
Beth Jacob V'Anshei Drildz Congregation Newsletter

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Rabbi: Rabbi Dov Schochet

President: Joe Somer

Parsha Nasso

14 Sivan 5780; June 5, 2020

Candle Lighting - 8:37 pm

Motzei Shabbat - 9:50 pm

Torah reading: Naso. Haftara: Judges 13:2-25

Zmanim

For early Shabbat, begin Mincha before 7:24pm (Plag)

Friday Mincha - 8:35 pm

Shabbat Mincha - 8:25 pm

Sof Zman Kriat Shma - 9:23 am

Weekday Mincha - 8:45 pm

Weekday Maariv - 9:35 pm

Rabbi Schochet's Shiurim

Zoom Meeting ID: 522 780 9693 Password: 147147

Sunday 9 am - Chumash - Insight into Rashi

Wednesday 8 pm - Talmud class

Sunday – Wed. 7:45 pm - 15 minute Halacha class

Beth Jacob news blurb

Tuesday evening Beth Jacob hosted a zoom event titled “Remembering” commemorating the recent passings of Julianna Deutsch and Lisa Ouanounou, and the first Yahrzeit of Jack Somer. Thank you to Marlene Markus, Joe & Susan Somer for sharing personal thoughts, feelings and anecdotes about their parents’ life.

Thank you to the organizers and participants of this wonderful event.

Messages of Time

In the second Parsha of the Torah, Parshat Noach, following the description of the great flood known as the “mabul” the Torah describes an episode famously known as the “Dor Haflaga”, the generation of displacement. The Torah describes how the entire universe was populated by people who all spoke the same language. These people witnessing the great flood decided to embark on a plan that will circumvent and prevent Hashem from carrying out any similar occurrence in the future. The outcome of this scheme resulted in society splintering to various language and ethnic groups who then scattered across the globe. (Gen. 9:1-10)

In the book of Tzefania (3:9) the prophet prophecies about a day in which the entire universe will worship G-d in “one accord”, G-d will convert the peoples to a “pure language”, seemingly the entire universe will be unified in understanding “one” language, and all having a common form of worship. So the question begs, is being unified a something negative to be frowned upon? Is it a cause for being dispersed and scattered or is it a blessing and a sign of the future times of Moshiach?

In Parshat Noach, the aim and purpose of their scheme was to thwart any possibility of rebuke & punishment for wrong doing. In other words, they wanted to be free in the sense that they would have no obligation to any set of laws. They could do as they please with no negative consequences. G-d’s response in dispersing them and having them suddenly have unique and non-communicative forms of speech was a direct result of their plan. When society decides to become “independent”, not morally or legally bound to any set of laws, morals and ethics it is guaranteed to become splintered and divided. Communication between people of difference races and ethnic backgrounds break down. After all, if one is not bound or held liable they will do as what pleases them disregarding the other and their needs completely.

What the prophet Tzefania tells us however, that there is great power in unity. There is a great force in everyone having “one” language. When the universe will turn and recognise Hashem i.e. recognise the creator and the set of rules and laws he wants us to live our lives by then humanity can not only survive but thrive and be unified as one.

Racial tension, discrimination, abuse of power, and most tragically the tragic murder of George Floyd (as well as lawlessness and anarchy) witnessed this past week stems from a place within someone who feels better, stronger and more privileged than another individual who does not share the same ethnicity, race, gender, social-economic standing etc. The result is racial divide, animosity, hatred, chaos and civil unrest.

On the other hand when one recognises what the Torah describes in Gen. 1:26 G-d’s statement “let us make man in our image” and then the subsequent verse “And G-d created man in His image” they internalize that all of humanity are one people created with one image of one G-d. Thus there is no room for one individual to discriminate against another, after all they are both equal before G-d.