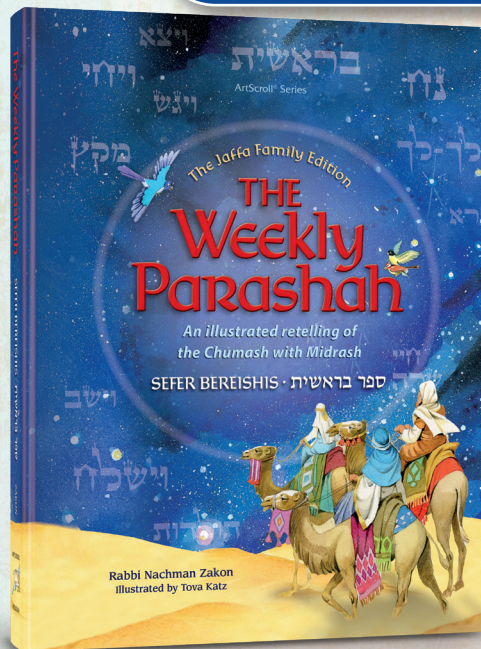


Parashah for Children

פרשת בראשית



Bereishis – In the Beginning

In the beginning, there was no earth, planets, moon, sun, stars, or galaxies. There was no universe and no life. Nothing! There was only Hashem, and His Torah.

When the time came to create the world, Hashem looked into His Torah. Using its letters, He created the world.

The First Day

At first, there was nothing. Not even air!

Then Hashem said, “Bereishis — In the beginning” — and everything in the entire universe came into existence. Out of nothing! There was heaven and earth and darkness. But there was no order. Everything in creation was mixed up with everything else.

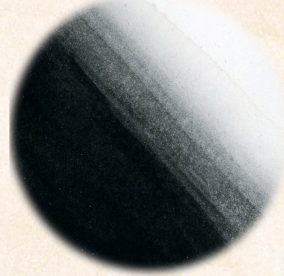
Hashem then made light and separated it from the darkness. He called the light “day,” and the darkness He called “night.” That was the first day of Creation.

Why Beis?

Why does Torah and Creation start with the letter “beis” of Bereishis? Shouldn’t it have started with the letter “aleph,” the first letter of the Jewish alphabet?

“Beis” is the first letter in the word “berachah,” the Hebrew word for “blessing.” This is telling us that Hashem started the world with a blessing.

Another reason is because the number value of “beis” is two. This reminds us that there are two worlds: this world that we live in, which we can see and touch, and the other world, Olam Haba, where souls go when they leave this world. That is the world where Hashem will reward us for the mitzvos we do.



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THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Question for Bereishis:

Why did Hashem call the sky “Shamayim”?

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to shabbosquestion@artscroll.com by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be found in *The Jaffa Family Edition Weekly Parashah*.



The winner of the question for Rosh Hashanah is: **GAVRIEL CHAIM SCHREIBER, Baltimore, MD**

The question was: How many pesukim do we say in Malchiyos, Zichronos and Shofaros during Mussaf on Rosh Hashanah? The answer is: Each section contains 10 pesukim taken from Torah, Nevi'im and Kesuvim.

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WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

PROJECT DEDICATED BY MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN AND FAMILY
L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

PARASHAH TO DO

Rav Chaim Kanievsky on Chumash compiled by Rabbi Shai Graucher

וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹקִים אֶת יוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַיְקַדְּשׁ אֹתוֹ כִּי בּו שְׁבַת מְקַל מְלֹאכְתּוֹ אֲשֶׁר בָּרָא אֱלֹקִים לַעֲשׂוֹת.
G-d blessed the seventh day and sanctified it because on it He abstained from all of His work which G-d created to make (2:3).

What does it mean that Hashem created it “to make”? *Rashi* explains that Hashem hastened, so to speak, “to make” happen on Friday whatever work He would have done on *Shabbos* in order to set aside *Shabbos* as a day of rest.

Rav Chaim Kanievsky offered an additional explanation. The Midrash *Tanchuma (Tazria #5)* relates a fascinating tale. The Roman general, Turnus Rufus, asked Rabbi Akiva: What is more beautiful, G-d’s creation or man’s?

Rabbi Akiva responded that man’s works are nicer than those of Hashem.

Shocked at this answer, Turnus Rufus mocked Rabbi Akiva for this seemingly untenable position, and then asked, “Why do you circumcise your sons? Do you think that you can improve upon that which G-d has made?”

“I knew that this lay behind your first question,” said Rabbi Akiva, “and that was why I answered you as I did!”

