

DATA of Plano

Parshas Netzavim | 28 Elul, 5779 | September 28, 2019

Friday Evening

Mincha: 6:59

Candle lighting: 6:59

Shabbos Day

Shacharis: 9:00

Latest time for Shema: 10:18

Learners' Service / Youth

Groups: 10:30

Kiddush: 11:45

Mincha: 6:35

Maariv / Shabbos ends: 8:01

The Flash of Inspiration

By Rabbi Eli Nissel



The stage was set for an epic scene. The twelve tribes had just arrived from Egypt, laden with their fathers remains. Their final oath to their dear patriarch Yaakov was to bury him in the place he always dreamed of, together with his parents and grandparents, in the historical cave of Machpeila. Then, as they rounded the corner and the cave was in sight, a dramatic spectacle unfolded. Their evil uncle Eisav, Yaakov's brother and lifelong nemesis, stood at

the entrance to the cave, arms folded, barring entry. After playing catch up to his brother Yaakov for most of his life, Eisav was playing one last card in attempting to swipe the coveted burial spot for himself. And thus, the negotiations began.

The brothers produced the legal document on which Eisav had signed away his rights to the privileges of being firstborn. Eisav responded with legal arguments of his own, and the debate dragged on, with Yaakov's body left to the side in disrespect. Hour after hour, the fight dragged on under the beating Mediterranean sun.

Suddenly there was a commotion from the rear of the crowd. Chushim, the deaf grandson of Yaakov, started to

inquire what the disorder was all about. Having no context due to his inability to communicate regularly, he was clueless as to the situation at hand. One of his relatives informed Chushim what was taking place. Incensed, Chushim grabbed a metal beam and immediately, without warning, beheaded his Uncle Eisav, thus ending the fight and allowing his grandfather his due last honor.



This episode, recorded in the Talmud, makes it clear based on the context that Chushim did the right thing by killing Eisav. The Holy Yaakov was left in a state of extreme disrespect due to Eisav's greed and hatred, and someone had to deal with this wicked adversary,

once and for all. And yet, nobody had stepped forward to take care of him. Yaakov's twelve sons and hundreds of descendants were all there waiting, almost complacent, while negotiations stretched on and on, with a man everyone knew had no compromise in mind. So what did Chushim see that everyone else didn't?

The famed dean of the Mir Yeshiva in Jerusalem in the earlier part of the century, Rabbi Chaim Shmuelevitz, notes an

important and powerful lesson in this story. Everyone there knew that Eisav had to be dealt with, and everyone knew that the situation was terrible. However, human nature is such that complacency sets in even in the most difficult of circumstances. Built into our makeup is the power of getting used to any situation. It is an essential and positive character trait, and Hashem has endowed us with it for an important reason. Many of our life situations may seem to be unbearable, and yet, Hashem endowed us with tolerance which allows us to get used to them, thereby making life liveable.

However, like all tools in the toolbox, we must know when to use them and when to use something else. Sometimes, complacency can be dangerous. Sometimes, we can remain numb to a situation that can be changed, and neglect to do anything to change it.

Slowly but surely, as the negotiations stretched on and on, the tribes became used to the fact that their deceased father remained in a state of disrespect. But not Chushim. Being deaf, he had no idea what was happening. As soon as he heard the issue at hand, he took action immediately, not letting complacency to set in. Such a sensational act could only have come from an intense flash of inspiration, and then immediate action taken.

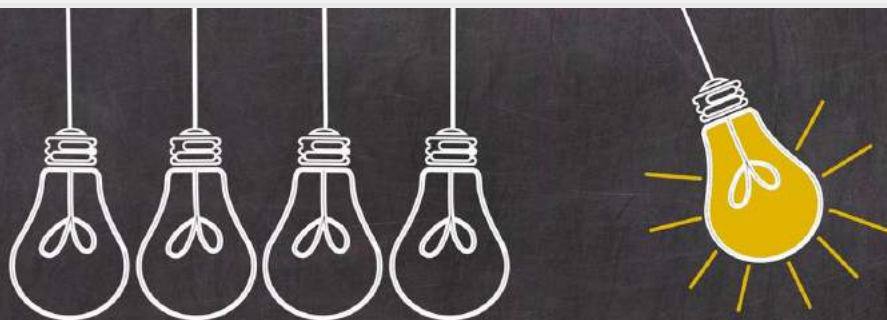
A few years ago, I was asked to serve on a panel with some very esteemed individuals, and we were given the task of inspiring a group of Jewish teenagers on their yearly shabbaton retreat. We were asked how we propose to deal with life's challenges, and our outlook on how to best fight the day to day grind of a life with obstacles. I replied with a powerful parable I had recently heard. A man was walking in the forest, and he lost his way. Nightfall approached, and he was desperate to find his way out of the dangerous forest, but he just kept going in circles because he was not able to see where he was going. Suddenly, a powerful bolt of lightning streaked across the sky, and the man seized the opportunity to observe his surroundings. Using the perspective of direction he now had, he started the arduous journey toward the edge of the forest, and,

