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בס"ד Intro

Today we will בע"ה learn מסכת ר"ה of דף יח.

Some of the topics we will learn about today include:

More discussion about the power of Teshuva to erase evil decrees.

A curse that was placed on the descendants of Eli HaKohen, and stories how several people overcame this curse.

More discussion about the power of Teshuva to erase Evil Decrees

A curse that was placed on the descendants of Eli HaKohen, and stories how several people overcame this curse

The times of the year that messengers of the Beis Din went out to inform the public as to when Rosh Chodesh was set for that month.

Some of the key topics and concepts that we will learn about include:

קידוש החודש

In the time of the Sanhedrin, Rosh Chodesh was designated by the Sanhedrin based on testimony of witnesses who came to the אלשכת הגזית to give over their testimony. Beis Din would then proclaim the New Month. During months which had Yomim Tovim, Beis Din would send messengers all around Eretz Yisrael to inform the public of the correct date of Rosh Chodesh for that month.

פסח שני

Those Jews who were impure on the 14th of Nissan and were unable to bring the Korban Pesach on that day, have an opportunity to bring it again on the 14th of Iyar, which called פסח שני.

גדליה בן אחיקם

Gedalyah ben Achikam was a נביא and the כהן גדול at the time of the churban בית. He was the last remnant of leadership in Eretz Yisrael after the Bais HaMikdash was destroyed. He was murdered on the second day of Rosh HaShana, which basically wiped out any hope for Jewish life in Eretz Yisrael at the time. As we cannot fast on Rosh HaShana, the fast of Tzom Gedalya was instituted on the third of Tishrei, the day following the anniversary of his passing.

Times of the year messengers of Beis Din went out to inform the public as to when Rosh Chodesh was set

קידוש החודש

פסח שני • גדליה בן אחיקם







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מגילת תענית

Megilas Ta'anis is a document which was written during the second Beis HaMikdash. It lists certain dates which one may not fast, because these days were designated as minor holidays due to the miracles that occurred on them. After the Churban בית שני, these holidays were abolished, with the exception of Chanukah and Purim.









So let's review.....

The gemara continues its discussion from the previous daf regarding whether one can rescind a גזירה from Heaven once it has been issued.

Our gemara begins:

וגזר דין דיחיד תנאי היא

This question whether a גזירה issued against an individual person can be rescinded through intense prayer and Teshuva, is a מחלוקת תנאים, as we have learned in a Braisa

היה רבי מאיר אומר שנים שעלו למטה וחוליין שוה וכן שנים שעלו לגרדום לידון ודינן שוה

Two people who were being judged in a life and death situation זה ירד וזה לא ירד זה ניצל וזה לא ניצל

Why was one of them saved and the other not?

Rebbe Meir explains because...

זה התפלל תפלה שלימה וזה לא התפלל תפלה שלימה

The one who was saved obviously davened with intense Kavana and was therefore granted salvation

Rebbe Elazar explains that

כאן קודם גזר דין כאן לאחר גזר דין

The one who was saved was before the גזר דין was sealed while the one who was not saved was after the גזר דין was already sealed.

On the other hand

Rebbe Yitzchak teaches that

יפה צעקה לאדם בין קודם גזר דין בין לאחר גזר דין

Intense Tefilla helps to nullify evil decrees, even after they have been rendered.

And so, while Rebbe Eliezer seems to hold that after a גזר דין is rendered it cannot be revoked, Rebbe Yitzchak disagrees and holds that Tefilla is always potent and effective to nullify evil decrees, regardless of if it has already been sealed or not.









The gemara questions further the concept of nullifying evil decrees after they have already been issued: וגזר דין דצבור מי מיקרע

We have two seemingly contradictory pesukim כתוב אחד אומר כבסי מרעה לבך

וכתיב כי אם תכבסי בנתר ותרבי לך בורית נכתם עונך לפני that that the stain of one's sin will linger forever

The gemara suggests that one must be referring to לפני גזר דין and one לאחר גזר דין. Which seems to show that לאחר גזר דין a decree cannot be nullified.

The gemara clarifies that the pasuk which implies that the stain of one's sin will linger forever, refers to a גזר דין שיש עמו שבועה

As we find by the sons of Eli HaKohen about whom HaShem uttered the words:

לכן נשבעתי לבית עלי אם יתכפר עון בית עלי בזבח ובמנחה

Which was a decree which was proclaimed together with a שבועה, and such a decree cannot be repealed.

Rava was מדייק in the words of the pasuk to teach further בזבח ובמנחה אינו מתכפר בתורה במנחה אינו מתכפר בתורה

HaShem gave even the offspring of Eli HaKohen a chance for reparation through the study of Torah.

Whereas Abaye says that

בזבח ומנחה אינו מתכפר אבל מתכפר בתורה ובגמילות חסדים HaShem gave the offspring of Eli HaKohen an opportunity for repentance through Torah and Gemilus Chasadim

The gemara relates that both Abaye and Rava both came from the house of Eli, and were subject to the negative effects of the curse on the house of Eli HaKohen

However, Rabbah who excelled in the study of Torah, lived for 40 years.

Whereas Abaye excelled both in the study of Torah as well as אמילות חסדים, lived for 60 years.

The gemora then returns to our mishna which taught... בר"ה כל באי העולם עוברין לפניו כבני מרון

The gemara cites several explanations for the phrase כבני מרון.

