

## 1 – Topic – A Thought on the Upcoming Yom Tov of Shavuos.

As we prepare for Shabbos Parshas Bamidbar and the Chag of Mattan Torah which is a time of great joy for Klal Yisrael tempered by great concern for the situation in Eretz Yisrael and the welfare of Acheinu Bnei Yisrael in Eretz Yisrael and all of the children in Eretz Yisrael who are facing a difficult time again after a very difficult year. Hashem Yiracheim.

Let's start by discussing Shavuos. There are really two faces to Shavuos. Shavuos is Zman Mattan Toraseinu which is of course what is most foremost on our mind, but also as the Torah points out the end of Sefiras Ha'omer, not only the counting of the Omer, but in the agricultural cycle the Omer which is brought on Pesach is the beginning of the time that Yidden eat from the new crop. The Shte Halechem on Shavuos is the beginning of the time that Korbanos and Menachos are brought in the Bais Hamikdash from the new crop, and therefore, the Omer or the Pesach – Shavuos period is the Chag Habikkurim, it is the time that new things are brought first in our homes and then in the Bais Hamikdash. So these are the two aspects of Chag Hashavuos.

The Gemara in Maseches Menachos 45b makes the following comment. The Gemara observes that the Korban of Shavuos is brought in Parshas Emor and in Parshas Pinchas. The Gemara says (22 lines from the top) (יכול הן הן כבשים האמורים כאן הן הן כבשים האמורים בחומש הפקודים). I would think it is the same Korban, the Shavuos Korban that is mentioned in Emor and the one brought in Pinchas is it the same? You have to be careful. (אמרת כשאתה מגיע אצל פרים ואילים אינן הן). If you think when you are Mavir Sedra, you will see it is not the same. Why? In Emor it is one Par and two Ailim. In Pinchas it is two Parim and one Ayil. Says the Gemara (אלא הללו באין בגלל לחם).

What the Gemara is saying is that there are two parts to Shavuos. (בגלל עצמן). There is the Yom Tov itself, the Chag Hashavuos of Mattan Torah and there is the Yom Tov of Yom Habikkurim the Shte Halechem which is brought together with the two Parim.

So therefore, what the Gemara is saying is the following. We have the Yom Tov of Mattan Torah, of Shavuos which is mentioned in Parshas Emor with the other Yomim Tovim, and then we have the Yom Tov of Yom Habikkurim (וביום הבכורים, בהקריבכם מנחה חדשה). In Pinchas 28:26 it says clearly that we are talking about a Yom Tov to be Makriv a new Mincha and the Posuk in Pinchas says (וביום הבכורים, בהקריבכם מנחה חדשה לירוך--בשבעת ימים). Yom Bikkurim is the day you bring a new Mincha to Hashem, (בשבעת ימים) on your Shavuos. So that there are two faces to Chag Hashavuos.

Why do we eat Milchigs, why does Klal Yisrael have this Minhag? We find two reasons. The Rama says because we bring the Shte Halechem, there are two breads offered on Shavuos from the new crop, so therefore, we have two Lechem. A Fleishig bread and Milchig bread (that doesn't mean that the bread is Fleishig or Milchig). It is a bread that is eaten with Fleishig and a bread eaten with Milchig so that it is K'negged the Shte Ha'Lechem.

The Mishna Brura brings a second reason because at Mattan Torah when Moshe Rabbeinu came down Klal Yisrael had Milchigs, they didn't have Kosher Fleishigs ready for them. One reason based on one aspect of Shavuos and one reason based on the other aspect of Shavuos. So that we have these two parts to the Yom Tov that we are about to begin.

The question is why mix it together, Kabbalas Hatorah. The main moment in the history of the world accepting the Torah at Har Sinai has to be mixed with an agricultural holiday, with the celebration of the bringing of the new crop, making the new crop useable. Why mix Mattan Hatorah with anything?

The answer is there is a message as Rav Pam used to say about Shavuos. The Gemara says that every Yom Tov if you want can be Kulo L'Hashem, it can be a purely spiritual Yom Tov. Except for Shavuos. As it says in Maseches Pesachim 68b (29 lines from the top) (הכל מודים בעצרת דבעינן נמי לכם). Everyone agrees that on Shavuos you need Lachem. Why Shavuos, why Mattan Torah you have to have things that you enjoy?