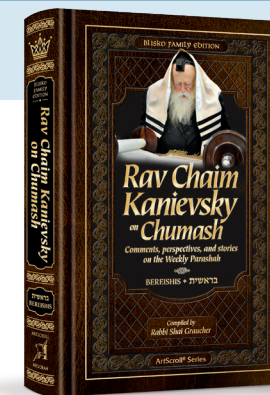


Rav Chaim Kanievsky

Rabbi Akiva then proceeded to illustrate his response, pointing out that we do not consume raw wheat kernels, nor do we wear

unprocessed fibers, whether plant or animal. Obviously, said Rabbi Akiva, Hashem’s intention, as it were, was not to present us with a fait accompli, but to give us the tools we need to properly use the world in which He placed us. The final product, however, is to include man’s labor, not merely G-d’s creation. He therefore also created man with an *olah*, unfinished, to allow us to take the final step in refining even our own bodies.

That, said Rav Chaim, is also the meaning of *asher bara Elokim laasos*. Hashem created the world *laasos*, to do, — with the express intention that man do his part in completing it.



BEREISHIS

HOLD ON TO YOM TOV

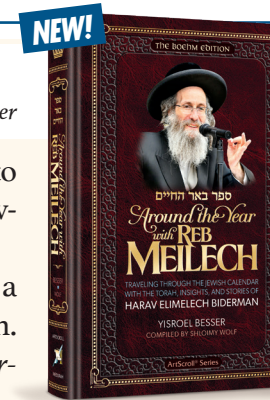
Around the Year with Reb Meilech from Rav Elimelech Biderman, written by Yisroel Besser

One *Motzaei Simchas Torah*, a group of *chassidim* went to their *rebbe*, Rav Mordechai of Lechovitch.

“*Rebbe*,” they cried, “that was such an elevated *Yom Tov*. We tasted such closeness and *deveikus* in Hashem. What happens now? What will be with all those

pure, holy intentions once we return to the markets and fairs and realities of everyday life?”

The Lechovitcher responded with a *vort* from Rav Aharon Hagadol of Karlin. The *pasuk* says, *When you sacrifice a korban to Hashem, lirtzonchem* continued on page 2



THIS WEEK’S ISSUE IS DEDICATED L’ILLUI NISHMAS: MIRA BAT HAIM TSPENYUK, BETYA BAT ABA BURD, BORIS BEN KHAIM-MOSHE TSPENYUK, AND NIKOLAY BEN JOSEPH BURD

MESORAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

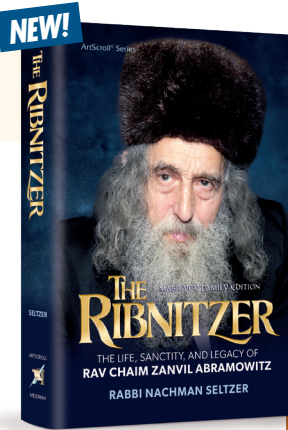
The Ribnitzer by Rabbi Nachman Seltzer

As a child, Reb Moshe Tabak went for a walk with his father and the Ribnitzer Rebbe in Viola Park in Monsey when the Rebbe tripped over a pebble and fell. Reb Moshe, who was still a child, was frightened at seeing the Rebbe on the ground. His father hastened to help the Rebbe stand up, but the Rebbe merely smiled at him from down on the ground and said, "Reb Eliyahu, I still don't know why I fell, so how will it help if I get up? If I don't know the reason for the fall, I will just fall again! Give me a minute."

The Rebbe remained on the ground for some time — to young Moshe Tabak, it felt like an eternity — and then said, "Now we can get up."

It was obvious that he had figured out the reason for the fall and was now able to get up.

Reb Moshe Tzvi Berkowitz witnessed a similar incident.



continued on page 3

HOLD ON TO YOM TOV

continued from page 1

tizbachuhu, you shall slaughter it to find favor for yourselves (Vayikra 19:5).

Rav Aharon Hagadol said that the Torah is addressing us today. If someone wants to bring a *korban* now, when we no longer have a *Beis HaMikdash*, do you know how he can do it? Through *lirtzonchem tizbachuhu* — by sacrificing his own *ratzon*!

He can close his eyes from seeing something improper, close his mouth from saying something improper, or hold back from doing something improper. That's a *korban*, because a person is sacrificing his own *ratzon*, his own will!

The Lechovitcher concluded the *vort*, then added a thought.

"The *Gemara* says that the day on which a person brings a *korban* is considered a personal *Yom Tov*

for him, so there's your answer.

Go to the markets, go to the fairs, and next Tuesday, when you close your eyes from seeing something inappropriate, there's your *korban*! You have just made it *Yom Tov*! Make *Yom Tov* again and again, live with the *Yom Tov* of *lirtzonchem tizbachuhu*, and you won't have to part from this feeling!"



Rav Melech Biderman

OUR FATHER IS WATCHING US START THE TORAH ANEW, AND HE IS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS AND PRIDE.

Shabbos Bereishis

In *Shamayim*, there is a special *simchah* on this week. Rav Shalom Ber of Lubavitch would quote his grandfather, the *Tzemach Tzedek*, who compared it to the joy of a father leading his son to *cheder* for the very first time.

Our Father is watching us start

the Torah anew, and He is filled with happiness and pride.

