



Beth Israel Congregation

Rabbi Mordechai Shapiro z"l Sanctuary

Weekly Announcements

770 W 40th St. Miami Beach, FL 33140

ph: 305.538.1251

email: info@bethisraelmiami.org

www.bethisraelmiami.org

Rabbi Donald Bixon – Rabbi
Parshat Balak

Abraham Galbut – President
July 8th 2017 14 Tammuz 5777

Erev Shabbat Schedule

Earliest Candle Lighting	6:51 PM
Mincha	6:45 PM
Candle Lighting	7:00 PM
Latest Candle Lighting	7:59 PM

Shabbat Schedule

Hashkama Minyan	7:30 AM
Main Minyan	9:00 AM
Teen Minyan	9:30 AM
Rabbi Bixon's Class	6:55 PM
Mincha	7:55 PM
Maariv	8:45 PM
Shabbat Ends	8:55 PM

Sunday July 9th - Friday July 14th
Shacharit: 7:00 am & 8:00 am

Monday July 10th- Friday July 14th
Additional Shacharit: 8:45 am

Monday July 10th- Thursday July 13th
Mincha/Maariv: 8:05 pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Gary Bomzer
Elaine Birnbaum
Sarki Galbut
Stanley Rosenblatt
Sherri Esformes
Joseph Shwartz
Erica Newman
Lauren Rachel Saka

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Rena & Leon Beylus

Mazal Tov!

To

**Debbie & Dr. Israel
Wiznitzer
On the
Birth of a Baby Boy!
Born to their children
Esti & Sruli Haber**

And to

**Joanne & Gerry Tepler
On the Birth of a Baby
Boy!
Born to their Children
Chava & Peter Tepler**

***Special Mazal Tov to
Great Grandmother
Lydia Goldring***

Shalosh Seudot

sponsored by

**Dr. Yehuda & Heidi
Deutsch and their
children
Chana Adel, Moshe,
Shimon
&
Alex Paul**

On the occasion of the
Yartzeit

Of their Mother,
Grandmother and wife,
Harriet Paul
(Chana Adel bat Moshe
A"H)

**Dr. Yehuda Deutsch -
Speaker**

Youth Groups

Announcements

**9:15 Pre- Groups with
Morah Atara**

**9:45 Regular groups
begin with Youth
Leaders**

*Summer Youth Groups
will be under the oversight
of Morah Atara Raab
All Shabbat Youth
Activities will take place in
the Youth House*

Fast of Tammuz 17

Tuesday July 11th

**Shacharit 7:00am, 8:00am,
8:45am**

Fast starts at 5:18am

**Mincha 7:50 pm Maariv
8:16pm**

Fast ends 8:45pm



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DVAR TORAH BY: DR. ARI CIMENT

THE KEY TO JEWISH SURVIVAL- LESSON FROM BILAAM!

רַבִּי אֱלִיעֶזֶר בֶּן חֲסִימָא אוֹמֵר, קִנְיִן וּפְתִיחֵי נְדָה, הֵן הֵן גּוֹפֵי הַלְכוֹת. תְּקוּפוֹת וְגִימְטְרִיאוֹת, פְּרָפְרָאוֹת לַחֲכָמָה: “Bird-nest issues and the openings of a menstrual period, these and these are the major Halachos. Timings of seasons and word counts are just seasoning for wisdom”

Presumably a point is to differentiate קִנְיִן/bird-nest issues which entails bringing a certain *number* of bird offerings and נְדָה/פְתִיחֵי *counting* of menstrual which also entails numerical acumen, both of which represent a meritorious type of counting, from the less meritorious *counting* of תְּקוּפוֹת וְגִימְטְרִיאוֹת - just knowing the seasons and gematrias! But what is meant by הֵן הֵן - *these, these??* Why specifically are these very obscure Jewish Halachos of kinim and pitchei niddah? Is there another veiled message perhaps that is deeper? An answer may be derived from our parsha:

כִּי מֵרֵאשִׁית צָרִים אֶרְאֶנּוּ וּמִגְבֻעוֹת אֲשׁוּרֵנוּ הֵן “For from their beginning, I see them as mountain peaks, and I behold them as hills; it is a nation that will dwell alone, and will not be reckoned among the nations.”

Bilaam’s “blessing” was meant to show Balak how to attack Bnei Yisrael. The Jewish key to survival has always been in their ability to stay insular. If you can integrate them into society, Bilaam advised Balak, then the Jews may lose their Jewishness and that is the best way to

attack them. The Medrash states that the letters ה and ך of הֵן are unique in the following way: When you have 2 numbers that need to add up to 10, every number will need a different number to get to the number 10. For instance, a 2 (ב) will need an 8 (ח) and a 3 (ג) will need a 7 (ז). However, the 5 (ה) is unique because it simply needs “itself” (another ה!) to make up the rest till 10. The same is true by the 1/50 when it comes to 100. 2 of the same 50’s (א) will make up 100 while every other number will need to be combined with different numbers. The point is that the word הֵן represents the concept that we don’t seek outside influences to “complete” us. We are happy with joining with more of ourselves rather than complementing with an “outside number”! The danger with trying hard to complement with those outside our faith is that it risks diluting and often straying from our faith.

Rabbi Wein beautifully explained that Rabbi Shneur Zalman in 1812 rebuffed Napoleon’s surge for precisely that reason. “All of the physical benefits for the Jews that may have come in the wake of Napoleon’s victory would be canceled by the loss of Jewish identity, purpose and religious beliefs and practices.” Similarly, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch established an *Austritts Gemeinde* to break away from the Reform movement’s strong push at assimilation in the 1870’s. Both Rabbi Shneur Zalman and Rav Hirsch embodied the concept of הֵן and saw the positives of our insularity and homogeneity!

And as for the mishna in Avos, the obscure laws and halachos of Kinim and Niddah which have so many permutations and difficult computations are purposely obscure halachos which are precisely ways in which we can become insular- Halchos like those guarantee our insularity. הֵן - these are the ways to be הֵן - insular and homogenous! הֵן הֵן!!!!

Takeaway Message/s: When Bilaam blessed Bnei Yisroel הֵן עַם הֵן לְבַדָּד יֵשְׁבֶן *it is* a nation that will dwell alone, he was actually pointing out Bnei Yisroel’s strength in the הֵן ך of הֵן as a nation that keeps with themselves (see above). He was thus cursing them by showing Balak how to attack them; attack their insularity!

THE KEY TO JEWISH SURVIVAL- AVOIDING ASSIMILATION BY CHERISHING OUR INSULARITY- DIFFICULT JEWISH IDEAS/CONCEPTS/TRADITIONS ARE THE הֵן THAT KEEP US TOGETHER AND IMMORTAL.