Somebody might make a mistake and think that Olam Hazeh is a contradiction to Mattan Torah. That the pleasures of this world are somehow not in line with the serving of the Ribbono Shel Olam. (הכל מודים לכם בעצרת דבעינן נמי לכם). No! By Mattan Torah the Torah is given to be observed in the world, not as a contradiction to the world. Therefore, everyone agrees that on Shavuos you have to have a Geshmake meal, something that you enjoy. Therefore, there is a mixing of the Yom Tov of Kabbalas Hatorah with the Yom Tov of a Yid who works B'olam Hazeh, works the land and does the 10 Mitzvos that a person has to do to bring bread. There is more than 10 Mitzvos, but there are at least 10 Mitzvos. There is a Mayla by Hamotzie that you should hold the bread with all 10 fingers K'negged the 10 Mitzvos that have to be performed in order to bring bread to your table. That is why it says that the Beracha of Hamotzie has 10 words in it. This is because when you look at a piece of bread you are looking at 10 Mitzvos. It is not a contradiction to Mattan Torah to have the good Gashmios of Olam Hazeh as long as it is done in the spirit of the Torah.

Along those lines, the Chasam Sofer asks a question regarding Megillas Rus. Boaz we are told was a Nasi, a Shofet, he was the judge of Klal Yisrael. He was a man in his 80's. What is he doing working in the field and sleeping in the tent in the field. Why isn't he home or in the Beis Medrash and have his workers do their work?

Enfert the Chasam Sofer, because working the land of Eretz Yisrael is a Mitzvah as Yishuv Eretz Yisrael which includes working the land. The Chasam Sofer says that it is a Mitzvah She'e Efsheir Al Yidai Shaliach. This is what the Chasam Sofer says on Megillas Rus. This is taken actually from the Drashos Chasam Sofer. He says it was a Mitzvah and that is why he worked the land. It is not a Stira to Torah. It is with Torah that we serve HKB"H and we have the Geshmak of Olam Hazeh. So we stay up Shavuos night and we learn and with it we have refreshments, we have things that make us feel good in our Avodas Hashem.

## **2 – Topic – A second thought regarding Chag Hashavuos.**

It has been noted that we celebrate Mattan Torah with the first Luchos. The first Luchos were broken. Logic would dictate to observe Mattan Torah when Moshe Rabbeinu went up to receive the second set of Luchos on Rosh Chodesh Elul and we say no. It is one long lesson. From the beginning of the first Luchos until the second Luchos came down on Yom Hakkipurim it is one long 120 day lesson of Mattan Torah. The last words in the Torah are (Devarim 34:12) (לְעֵינֵי כָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל). Rashi says that it goes on the breaking of the Luchos. When the Torah ends it is Miramez to us Moshe Rabbeinu's great accomplishment that he broke the Luchos.

There is a Kasha on this. That is Moshe Rabbeinu's great accomplishment that he broke the Luchos? Moshe Rabbeinu did so much and that is what you remember him for? For breaking the Luchos? It doesn't seem to make any sense. Remember Moshe Rabbeinu for taking us out of Mitzrayim, for going up and receiving the Torah, for Davening to HKB"H all the time. What is going on?

I once saw in the Sefer Toras Chessed he says an incredible Pshat. He said that Moshe Rabbeinu came down with the Luchos. Klal Yisrael was serving the Eigel. Hashem didn't say break the Luchos. (ג' דברים) (עשה משה מדעתו). There are three things that Moshe Rabbeinu did on his own as it says in Maseches Shabbos 87a (8 lines from the top). He broke the Luchos on his own. HKB"H said you are right (והסכים) (הקב"ה). He didn't have to break the Luchos. The Luchos has a Parsha of Teshuva. He could have brought down the Luchos and have Klal Yisrael do Teshuvah.

Moshe Rabbeinu said no. Moshe Rabbeinu taught Klal Yisrael there are times in life where you can get something but if you wait and are patient, and you prepare properly, you can get something better. When it comes to ice cream, take the ice cream you get now. If it is going to take patience and work to get better ice cream then take the ice cream you got. It is good enough. Good enough is for Gashmios.

