in **τάσσω** *tasso*. Before we delve further into the meaning of these words, we must correct the word order of the verse. Some try to read the verse as if Yeshua “designated a specific mountain where they were to meet.” We must note that the mountain (Tzfat) was a prearranged meeting place and not a part of this verse’s thought.

**Mordechai (Mk) 16:7 But go and say to his talmidim (disciples) and to Tsefet (the capital of the Pillar), 'He goes before you into the Galil. You will see him there just as he told you'."**

We can see that the meeting was prearranged. However, the statement in Matityahu is specific (particular) with regard to “ordination.” **Tάσσω** *tasso* is a “legal appointment.” **Tάσσω** *tasso* is also a setting in order or establishing a well-ordered government.[[70]](#footnote-70) Therefore, we see that Yeshua “ordains” the eleven Talmidim and sets the order of their governance. Yeshua divided the hierarchy was among them, ordaining **Tsefet (Tzfat) the capital of the Pillar),** Yaakov and Yochanan as the Triad of Bate Din’s chief Hakhamim. We also find it very interesting that during the 16th century, R. Jacob (I) Berab, (of Tzfat) tried to re-establish the Sanhedrin and renew rabbinical ordination (*semikhah*). It is also noteworthy to point out the Tzfat was frequently titled Beth-El and that “there were 300 rabbinical scholars, 18 schools, 21 synagogues and a large *yeshivah* with 100 pupils, and 20 teachers at the beginning of the 17th century” were in residence there.[[71]](#footnote-71) The history of Tzfat is closely related to Jewish scholarship and education. Tzfat is still a place where thousands congregate on Lag B’ Omer.[[72]](#footnote-72)

Again, this meeting took place BEFORE Shavuot. And again, we conclude that the most logical time for this “Ordaining” was on Lag B’ Omer. Looking at the tradition of this semi-festival we find that in some Jewish circles it is a day of mourning. However, in other circles it is a day of rejoicing. There is a tradition of young children playing with the bow and arrow.[[73]](#footnote-73) These Lag B Omer practices are an enigma to many scholars. When we realize that the Triennial Torah reading cycle places the present Torah Seder, “Tol’dot Noach” and “Vayzkhor Elohim Et Noach” in the temporal purlieu of Lag B’ Omer, we can readily understand why the bow and arrow is an ancient game for children to play at Lag B’ Omer. The rainbow, a token of peace fits well with these materials as G-d makes a covenant with the earth. Our next Torah Seder, “Vayzkhor Elohim Et Noach” will include the Rainbow as a token of G-d covenant with the earth,[[74]](#footnote-74) promising not to flood it again.

Lag ba-Omer in modern Israel is a school holiday. Youngsters light bonfires in open spaces in towns and villages and **Students’ Day is celebrated on the campuses of the different universities**. The scores of weddings held on Lag B’Omer add to the festive character of this semi holiday.[[75]](#footnote-75)

During the Middle Ages, Lag B’ Omer earned the title **“the Scholars Festival.”**[[76]](#footnote-76) Perhaps there is more to Lag B’ Omer than meets the eye. It would appear that there was an ancient custom linking Lag B’ Omer with graduating students, particularly in Yeshivot. Of course, the big question is, why? We would here opine based again on the 4th – 5th and 12th hermeneutic rules of R. Ishmael, noted above that Yeshua ordained his Talmidim as Hakhamim at Tzfat on Lag B’ Omer. Interestingly we find that Tzfat and Lag B’ Omer seem to be intimately entwined.

We will also opine that Lag B’ Omer is the date for Yeshua’s ascension.

The custom of children playing with a bow (Heb. *keshet*) and arrows on Lag ba-Omer is traced, by certain scholars, to the legend that the rainbow (Heb. *keshet*), a symbol of peace (Gen. 9:11–17).[[77]](#footnote-77)

Why is the bow and arrow a symbol of peace? And, why is it associated with this specific time of the year? Logic tells us that the Triennial Torah Reading Cycle is VERY ancient and that the Lag B’ Omer practices mentioned above are the result of reading about Noach at this time of the year. Therefore, we maintain that the child’s game of playing with bows and arrows is a picture of Yeshua’s Ascension which undoubtedly took place in the present season. The arrow launched into the sky (heavens) can be seen as a hint (Remes) of Yeshua’s ascension. Therefore, Lag B’ Omer is the most logical time for the Ordination of Yeshua’s Talmidim, elevating them to the status of Hakhamim. Likewise, Lag B Omer is the most logical time for Yeshua’s ascension.