כבני אמרנא

Like Sheep passing through a narrow opening one after another - as they are counted for מעשר בהמה

ריש לקיש אמר כמעלות בית מרון

A narrow passage going up to Beis Maron אמר רב יהודה אמר שמואל כחיילות של בית דוד

In the same way that soldiers in the time of Dovid HaMelech were counted, as they were led out one after the other









אמר רבב"ח א"ר יוחנן וכולן נסקרין בסקירה אחת אמר רבב"ח א"ר יוחנן וכולן נסקרין בסקירה אחת While everyone is led one by one before HaShem, HaShem still sees all of mankind in one snapshot, as it were.

אמר ר"נ בר יצחק explains this based on the pasuk היוצר יחד לבם המבין אל כל מעשיהם Which means to say היוצר רואה יחד לבם ומבין אל כל מעשיהם Hashem, the Creator, sees all of the inhabitants of the world in one picture and yet He also knows each individual's thoughts and actions.

With our next Mishna the gemora begins an extended sugya on the topic of Kiddush HaChodesh.

During the times of the Sanhedrin, Rosh Chodesh was determined each month based on the testimony of two witnesses who obseved the מולד הלבנה - the new moon. After questioning them, the Sanhedrin would then officially proclaim that day to be איס - the beginning of the new month. Months in which Yomim Tovim occurred, it was important for Beis Din to send out messengers to to inform all of Klal Yisrael exactly what day the new month began so they could observe the Yomim Tovim correctly.

אמר רכה כר כר חנא א"ר יוחגן וכולן נסקרין בסקירה אחת

אמר ר"ג בר יצחק היוצר יוזד לבם הבובין אל כל בעשיהב פוצר רואפ יחד לפם ומפין אל כל מפטיפם

קידוש החודש

Two witnesses who obseved the מולד הלבנה would give testimony by Bais Din

Bais Din would then officially proclaim that day to be ראש תודש

Months in which Yomim Tovim occurred, Beis Din would send messengers to inform all of Klal Yisrael

Zugt the Mishna
על ששה חדשים השלוחין יוצאין

There are 6 specific months where messengers of Beis Din would be sent out in order to inform the general public of when Rosh Chodesh began.

על ניסן מפני הפסח על ניסן מפני הרשנית - meaning Tishah B'av על אלול מפני ראש השנה על תשרי מפני תקנת המועדות for Yom Kippur and Sukkos על כסליו מפני חנוכה על אדר מפני הפורים

וכשהיה בהמ"ק קיים יוצאין אף על אייר מפני פסח קטן: And when the Bais HaMikdash was standing, the messengers would also be sent out in the month of Iyar, so that people would know when Pesach Sheni falls out, as well.

Messengers would not be sent out on Tamuz and Teves although there were fast days in each of these months, as the gemara explains, in those days these fasts were optional, as opposed to the fast of Tisha BeAv, which was always obligatory - because הוכפלו בו צרות - many tragedies befell Klal Yisrael on Tisha B'Av

בט' באב חרב הבית בראשונה ובשניה ונלכדה ביתר ונחרשה העיר









The Pasuk in ירמיה, states

כה אמר ה' צבאות צום הרביעי וצום החמישי וצום השביעי וצום העשירי יהיה לבית יהודה לששון ולשמחה

Rebbe Akiva explains the possik as follows:

צום הרביעי - The Fast on the Fourth - is referring is referring to month of Tamuz, the fourth month after Nissan, when the walls around Yerushalayim was breached in the times of both ברי, on the 9th of Tamuz for the first ביהמ"ק and the 17th of Tamuz for the second Bais HaMikdash.

צום החמישי - The Fast on the Fifth - refers to Tisha B'Av, the fifth month after Nissan, in which both בתי מקדשות were burned.

צום גדליה - The Fast on the Seventh - refers to צום גדליה, on the third of Tishrei, the 7th month after Nissan, in which גדליה בן גדליה שמא was killed. The gemara points out that this fast day was included in all the other fast days which are observed for the destruction of the בית המקדש to show us that ששקולה מיתתן של צדיקים כשריפת בית אלקינו

צום העשירי - The Fast on the Tenth - refers to צום העשיר, which is the 10th month after Nissan, in which the king of Bavel placed a siege on Yerushalyim, prior to the חורבן.

However Rebbe Shimon dissagrees wth Rabbi Akiva about this last item - the צום העשירי - since the seige should really be mentioned at the beginning of the possik since it happened first. Therefore Rebbe Shimon says the צום העשירי is refferring to שבו באת שכועה לגולה שהוכתה העיר

when the rest of Klal Yisroel heard of the terrible news of the distruction.

שאני אומר על ראשון ראשון ועל אחרון אחרון והוא אומר על ראשון אחרון ועל אחרון ראשון אלא שהוא מונה לסדר חדשים ואני מונה לסדר פורעניות

The gemara then moves on and teaches איתמר רב ורבי חנינא אמרי בטלה מגילת תענית

מגילת תענית, which was a מגילה - or scroll written during the בית שני, listing dates of minor Yomim Tovim - events of salvation that happened to Klal Yisrael, when fasting was prohibited.

Rav and Rebbe Chanina held that after the churban of the Bayis Sheini the Megillas Taanis was abolished, and the dates mentioned in them are no longer celebrated as holidays, therefore one may fast on those days.

Whereas

רבי יוחנן וריב"ל אמרי לא בטלה מגילת תענית Since the Chachamim designated only certain dates to commemorate the destruction of the Bais HaMikdash, those dates mentioned in the Megilla Taanis can still serve as days of celebration, and therefore fasting on those days is still forbidden.