When it comes to Kabbalas Hatorah, Moshe Rabbeinu said what? A B'dieved Kabbalas Hatorah. I am going to bring down Luchos that are going to involve doing Teshuva if you want to be Mekabeil the Luchos? No!

Moshe Rabbeinu broke the Luchos and said we are going to start all over again. We are going to get new Luchos and we are going to have a new Kabbalas Hatorah. It is better to wait and do it right then to accept a B'dieved in things that are Ruchnius, things that are spiritual (יישר כחך ששברת). Moshe Rabbeinu taught us that things should be done in the Lechatchila'dika Ofen, in the best way when it comes to the serving of HKB"H. That is a lesson. The lesson in our service of HKB"H to do it in the most Lechatchila'dika way.

### **3 – Topic – A Thought on Parshas Bamidbar.**

Let me not forget Parshas Bamidbar. We are talking about Har Sinai and Mattan Torah and Parshas Bamidbar starts with it. (וַיְדַבֵּר יְרוֹן אֶל-מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַּר סִינַי). Why is it mentioning Midbar Sinai? Maybe because HKB"H knew that Parshas Bamidbar will come out around the same time as the Simcha of Kabbalas Hatorah. But what is the lesson of Bamidbar Sinai?

Says the Bamidbar Rabbah 1:7 that it says Bamidbar Sinai that a person who wants to learn Torah he has to make himself Hefker like a Midbar (וידבר ר' אל משה במדבר סיני אלא כל מי שאינו עושה עצמו כמדבר הפקר, אינו) (יכול לקנות את החכמה והתורה, לכך נאמר: במדבר סיני). He can't be too Makpid on his own things. The lesson here is if you want to have Hatzlacha in serving HKB"H Maisim Atzmo K'midbar, you have to put aside your own personal needs. You have to put aside the Ani of the person. My needs have to be second most important to the service of HKB"H.

It has been noted that in Parshas Chayei Sarah we learn about the extraordinary work of the extraordinary Shadchan Eliezer. Eliezer goes, Eliezer travels, Eliezer does... People ask, guess how many times it says the name Eliezer in Parshas Chayei Sarah? The answer is zero. It doesn't say his name once. It says Eved Avraham all the time. Vayomer Eved Avraham, Vayeilech Eved Avraham. It never says Eliezer. Do you know why Eliezer had such great Hatzlacha? Because there was no Ani, there was no me. He was Eved Avraham and he did what he had to do.

Klal Yisrael, we have to be Avdai Hashem, we have to serve the Ribbono Shel Olam and with that approach we go to Midbar Sinai, we go to Har Sinai, we go to Kabbalas Hatorah. Put aside the Ani. I know. It is hard to stay up Shavuos by night. It is much more enjoyable to go into a comfortable bed. Ani. No!

Imagine if G-d forbid, if Chas V'chalila all of Klal Yisrael were like you and they all went to sleep Shavuos by night. It would be a reenactment of the disaster that happened the first time. Who are the ones in Klal Yisrael that are going to stay up and go to the Bais Medrash? Other people? You!

You go to the Bais Medrash and you do what you have to do. This time Shavuos is Sunday night. Working people for the most part are off on Sunday (unless they are accountants). Working people are off on Sunday. Take a nap. Prepare. It is Sheloshes Yemai Hag'bala, take three days of naps. But by Mattan Torah you got to be awake. You got to be there. Klal Yisrael needs you! Put aside the Ani and Maisim Atzmo K'midbar. Then you will be able to have a proper Kabbalas Hatorah.

As we march towards Kabbalas Hatorah lets Daven that HKB"H should give Seichel to those in Eretz Yisrael to ignore the Kochi V'osem Yadi for wanting to do everything on their own. They should be careful with the lives of Klal Yisrael, with the Neshamos of Klal Yisrael. HKB"H should help us and we should have a Siyata Dish'maya. Our enemies should kill each other and leave us alone. If only they would fight a little more among themselves that would be wonderful and if only Klal Yisrael would not fight among themselves that would be wonderful. We have to get there. B'ezras Hashem to have a wonderful Chag Hashavuos. Hashem should help that by the time Shavuos comes this Tzarah should have passed and we should be able to successfully serve HKB"H B'simcha Rabbah. I wish everyone a Gutten Shabbos and a Gutten Kabbalas Hatorah. Make it happen!