through grit and determination, he was able to make it out alive.

There are moments and entire seasons in our lives that are lightning bolts of clarity. They provide direction in our purpose and help us get in touch with ourselves. *But these lightning bolts are not moments of growth.* They are merely signposts guiding us toward safety and freedom. Once we see the map with our direction, we then need to start our journey immediately and get to our destination. The fellow in our story was not removed from the forest by the lightning. He used it as a lantern to shine the way for him, but it was through his herculean effort and grabbing the moment of inspiration that he made his way to civilization.

It is an all too common misconception about life that the more inspiration you receive, the better off you'll be. Inspiring moments and uplifting services are seen as ways to grow, and people want more and more of them to keep growing spiritually. In reality, these moments contain very little, if any, actual growth. They serve an important purpose as moments of clarity to propel one to growth *after the fact*. It is what we do *after the fact* that determines how big we become. It is not your tears during the ne'ilah service that builds you, but your concentration on a regular Monday morning's prayers. A spiritual high you feel during a beautiful song will not make you a better person as much as how you react to your child's annoying whining three weeks later. And the only way to capitalize on the inspiration after the fact is to begin immediately. Otherwise, the flash becomes history and complacency sets in.

As we begin the most inspirational segment of the Jewish year, it's important to remember these lessons and techniques on how to capitalize on the inspiration. Inspiration is only as valuable as what we use it for afterward. Although nowhere nearly as sentimental, our daily lives *after* the High Holidays are what really count. May we merit to make the inspiration of the High Holidays last through concrete actions throughout the entire coming year.





There is a widespread custom to eat only Pas Yisroel (bread baked with a Jew's participation) beginning on Rosh Hashanah until Yom Kippur. DK is pleased to inform the community that all DK certified retail facilities where bread and bread-like products are baked are indeed Pas Yisroel.

Please note: both Tom Thumb kosher bakeries, Midtown Pizza, Kosher Palate, Fino, Milk & Honey, Benny's, Meat Point, Simcha Catering, A Taste of the World, JCC and The Market are all Pas Yisroel as well.

Wishing you a Shana Tova!



How many other times does the Torah mention a shofar, besides for in the context of Rosh Hashana?



Sukkos is Coming Soon! Having Trouble Building Your Sukkah?

The TTI Seniors are here to help! We will send over a group of capable guys to help you build your sukkah in only one afternoon! However, we only have a limited amount of slots, and time is running out! Call or text the numbers below for rates, times, and specifics.

(972) - 670 - 8735
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Sunday school is off to an exciting start this school year.

Not yet registered? Contact Rabbi Nissel today!



We love our
Cub Scouts!
Not yet
registered?
Contact
Chana Barak.





High Holidays

for the
whole family

Rosh Hashanah: September 30-October 1

Yom Kippur Night: October 8

Yom Kippur Day: October 9

Register now at www.dataofplano.org

\$360 Family · \$180 Individual

\$36 for First Time Families

DATA of Plano

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ADULTS

Lively Traditional Service

The Hebrew prayers with a focus on song and joy.

Engaging Learners' Service

Rabbi Yogi Robkin's discussion culls life lessons from the High Holiday themes, leaving you thinking and reflecting.

TEENS



Teen Program

This all-new program features a tailor-made discussion group and relaxed study with the talented Rabbi Michel Lomner.

KIDS

Youth Programming

Fun and educational, our youth program includes holiday-themed crafts, prizes, food design, games, stories and more. Groups are divided by age and led by Mrs. Tova Sonnenblick and Rabbi Eli Nissel.