Having established that the talmidim were ordained as Hakhamim on Lag B Omer[[78]](#footnote-78) we look at the other details of Shavuot, which will further validate this thesis.

**Tongues as of “Fire”?**

And **tongues as of fire** (voices of the Hakhamim elucidating Torah) appeared to them divided among them, distributing themselves (the tongues of – the words of the Hakhamim running back and forth to elucidate the Torah), and they **rested on each one of them**.

We have seen that “fire” is analogous of Hakhamim.[[79]](#footnote-79) Therefore, we deduce that the “tongues as of fire” are the voices of the Nazarean Hakhamim as they elucidate Torah, specifically the Torah (Mesorah) that was transmitted from their Hakham, Yeshua.

**m. Abot 2:10** And warm yourself by the **fire of the (Nazarean) Hakhamim**, **but be careful of their coals, so you don’t get burned**.”

Generally speaking, the Hakhamim are seen as “fire.” **Particularly** speaking, “fire” is the Nazarean Hakhamim. The present pericope furthers the connection of the talmidim with Yeshua through the thought of the Mesorah – i.e. Oral Torah “**resting on them**” (the Nazarean Hakhamim).

In the Jerome, *Commentary on Isaiah 11:2,* it states the following, “When the Master ascended from the water, the whole fount of the Holy Spirit (Mesorah i.e. – Oral Torah) descended and **rested upon him**, and said to him, "My son, in all the prophets I was waiting for you, that you might come, and that I might **rest** in you. For you are my ***rest***; and you are my ***firstborn son***, who reigns forever.”

**Yeshua in the Wilderness**

Yeshua’s being driven (cast out) into the wilderness is a Remes hint to the Diaspora. His “temptation” models the trials, which his Nazarean Hakhamim will face in Diaspora. Philo teaches us that the wilderness can be a positive experience rather than a negative one. He also teaches that a “mental wilderness” can be a positive state of mind.

**Leg 2:85** And there are times when in the midst of a multitude composed of infinite numbers of men, I can bring my mind into solitude, God having scattered for me the crowd which perplexes my soul, and having taught me that it is not the difference of place that is the cause of good and evil, but rather **God, who moves and drives this vehicle of the soul wherever he pleases**.

Philo continues with the allegory of those who have sinned in Egypt and those who sin in the wilderness.

**Leg 2:86-87** Moreover, the soul falls in with a scorpion, that is to say, with **dispersion in the wilderness**; and the thirst, which is that of the passions, seizes on it **until God sends forth upon it the stream of his own accurate wisdom**, and causes the changed soul to drink of unchangeable health; **for the abrupt rock is the wisdom of God, which being both sublime and the first of things he quarried out of his own powers**, **and of it he gives drink to the souls that love God; and they, when they have drunk, are also filled with the most universal manna; for manna is called something which is the primary genus of everything**. **But the most universal of all things is God; and in the second place the word of God**. But other things have an existence only in word, but in deed they are at times equivalent to that which has no existence. 87 See now the difference between him who turns to sin in the desert and him who sins in Egypt. For the one is bitten by serpents which cause death, that is to say by insatiable pleasures which inflict death; but the other, he who meditates in the wilderness, is only bitten by pleasure and driven astray, but is not killed. **And the one, indeed, is healed by temperance, which is the brazen serpent** which was made by the wise Moses; but the other is supplied by God with a most beautiful draught to drink, namely, wisdom, from the fountain which He himself has brought forth out of his own **wisdom**.

**Peroration**

Again, through textual contiguity we learn from the 12th hermeneutic rule of Remes that the Talmidim were from the Galil. And, that their ordination took place in the Galil.

**Are not all of these who are speaking from the Galil?**

When we connect this with the words of our previous pericope, we begin to see the wisdom of the Nazarean Hakhamim.

“**And now it happened in those days, Yeshua came from the [city of] Branches of the Galil.”[[80]](#footnote-80)**

There is a great deal of controversy concerning the title “Nazareth” as the place where Yeshua “grew up” or resided during his early years and possibly parts of his ministry years. Nazareth is not mentioned in any Jewish literature i.e. Mishnah, Talmud, Midrash or Josephus. Nor is there any archaeological evidence to suggest that it was ever a Jewish city. Archaeological evidence suggests that this area was not populated until the 1500’s. The etymology of the word “Nazareth” seems to be related to the idea that Messiah would be from the stock or “branch” of David. Further research shows that **נָצַר** also means to guard or watch. Therefore, it is suggested that the “City of Branches” or the “City of “**Guardians**” or “**City of Watchmen**” is Tzfat. Consequently, this would make Tzfat the actual place of Yeshua’s early residence. This interpretation seems to be more in line with the thought of Yeshua being from the “branch” of Jessie (Davidic stock). Given the Remes interpretation of the present materials we would suggest that Yeshua was the “**guardian, watchman of the “soul**,” “Oral Torah,” “Wisdom” – Hokhmah and Tzfat was the “secret garden” or “garden of secrets” (So’od). We would also note that it was in Tzfat that Yeshua passed his messianic mission on to his talmidim.

