



Thoughts on the Parsha

Rabbi Efraim Fromowitz

IT'S ALL ABOUT TIMING

Our Chazal teach us the importance of timing, that **what** we do is not the only important aspect of our actions, but **when** we do it. There may be a more auspicious time for a מצוה to be done which would transform the act into an even loftier one, and there can be a time when the performance of a מצוה is less ideal. This concept is true in matters of chinuch as well. Timing can impact how well received a lesson is. As parents and educators, it takes a specific focus to not only choose carefully **what** should be said but **when** the most effective time to say it would be.

At the time that the מן was first introduced to כלל ישראל, the nation was taught about the timing of when משה chose to convey that lesson. He explains that from the time that משה was told about the מן, he knew that a double portion would fall on Friday to be stored away on שבת so כלל ישראל wouldn't have to collect on שבת.

MTI Recent Happenings

Yossi Zifkin

10th Grade

CHESS CLUB

A crazy thing happened this past Sunday, the 31st of January. Before I tell you the story, I need to give a little background. If you look on some chess boards, you might see the letters A-G and numbers 1-8. These characters represent coordinates on the board. In a blind game of chess, when someone is wearing a blindfold, each time you move you tell the person the coordinates that you moved. For example, in the very beginning of the game, the most common move is to move the pawn in front of your king up two squares. If you were playing the white pieces you would say E-4 and if you were playing with black you would say E-5.

Sunday just happened to be the first day of the talmidim's chess club that we just set up in the yeshiva. We went ahead and invited one of the teachers named Mr. Kozelov. See, Mr. Kozelov is not your average run of the mill teacher; he also just happens to be a chess master. To tell you the truth, we knew he was good because he told us that he had

Featured Torah Message

Naftali Collins

12th Grade

HASHEM KNOWS BEST

In פרשת יתרו, there is an amazing perspective we can gain from that משה רבינו said to יתרו. When משה told יתרו about the awesome miracles that ה' orchestrated for the בני ישראל to be saved from the מצריים and יתרו started to rejoice and praise ה', and then said, "עתה ידעתי כי גדול ה' מכל האלהים כי" - "Now I know that ה' is greater than all the gods, because of that which they (the מצריים) schemed against them (the Jews)." (יא, יח)

רש"י explains that יתרו was referring to the מדה כנגד מדה punishment that ה' afflicted on the מצריים. The same way that the מצריים tried to take out כלל ישראל by throwing the newborn babies into the water, the מצריים were also punished with water as they drowned in the waters of the sea.

The big question is why was this measure-for-measure punishment the reason that יתרו said, "Now I know that ה' is greater than all the gods..."? What about the supernatural מכות and the

Sparks of Mussar

HUMILITY

R' Itzele Peterburger

Rav Yitzchok Blazer (1837-1907)

R' Itzele participated in an assembly of the gedolim in St. Petersburg. R' Yosef Dov Soloveichik asked a difficult question in the name of his son R' Chaim that touched off a heated discussion. Brilliant explanations and arguments flew back and forth. Finally, R' Yosef Dov amazed the assembly with two explanations - one of his son, and one of his own.

R' Itzele had sat through the storm without opening his mouth, as if he had no idea what was flying. R' Yosef Dov decided to check up on this "great man" who gave the impression of being so ignorant. Arriving home, he opened R' Itzele's work Pri Yitzchok to see what kind of scholar the author was. To R' Yosef Dov's surprise, he found in the book both R' Chaim's question and the two explanations he had given at the assembly. "How great," he exclaimed, "is R' Itzele's humility!"

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However, משה waited until the first Friday, until the nation came running to him wondering why the amount they had collected that morning was double what it usually was. Why did משה choose to wait until Friday to teach them this insight on כבוד שבת instead of teaching it right away? Why delay the great responsibility משה had in teaching תורה to כלל ישראל? The רשב"ם explains that משה was waiting for the right moment - the moment when his message would carry more weight. It was worth pushing off something really important in order to do it at a more effective time. When כלל ישראל came to משה on Friday, they were in a state of wonderment. They were bothered by a question; something needed an explanation. At a time like that, משה knew his message of כבוד שבת would leave a stronger impression on them.

May we all be zoche to ה' help in picking the right things to say and the most opportune times to say them.

played three games of chess at once blind.

We all played a few games of chess. After about two games a person, Mr. Kozelov said, "Why don't we try a blind game with four of you at once? It will be my first time ever playing four games blind at once and it will be a new experience." We couldn't turn down the chance to play a blind game with a chess master. In the end, his first time trying to play four games at once blind was a success! He beat all four of us, at once, without looking at any of the boards!

actual splitting of the sea? What about the tremendous salvation of בני ישראל coming out of the powerful and mighty nation of Egypt? Why was מדה כנגד מדה more impressive to יתרו?

The answer is that ה' greatness is seen in many ways. Changing nature to the unfathomable is one way to recognize ה' power. Another way, however, to recognize ה' is through the ruling and judgment that He decrees. Perfect judgment with fairness and truth is an even better illustration of ה' greatness.

ה' judgment occurs every second of the day. ה' makes decisions that we can't completely understand, but we nevertheless know that ה' has a reason for everything He does. Knowing that, we should never be upset or angry at ה' for deciding what happens if we know that He has perfect judgment with fairness and truth, the same judgment of מדה כנגד מדה.

We should be זוכה to recognize ה' power and truth of judgment, even in the darkest of times, and be able to continue knowing that ה' loves us and does what is best for us.

Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to Mr. & Mrs. Menachem & Debbie Graff on the birth of a granddaughter!

Mazel Tov to Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Chaim & Tzirel Biron on the birth of a girl!

Mr. & Mrs. Dovid & Dena Love on the birth of a boy!

ALUMNI SIMCHOS

Mr. & Mrs. Menasha & Haddas Abrams on the birth of a boy!

Mr. & Dr. Ephraim & Jenna Abrams on the birth of a girl!

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