DATA of Plano- High Holidays 5780

Selichos

Monday, September 23 – Friday, September 27	6:25 A.M.
Sunday, September 29	8:00 A.M.

Rosh Hashana

Sunday evening, September 29

Candle lighting	6:56 P.M.
Mincha	7:00 P.M.
Class with Rabbi Zakon	
Maariv	8:00 P.M.

Monday, September 30

***Learners' Service and youth programming run from 10:30 to 1:00 on both days
of Rosh Hashana***

Shacharis	8:30 A.M.
Learners' Service	10:30 A.M.
Shofar blowing not before	10:40 A.M.
Second shofar blowing	1:00 P.M.
Tashlich (Diamondhead and Bandalino)	6:00 P.M.
Mincha (followed by a class)	6:30 P.M.
Candle lighting (from a pre- existing flame) not before	7:58 P.M.
Maariv	7:58 P.M.

Tuesday, October 1

***Learners' Service and youth programming run from 10:30 to 1:00 on both days
of Rosh Hashana***

Shacharis:	8:30 A.M.
Learners' Service	10:30 A.M.
Shofar no earlier than:	10:40 A.M.
Mincha:	6:30 P.M.
Maariv / Yom Tov ends	7:57 P.M.

Customs for Rosh Hashanah

The first night of Rosh Hashanah, we greet each other in the following manner:

To a man: *L'Shana Tova Techasaiv Vessaichasaim L'Alter, L'chaim Tovim
U'Lshalom.*

To a woman: *L'Shana Tova Techasaivi Ve Saichasaimi L'Alter, L'chaim Tovim
U'Lshalom.*

(For a good year, may you be inscribed and sealed immediately for a good life and
for peace.)

The Talmud tells us that the symbolisms that we partake in at the beginning of
the year are an omen for what the year will bring. We therefore have the custom
of eating an apple dipped in honey along with many other foods as a sign for a
good year.

(See Artscroll Rosh Hashanah Machzor, pages 96-98)

Fast of Gedaliah: Wednesday, October 2

Pregnant or nursing women should not fast. For any other fast-related questions, please be in touch with Rabbi Zakon

Fast Begins:	6:08 A.M.
Shacharis/Selichos	6:25 A.M.
Mincha / Maariv	6:45 P.M.
Fast Ends:	7:56 P.M.

Aseres Y'mei Teshiva

Shacharis / Selichos	6:20 A.M.
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Yom Kippur Eve- Tuesday, October 8

Selichos and Shacharis	6:30 A.M.
Mincha	4:30 P.M.
Kol Nidrei	6:45 P.M.
Candle lighting *	6:44 P.M.

*If you plan on driving after lighting candles, you should stipulate at the time of lighting that you are not yet accepting Yom Kippur upon yourself. In such a situation, do not make the "Shehecheyanu" blessing while lighting candles. Instead, you will make it together with the congregation during the prayers. Care should be taken that the candle still be burning when you return home, in order to be able to benefit from its light.

Yom Kippur- Wednesday, October 9

Shacharis	8:30 A.M.
Learners' Service and youth programs	10:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
Yizkor no earlier than	11:15 A.M.
Mincha	4:30 P.M.
Ne'ilah	6:00 P.M.
Shofar blowing/ Fast ends	7:47 P.M.

Prohibitions on Yom Kippur

In addition to the *Melachos* (creative activity which is forbidden on Shabbos) Yom Kippur has an additional five prohibitions:

1. Eating and drinking
2. Wearing leather shoes
3. Anointing with oils
4. Washing (Morning and when necessary: one may wash up to knuckles. If one has become dirty, one may wash off dirt.)
5. Marital relations.

Yom Kippur Customs:

- It is a mitzvah to eat the day before Yom Kippur.
- *Kapparos*- The ceremony of "redeeming our sins" onto money. See the Artscroll Yom Kippur Machzor, page 2.
- After the *Seudas Hamafsekes* (the meal before the fast), there is a custom to bless one's children. This emotional blessing can be found in the ArtScroll Yom Kippur Machzor on page 32.
- *Ner Nishma*- There is a custom to light a candle which will burn for all of Yom Kippur (one per couple). This is in addition to lighting a Yartzheit candle.
- Married, divorced or widowed men are encouraged to wear a Kittel for services on Yom Kippur

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