

JAN 28, 2012 – 4 Shevat 5772 – Parshat Bo

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Rabbi Berel Wein

noted scholar,
historian,
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This week's *parsha* is the introduction to the *halachic* process of observance of the commandments of the Torah. In every commandment there are numerous layers of meaning and importance. There is the social and moral value that the commandment represents and teaches. There are also the technical minutiae and complex details that comprise the fabric of every commandment.

The commandments regarding the observance of *Pesach* and of the structuring of the Jewish calendar are part of this week's *parsha*. The general values of these commandments are apparent to all. *Pesach* represents for us the value and concept of freedom from bondage and teaches us the beginning history of our people. The calendar has always been a necessity for social and commercial life and keeps us in tune with the changing seasons of the year.

These are the general reasons and lessons of these commandments. However, as we also all know, the devil always lies in the details. What is the mechanism that will enable the story of our departure from Egyptian slavery to freedom to remain fresh and vital thousands of years later? Values only have life if they are somehow translated into human action and normative behavior.

Theories are wonderful but they rarely survive the tests of time and ever changing circumstances. Every scientific theory is therefore subjected to be proven by physical experiment and validation. Freedom is a great theory but unless somehow put into practical application in society it remains divorced from the realities of everyday existence. Just ask the North

Koreans or the Syrians and Iranians about freedom! It is the technical requirements of the commandment – the *matzo*, *chametz*, *hagadah*, etc. – that alone are able to preserve the value and validate the theory and guarantee its meaningfulness for millennia on end.

The uniqueness of the Jewish calendar lies also in its technical details. The permanent calendar that we now follow, established in the fifth century CE, is a lunar calendar with adjustments to make it fit into a solar year span. The technical *halachic* details how the last *Sanhedrin* squared this circle are too numerous and detailed for the scope of this *parsha* sheet.

However, suffice it to say, that if not for those details and calculations our calendar would long ago have disappeared just as the ancient calendars of Egypt, Babylonia, Greece and Rome have disappeared. Many people look at calendars not as Godly commandments but as merely a practical way to mark our passage through time. Thus the details are really not important to them since we are only interested in the so-called result.

But in Judaism, the details are of equal if not even greater importance than the general value and end result that they represent. In our time, those Jews who for various reasons only concentrated on the values, who were good Jews at heart but observed no commandments or details, rarely were privileged to have Jewish descendants.

Of course concentrating only on the details and ignoring the value system that it represents is also a distortion of the Godly word. Seeing both the general value of a commandment and observing its necessary technical details in practice is the guarantee for allowing the Torah to survive amongst the people of Israel for all times.

Shabbat shalom.

OU LEGAL SEMINAR - MCLE ETHICS

This SUN JAN 29, 9-11am

at Adas Torah
1135 S. Beverly Dr. LA 90035
with

Lou Shapiro

Criminal Defense Attorney

&

Rabbi David Revah

Adas Torah

**'The Right to Use Self Defense:
Penal Code vs. Halacha Code'**

westcoast@ou.org - 310.229.9000x200

Wei Chuan - Sesame Chili Oil

Brand: Wei Chuan

Product: Sesame Chili Oil

Company: Wei Chuan USA Inc.

-Bell Gardens, CA

Issue: Unauthorized OU

Wei Chuan Sesame Chili Oil bears an unauthorized OU symbol. The Orthodox Union does not certify this product. Corrective measures are being implemented.

Dirty Potato Chips/Maui Onion Potato Chips

Brand: Dirty Potato Chips

Products: Maui Onion Potato Chips

Company: Dirty Potato Chips - Gramercy, LA

Issue: Missing D- Dairy designation

Some packages of Maui Onion Potato Chips were mistakenly labeled with a plain OU mark, without the D-Dairy designation. This product contains dairy and should have been labeled OU-D. Corrective measures are being implemented.



LADIES! LAST CHANCE FOR RESERVATIONS!!

→OU Israel presents

L'AYLA Women's Israel Mission:

➤ FEB 19-28, 2012 ◀

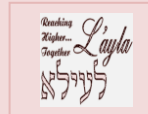
Spectacular tours all over the country with phenomenal guides!

