**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

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

I was struck by the enigmatic verse in our Torah portion: ***Bereshit (Genesis) ‎‎‎‎‎‎‎‎‎41:51*** *And Joseph called the name of his first-born Menasheh; because, the LORD has made me forget all my weariness and all the house of my father.*

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 41:38?

**Will we find [anyone] like this** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: הֲנִמְצָא כָזֶה?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 41:39?

**there is no one as understanding and wise as you** – Could they not go looking for such a man?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 41:41?

**I have appointed you** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: נָתַתִּי אֽתְךָ?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 41:42?

**And Pharaoh removed his ring** – What is the significance of the ring?

**raiment of fine linen** – Why was this material used?

**chain** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: רְבִד?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 41:44?

**I am Pharaoh** – what is the meaning of this pasuk?

**and besides you [I.e.,] without your permission** – What are the liomitation of this statements.

**his hand or his foot** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 41:45?

**Zaphenath-Pa’neach** – What is the meaning of this name?

**Poti-phera** – Who is this person?

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

**Jacob saw that there was grain being sold in Egypt** - From where did he see it?

**“Why do you appear satiated?”** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: לָמָה תִּתְרָאוּ?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 42:5?

**among those who came** – Why did they come?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 42:16?

**whether truth is with you**  - What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: הַאֱמֶת?

**Whether truth is with you** – What truth was being sought?

1. Why should we consider disobedience and disloyalty to the commandments of G-d and the Hakhamim as a dangerous and lethal form of madness whether from ignorance or spitefulness? Please explain.

Because they keep us from evil and draw us towards righteousness. These qualities are what draw us to HaShem and to eternal life.

1. Why should we consider every Torah Observant Jew and Proselyte a true prophet but no one else?

Because their actions, words, and location (a prophetic lifestyle) they prophecy to the world about the future of the righteous with HaShem. Since these actions, words, and location are essential to the receiving of any prophecy this is why, with the exception of Bilaam, all prophets have always done these things.

1. According to the Prophet Yeshayahu this week, what **animates** the Messiah? And what are the implications of this statement?

He is animated by a spirit before HaShem which will rest upon him, a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and might, a spirit of knowledge and the **fear of HaShem** (Torah observance). ‎‎His rule will be like the rule of King David's. His rule will be perfectly just and fair, unlike justice we see today.

1. Why do we read about the Messiah this week and in the Torah about why Yosef was made a viceroy? And what critical points are being made by this pairing in our Septennial Lectionary?

He was made a viceroy (prototype of Mashiach ben Yosef) to preserve the Jewish people. In the news we see that the Egyptian leader has stopped the Gaza war and helped to preserve Jewish and Gentile lives. This is on the heels of Chanukah when Messaiah is presented as Mashiach ben Yosef. This Messiah is the savior of the whole world.

1. What is the meaning of “Blasphemy” according to the Torah and the Nazarean Codicil?

Blasphemy is a state of mental illness that speaks against G-d in some way. There are six blasphemes:

1. Whether in the sense of the disputing of His (God’s) redemptive power‌
2. The desecrating of His name by the Gentiles who capture and enslave His people (Is. 52:5)
3. The violation of His (God’s) glory
4. Against His (God’s) people (the B’ne Yisrael) (2 Macc. 15:24),
5. All ungodly speech and action, especially on the part of the Gentiles (Is. 66:3; 1 Macc. 2:6; 2 Macc. 8:4; 10:34 ff.; [[1]](#footnote-1)
6. Against His Sages and Hakhamim
7. Why did Yosef charge his brethren with the most serious crime of espionage?

He was hinting to the truth by using the Hebrew term Meraglym as a Hebrew acronym that means: “From my mother Rachel you stole me; to Midianites, Ishmalites, you sold me”.

1. Why is Lashon HaRa so dangerous to those who speak it and to those who promote it?

Speaking Lashon HaRa (a spiritual sin) is spiritual murder. There is no repentance as the only atonement is his own death.

1. Why would we interpret the 15 days in Gal. 1:18 to mean “about 15 years”? Please explain your answer.

If “after many days” is elsewhere given as three and a half years, then we can see that years are a substitute for days. It is also worth noting that we round off the fourteen years+ as fifteen years.

1. Why does the word **“enquire”** in Gal. 1:18 leads us to the logical conclusion that these 15 days are not to be interpreted literally?

Because the instruction associated with the word “enquire” (catechize) cannot be accomplished in 15 days. It is a process that takes many years. Further this is a Gemara which is remez literature.

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

Now is a good time to begin prophecying and applying wisdom to all of our actions.

Start keeping track of how this was fulfilled in your life this week.

1. *Theological dictionary of the New Testament*. 1964-c1976. Vols. 5-9 edited by Gerhard Friedrich. Vol. 10 compiled by Ronald Pitkin. (G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley & G. Friedrich, Ed.) Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. 1:621-622 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)