When the *aron kodesh* is opened and the *Sefer Torah* taken out, it is an *eis ratzon*; the loftiest *tefillos* are said during those moments.

The *Pnei Menachem* would say that, similarly, when a *bachur* takes his *Gemara* from the shelf, preparing for the new *zeman*, that is a *pesi-chas aron*! A *Sefer Torah* is being taken out, and it is a great *eis ratzon* in *Shamayim*.

Shabbos Bereishis, an entire nation is starting anew and, in the days ahead, the *yeshivos* and *kollelim* will unroll their *Sifrei Torah* to learn, new *masechtos* and new *sugyos*.

It is an *eis ratzon*, for there is nothing as precious as the Torah and no greater joy in heaven than when *Yidden* cherish it and hold it close, ready to immerse themselves in its holy words! 📖

A CHAVER IN NEED

Rays of Hope by Rabbi Chaim Aryeh Zev Ginzberg

There are some acts of *chessed* that provoke such a tumult in Heaven that you can practically hear the footsteps of *Mashiach* around the bend...

One such act of *chessed* happened to a member of my family a while back. My eldest daughter, Shoshana, was on her way to her special-ed teaching job in Brooklyn one winter morning and turned onto the road leading from the Nassau Expressway to the Belt Parkway. Apparently, a large pothole had developed, and it caused one of her tires to be sliced in half. After her incident, another six or seven cars hit the same pothole with the same results.

Stranded on the side of the road in an unsafe place, she called me for help. But being far from the area (and, truthfully, not knowing how to change a tire, either), I did not know what to do. I decided to try Chaverim. Within minutes, they called back and said that one of their members was driving in the area, and he would attempt to help.

About half an hour later, my daughter called me with the most

uplifting story. A member of Chaverim named Binyamin (no last name given) stopped and quickly changed the tire on my daughter's car. The other stranded motorists expressed out loud to my daughter that "you Jews are always available to help each other out."

HE PROCEEDED TO CHANGE THE TIRES ON ALL THE OTHER STRANDED CARS IN THAT SPOT.

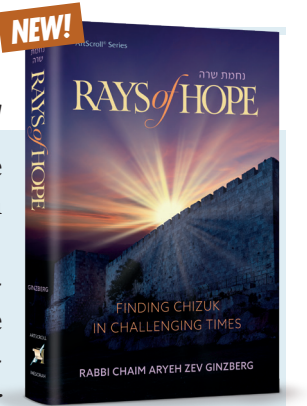


Then, Binyamin did a most incredible thing. He proceeded to change the tires on all the other stranded cars in that spot, and that included people from a wide range of races and nationalities. When they wanted to pay him, he refused. My daughter explained to her new

friends that he belongs to an organization called Chaverim, whose members volunteer their time and expertise to help people, for free. (My daughter did hand them envelopes from Chaverim, in case they would want to send a donation to the organization to help defray their costs. They all said they would gladly do so.)

Then — to underscore the message — the following occurred: As the various folks were getting back into their cars to return to their own little worlds, they turned to my daughter and said, "You Jews are such special people. It's surprising that with people like Benjamin, your Messiah still has not appeared. You truly do deserve his coming."

Let's not underestimate the great power and influence that a little *chessed* can have in arousing Hashem's mercy and bringing an end to all our suffering. After all, it may truly be said one day that saving *Klal Yisrael* is as easy as changing a flat tire. 📖



WHY DID IT HAPPEN? *continued from page 2*

"One time the Rebbe was walking down the staircase and he slipped and fell. The Rebbe was lying on the floor and I wanted to help him up, but the Rebbe waved me away, saying, 'Don't pick me up yet.'

"He remained on the floor for a short time until finally he said, 'Now you can pick me up.'

"Once the Rebbe was back on his feet, I asked him why he made me wait to help him up.

"I didn't want to get up until I knew why I fell in the first place. If a person falls, they need to know why it happened."

Words to live by. 📖

THIS WEEK'S DAF YOMI SCHEDULE:

OCTOBER / תשרי-חשוון

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
14 כט	15 ל	16 א	17 ב	18 ג	19 ד	20 ה
Kiddushin 62	Kiddushin 63	Kiddushin 64	Kiddushin 65	Kiddushin 66	Kiddushin 67	Kiddushin 68

THIS WEEK'S MISHNAH YOMI SCHEDULE:

OCTOBER / תשרי-חשוון

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
14 כט	15 ל	16 א	17 ב	18 ג	19 ד	20 ה
Chagigah 1:4-5	Chagigah 1:6-7	Chagigah 1:8-2:1	Chagigah 2:2-3	Chagigah 2:4-5	Chagigah 2:6-7	Chagigah 3:1-2

This week's Yerushalmi Yomi schedule:

SHABBOS	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
14 כט	15 ל	16 א	17 ב	18 ג	19 ד	20 ה
Shevi'is 7	Shevi'is 8	Shevi'is 9	Shevi'is 10	Shevi'is 11	Shevi'is 12	Shevi'is 13