Therefore, Yeshua passes his messianic mission to his talmidim who are now the guardians of the Mesorah, access to Gan Eden (Delight) or the garden of secrets (Hokhmah). Hokhmah being the teachings G-d gave daily to Adam and Havah in Gan Eden and the primordial teachings of G-d before they were written in words and letters.

Though the world was brought to the brink of destruction in Noach’s generation, G-d in His infinite wisdom (Hokhmah) saw that in the future (*eschatos*) the Nazarean Hakhamim would labour for its repair and elevation. Therefore, it is the duty of the Nazarean Hakhamim to elevate the world back to G-d by bringing their talmidim to the heights of Hokhmah. Teshubah is the return to Binah, the return to Hokhmah is the return to complete oneness (unity).

Amen v’amen

**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which verse or verses impressed your heart and fired your imagination?
2. Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this week?

**Blessing After Torah Study**

**Barúch Atáh Adonai, Elohénu Meléch HaOlám,**

**Ashér Natán Lánu Torát Emét, V'Chayéi Olám Natá B'Tochénu.**

**Barúch Atáh Adonái, Notén HaToráh. Amen!**

**Blessed is Ha-Shem our God, King of the universe,**

**Who has given us a teaching of truth, implanting within us eternal life.**

**Blessed is Ha-Shem, Giver of the Torah. Amen!**

**“Now unto Him who is able to preserve you faultless, and spotless, and to establish you without a blemish,**

**before His majesty, with joy, [namely,] the only one God, our Deliverer, by means of Yeshua the Messiah our Master, be praise, and dominion, and honor, and majesty, both now and in all ages. Amen!”**

**Next Sabbath: “Vayizkor Elohim Et Noach” – “And G-d remembered Noah”**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Shabbat** | **Torah Reading:** | **Weekday Torah Reading:** |
| **וַיִּזְכֹּר אֱלֹהִים, אֶת-נֹחַ** |   |   |
| **“Vayizkor Elohim Et Noach”** | Reader 1 – B’resheet 8:1-5 | Reader 1 – B’resheet 9:18-20 |
| **“And G-d remembered Noah”** | Reader 2 – B’resheet 8:6-14 | Reader 2 – B’resheet 9:21-23 |
| **“Y se acordó Dio de Noé”** | Reader 3 – B’resheet 8:15-19 | Reader 3 – B’resheet 9:18-23 |
| B’resheet (Gen.) Gen. 8:1– 9:17B’Midbar (Num.) 28:9-15 | Reader 4 – B’resheet 8:20-22 |   |
| Ashlamatah: Habakkuk 3:2-10 + 19 | Reader 5 – B’resheet 9:1-7 |   |
| Special: I Samuel 20:18,42 | Reader 6 – B’resheet 9:8-11 | Reader 1 – B’resheet 9:18-20 |
| Psalms 6:1-11 | Reader 7 – B’resheet 9:12-17 | Reader 2 – B’resheet 9:21-23 |
|   |     Maftir – B’Midbar 28:9-15 | Reader 3 – B’resheet 9:18-23 |
| N.C.: Mark 1:14-15Luke 4:14-15 & Acts 2:14-20 |             Habakkuk 3:2-10 + 19             I Samuel 20:18,42‎ |   |

Shabbat Shalom!

