



FOX FAMILY HIGH SCHOOL
Dedicated in Loving Memory of Greg Fox A"H

Thoughts on the *Parsha*

Rabbi Moshe Chaim Biron

THE SONG OF REDEMPTION

מסכת ראש השנה in גמרא says בניסן נגאלו בניסן עתידן "ליגאל". In the month of ניסן we were taken out of מצרים and in the month of ניסן we will merit the final redemption. Based on a פסוק in שיר השירים that refers to גאולה, R' Eliyahu Boruch Finkel explains that ניסן isn't just a lucky month but rather there is something that takes place in ניסן that inspires גאולה. The "הנצנים נראו בארץ" פסוק says עת הזמר הגיע וקול התור נשמע "בארצינו". This is interpreted by Rashi to mean - winter has passed, summer days are near, trees are blossoming for travelers to enjoy. Birds which migrated are back, serenading the passerby with pleasant sounds and melody. The turtledoves are chirping and singing.

R' Elya Boruch explains that the feeling of the world singing to ה' creates a positive energy which is contagious. We start appreciating everything ה' does for us and therefore we begin singing שירה to ה'. When we daven to ה' through תפילה, our שירה is much more powerful and has a

MTI Recent *Happenings*

Naftali Collins
12th Grade

SIYUM ON MASECHESTAANIS

Recently, MTI celebrated a siyum on מסכת תענית. Eight talmidim in the 11th and 12th grades have the opportunity to learn an extended bekiyus seder in the afternoons, during which they split up into chavrusas and learn the gemara. They learn for an hour and a half in the bais medrash with intensity and drive to excel in their learning. Rabbi Moshe Chaim Biron, bekiyus rebbe and shoel umashiv, is with the talmidim during that time to guide them and help when needed. With hard work and support from one another, the talmidim finished with a solid foundation of the entire תענית. A siyum was made with the whole yeshiva and the rebbeim in attendance to participate in the great milestone. It was a great experience for everyone, feeling real simcha towards the greatness of Torah and the satisfaction after the hard work leading up to the siyum. Other bekiyus shiurim are learning תענית as well, and אי"ה, the rest of the yeshiva will continue to work hard so that we can celebrate with them upon their completion of מסכת תענית soon!

Featured Torah *Message*

Dovid Goldman
9th Grade

"אמר רבי אלעזר ברעזינה הרי אני כבן שבעים שנה ולא זכיתי שתאמר יציאת מצרים בלילות "עד שדרשה בן זומא" "Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah said, "I am like 70 years old and I haven't merited to [know the source for] mention[ing] יציאת מצרים at night until Ben Zoma darshened it."

The Chida provides some background to help us understand the story of R' Elazar Ben Azaryah. He says that R' Elazar Ben Azaryah's hair turned white through a miracle so that he would appear much older than he was and be accepted as a נשיא. Growing old and being appointed as a נשיא atoned for all of his עבירות. The Chida also quotes the Rambam's commentary on the משנה, who writes that since he toiled day and night in תורה, he grew weak, so it was as if he was 70 years old, which was by way of nature. He then quotes the Arizal, who explains that R' Elazar Ben Azaryah was a gilgul of Shmuel Hanavi. Since R' Elazar was 18, and Shmuel Hanavi died at 52, he was "כבן שבעים שנה" like 70 years old."

The question regarding this is that

Sparks of *Nussar*

DID YOU STEAL YOUR MEAL? The Alter of Kelm

Rav Simcha Zissel Ziv
(1829-1898)

The innkeeper of a small town was delighted when R' Simcha Zissel, accompanied by another scholar, came to her inn. She served them a lovely meal and waited on them most graciously. In her excitement over receiving such holy guests, she told them while serving about her cows and geese, her chickens and potatoes. The other scholar kept his head in a sefer the whole time and paid no attention to the woman's idle chatter. But R' Simcha Zissel listened attentively, responding and asking questions as if he were interested in every detail. Before leaving, the guests wanted to pay for the meal but the innkeeper refused to accept money. "Should I lose the merit of this mitzvah," she explained, "for a little bit of money?"

After they were well on their way, R' Simcha Zissel turned to his companion and asked, "Aren't you concerned that you transgressed the prohibition against stealing? You ate and drank, but did not pay!"

greater chance of being answered. This is the reason why in the middle of הלל we say ה' הושיעה נא. The next time we are enjoying a beautiful spring day, let us remember to feel ה' love and to join with the chirping birds in שירה to ה'. May we all be zoche to hear the world singing שירה and to the גאולה שלימה בקרוב.

if he was such a great תלמיד חכם that he aged prematurely, had all his עבירות atoned and was fit to be the נשיא, why wasn't R' Elazar Ben Azaryah able to figure out this drasha until R' Zoma said it?

The Chida answers that since Ben Zoma was designated to teach this תורה thought and bring it into the world, he, and nobody else, no matter how fit they were, was the one who taught it. In fact, when משה רבינו went up to הר סיני, he heard ה' talking in תורה, and ה' was stating הלכות in the name of the person who would teach each person that would teach them later in history. The reason for this is that each person has their own unique portion of תורה.

This idea should be a source of inspiration and excitement regarding our תורה learning while giving us a sense of responsibility. We should be aware that on any given day, we may be designated to bring a specific new Torah thoughts into the world. What a tremendous responsibility we have in our learning as not learning Torah could perhaps prevent new Torah thoughts from entering the world! We should also recognize that when we learn תורה and come up with a חידוש, we are literally bringing new תורה thoughts into the world.

"What do you mean?" responded his companion. "We offered to pay her for the meal!"

"True," said R' Simcha Zissel. "But you saw how much satisfaction the woman derived from speaking to us, yet you refrained from paying attention to her conversation. Thus you benefited from her meal without giving anything in exchange."

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Mazel Tov!

Mazel Tov to Rabbi & Mrs. Shraga & Rifki Zachai on the birth of a baby girl!

Mazel Tov to Rabbi & Mrs. Avrohom & Toby Goldman on the bar mitzvah of their son, Mordechai!

Mazel Tov to Rabbi & Mrs. Shraga & Rifki Zachai on the bar mitzvah of their son, Mordechai!

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AND DINNER

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