Hakham Dr. Yosef ben Haggai

Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David

Rabbi Dr. Eliyahu ben Abraham

1. Avshalom (אַבְשָׁלוֹם), meaning "Father of Peace” or “my father is peace”. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ahitophel (אחיתפל), meaning “my brother is foolish (folly)”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Doeg (דויג), meaning “Fearing”. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Mishlei (Proverbs) 18:21. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. This section, above, was excerpted and edited from: *The ArtScroll Tanach Series, Tehillim*, A new translation with a commentary anthologized from Talmudic, Midrashic, and rabbinic sources. Commentary by Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer, Translation by Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer in collaboration with Rabbi Nosson Scherman. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Ibid. 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Ibid. 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Rashi on 6:14. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Verses 5, 6, 7, 10, and 11 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Chazal understand that the “second month” is referring to Heshvan because the order of the months was changed in Shemot (Exodus) 12:2. Never the less, because of the bi-modality of the month we understand that the “second month” also refers to Iyar. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. “The Bible – Psalms with the Jerusalem Commentary”, volume one. By Amos Hakham. - Holam (Hebrew: חוֹלָם holam, is a Hebrew niqqud vowel sign represented by a dot above the upper left corner of the consonant letter. For example, here the holam appears after the letter mem ⟨מ⟩‎: מֹ. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Ibid. 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Chazal or Ḥazal (Hebrew: חז"ל‎) is an acronym for the Hebrew "Ḥakhameinu Zikhronam Liv'rakha" (חכמינו זכרונם לברכה, "Our Sages, may their memory be blessed"), is a general term that refers to all Jewish sages of the Mishna, Tosefta, and Talmudic eras, essentially from the times of the final 300 years of the Second Temple of Jerusalem until the 6th century CE, or c. 250 BCE – c. 625 CE. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Consider that with the organ of brit mila we bring children into this world and with the organ of brit lashon we bring children (talmidim) into the next world. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Tehillim (Psalms) 120:1-2 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Tehillim (Psalms) 120:3 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Shemot (Exodus) 20:13 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Mishlei (Proverbs) 6:30 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Shemot (Exodus) 20:13 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Mishlei (Proverbs) 6.32 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Bamidbar (Numbers) 21:5 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Bamidbar (Numbers) 21:6 [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Tehillim (Psalms) 140:4 [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Bereshit (Genesis) 3:14 [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Tehillim (Psalms) 120:3 [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. 1 Shmuel (Samuel) 22:19 [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. 1 Shmuel (Samuel) 22:19 [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 46:22 [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Tehillim (Psalms) 120:4 [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Tehillim (Psalms) 120:4 [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Tehillim (Psalms) 91:5 [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. According to the Ramchal, the Temple’s central Alter, measuring 32 by 32 cubits, is an energy pump dispersing shefa (life-giving energy throughout the Temple and our world. By comparison, our innermost alter is our Heart, Lev in Hebrew, which likewise has a numerical value of 32. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. We also have 32 vertebrae in our spines. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. *Likutei Levi Yitzchak*, Commentary on *Tanach*, pp. 421-424. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Rabbi Perl [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. The sanctification of the new moon. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. Derech Sicha Vol. 1 p. 144 [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Igrot Kodesh, Vol. 10 p. 150 [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. These two paragraphs came from Rabbi Ari Enkin. [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Kissing is one of the three functions of the mouth. The other two are *eating* and *speaking*. These three functions, from this one organ, are really one function. They all speak to the act of *connecting*. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. The previous three paragraphs were written by HaRav Yitzchak Ginsburgh. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Greek **πλήρης** *pleres* means “to be filled” implying saturation. It also or contains the idea of becoming a vessel or container. Here the idea would be that Yeshua was “filled” or that he had been perfectly trained in all the Mesorah. The “test” at hand will be a test to see how well Yeshua knows and applies the Mesorah to personal life. It should also be understood that the “immersion” was the inauguration of his messianic mission and ministry. The “test” is requisite for determining his ability to function without submitting the improper use of the yester hara. [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. **Cf. Genesis 7:4 of our Torah Seder** and D’barim (De) 9:9, 1Ki. 19:8. Interestingly, the Maharal of Prague, Rabbi Yehuda Loewe, explains that the number 40 always means cataclysmic change and new creation. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. It is the role of the Yester HaRa to test the righteous/generous. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. **Binyan ab mi-katub eḥad:** Application of a provision found in one passage only to passages, which are related to the first in content but do not contain the provision in question. The present rule is rule #3 of the 13 Remes rules. We must also not that this rule corresponds to rules 3–4 of the 7 rules of Hillel, specifically the first rule (#3). This rule applies to Yeshua’s situation. In this passage the adversary quotes no passage from Scripture, but Yeshua resolves the conflict with a passage from the Tanakh. However, there is a possible allusion to the principle of temporarily setting aside a mitzvah for the sake of life and health. Yeshua refuses only because his situation was not life threatening. This thought furthers, with clarity the depth of Yeshua’s rabbinical training from the house of Hillel. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. Herein we find that Yeshua clearly teaches that man cannot live by the “written Torah” alone. Man **MUST** have the Mesorah for clarity and understanding. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. The true understanding of this test should be to understand that Yeshua sees (through his yester hara) that it is possible to govern all the kingdoms of the earth. Here the test would imply that Yeshua was being tested concerning the inappropriate use of his Messianic authority and mission. [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. εὐθύς (*euthys*), εῖα (*eia*), ύ (*y*): adj ≡ DBLHebr 3838; Str 2117—**1.** LN 79.88 **straight**, in contrast to crooked (Mt 3:3; Mk 1:3; Lk 3:4, 5; Ac 9:11+); **2.** LN 88.17 **upright**, just, right (Ac 8:21+); **3.** LN 88.18 εὐθεῖα ὁδός (*eutheia hodos*), just way of life (Ac 13:10; 2Pe 2:15+) [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. While we have translated **ἐκβάλλω** *ekballo* as “drives”, its truest meaning is to “cast out” or “drive out.” [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. Verbal Tally with our Torah Seder cf. Genesis 7:14. [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. Each person was touched by a “tongue” his language – Today’s English Version. The implication of this statement is that everyone present received (was touched) by the presentation of the Mesorah in his language. [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. Here “they” refers to the ones hearing the Nazarean Hakhamim as they elucidated the Torah. [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. We would suggest that the visiting Jews and Proselytes received a miracle of hearing. While there certainly could be a miracle of speaking, it is most likely that there was a miracle of hearing. [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. εὐθύς (*euthys*), εῖα (*eia*), ύ (*y*): adj ≡ DBLHebr 3838; Str 2117—**1.** LN 79.88 **straight**, in contrast to crooked (Mt 3:3; Mk 1:3; Lk 3:4, 5; Ac 9:11+); **2.** LN 88.17 **upright**, just, right (Ac 8:21+); **3.** LN 88.18 εὐθεῖα ὁδός (*eutheia hodos*), just way of life (Ac 13:10; 2Pe 2:15+) [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. Robbery refers to kidnapping or man/woman-stealing. [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. Ramban. (2008). *The Torah; with Ramban’s Commentary Translated, Annotated, and Elucidated,* (Vol.1 Sefer B’resheet). Artscroll Series, Mesorah Publications ltd. p 181 [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Ibid p. 175 [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. ﻿Zin being connected with *ziwah*, he commanded. [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. I.e., Israel was made pre-eminent by his acceptance of the Torah. [Or, the Torah which preceded Creation, v. Pes. 54a.] [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. **Dabar ha-lamed me-'inyano:** Interpretation deduced from the context. Deduced from scripture that is close together (i.e. corral hermeneutics) [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. While we speak here of the *nachash kadmon* we should remember that the *nachash* is also indicative of the Hakhamim when viewed from a positive light. If the *nachash kadmon* is the prototype for the yester HaRa then we must logically deduce that the *nachash* of the Hakhamim is a picture (analogous) of the yester HaTov. [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. **m. San 4:5** [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. Herein we find that Yeshua clearly teaches that man cannot live by the “written Torah” alone. Man **MUST** have the Mesorah for clarity and understanding. [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. Cf. De. 6:16 [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. **Dabar ha-lamed me-'inyano:** Interpretation deduced from the context. Deduced from scripture that is close together (i.e. corral hermeneutics) #12 **Deduction from the context.** [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. Cf. Acts 1:15 [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. mid-14c., *enspiren*, "to fill (the mind, heart, etc., with grace, etc.);" also "to prompt or induce (someone to do something)," from O.Fr. *enspirer* (13c.), from L. *inspirare* "inflame; blow into" (see ***inspiration***), a loan-translation of Gk. *pnein* in the Bible. General sense of "influence or animate with an idea or purpose" is from late 14c. Also sometimes used in literal sense in M.E. Related: *Inspired*; *inspires*; *inspiring*. <http://www.etymonline.com> “inspire” [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. Song of Solomon 5:11 [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. Midrash Rabbah - The Song of Songs V:14 [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. TDNT 8:28 [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. Thomson Gale. (n.d.). *Encyclopedia Judaica,* (2 ed., Vol. 17). (F. Skolnik, Ed.) 2007: Keter Publishing House Ltd. p. 661 [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. Thomson Gale. (n.d.). *Encyclopedia Judaica,* (2 ed., Vol. 12). (F. Skolnik, Ed.) 2007: Keter Publishing House Ltd. p. 438 [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. Cf. Gen 9:13 [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. Thomson Gale. (n.d.). *Encyclopedia Judaica,* (2 ed., Vol. 12). (F. Skolnik, Ed.) 2007: Keter Publishing House Ltd. p. 438 [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. I have His Eminence Rabbi Yosef ben Haggai to thank for alerting me to the Matthew passage cited above. This information opened up the deeper understanding of the Ordination and location of the inauguration of the Nazarean Hakhamim. [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. Cf. Iyar 06, 5772 Remes commentary to the Nazarean Codicil. [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. Cf. Mk 1:9 [↑](#footnote-ref-80)