For info please contact

rsegal@ouisrael.org or

call 718-506-0182 or online at

<http://www.ouisrael.org/layla-trip/>



Said **Rabbi Avi Berman**, Executive Director of **OU Israel**, "After seeing the itinerary and knowing Mrs. Rivka Segal (coordinator of the L'Ayla Program), I have no doubt that any woman who decides to join this fantastic mission will come back rejuvenated and more inspired than ever."

The Orthodox Union **only** accepts responsibility for the kosher status of those advertisers under OU certification.

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OU SYNAGOGUES AROUND THE WC REGION

Beverly Hills: Cong. Beth Jacob (310) 278-1911

- Beth Jacob Young Professionals: rabbiposy@bethjacob.org
- Bi-weekly Friday Night dinners & oneq for young professionals. Fee. RSVP
- SHABBAT OF UNITY w/Chief Rabbi Sacks & Choir: FEB 4, Morning Drasha
- SUN FEB 5, 3pm: Super Bowl Party. A\$15; C\$10. RSVP rsvp@bethjacob.org
- SUN MAR 18: Tiferet Award Banquet: Esther/Jay Braun, Ashley/Jeff Woodall

Beverly Hills: Young Israel-North BH: (310) 276-7650 info@YINBH.org

Calabasas Shul: (818) 591-7485

Canada-Calgary: House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel (403) 259-3230

Canada-Edmonton: Beth Israel (780) 488-2840

Canada-Vancouver: Schara Tzedek (604) 736-7607

- Shabbat FEB 24: Shaindel Feuerstein, z"l, Shabbaton w/Yaffa Epstein
- Denver, CO : BMH-BJ Cong (303) 388-4203
- Shabbat JAN 27-29: Guest candidate, Rabbi Ben & Sharon Greenberg

Denver, CO: EDOS (303) 322-7943

Irvine, CA: Beth Jacob (949) 786-5230

- Shabbat FEB 3-4: S-I-R Shlomo Horwitz "Challenges of Israel-Then & Now"

LA: Adas Torah (310) 203-9659 www.adastorah.com

LA: Aish Hatorah (310) 278-8672 x 305 or menucha@aishla.com

- Shidduch Services for over 30s: Call Adinah for info at 310-205-9160
- Shabbat FEB 3-5: S-I-R Rabbi Yaakov Salomon
- Shabbat FEB 24-25: S-I-R Rabbi Noach Orloweck
- Shabbat MAR 17: Guest Rabbi Hanoach Teller

LA: B'nai David-Judea (310)-276-9269 or amram@bnaidavid.com

- SUN JAN 29, 6:30pm: Winter Fundraiser "Quiz Show"--sponsors/dinner. RSVP
- FRI FEB 3: Friday night services w/Chief Rabbi Lord J. Sacks & choir
- Shabbat FEB 11: Guest speaker Israel Consul Genl David Siegel
- Motzei Shabbat FEB 11: Young Professionals night out
- SUN FEB 12: Seniors event w/Dr. Gil Graff "Whither Jewish Education"
- BDJ Young Professionals: YoungProfessionals@BnaiDavid.com

LA: Etz Jacob (323) 938-2619

LA: Mogen David Cong. (310) 556-5609

LA: Young Israel of Century City: (310) 273-6954

- MONs JAN 30, FEB 6, FEB 13, 8pm: Practical Halacha w/Rabbi Jason Weiner
- SHABBAT OF UNITY w/Chief Rabbi Sacks: FEB 4, 5:15pm
- SUN MAR 25: Banquet honoring Daniel/Nomi Silverman, Moti/Ayala Naor

LA: Yeshiva of LA (YOLA) 310-203-3197 yeshivarrabbi@juno.com

- MINCHA/MAARIV: SUN-THURS, 15 minutes before Shkiah;
- LATE MAARIV: SUN-THUR 10pm. M-TH am/pm: adults/students chavrusas

Laguna Woods, CA: Beth Torah (949) 587-1967 (a retirement community)

La Jolla: Adat Yeshurun (858) 535-1196

Las Vegas, NV: Shaarei Tefila (702) 384-3565 (Mikva 384-3317)

Oakland, CA: Beth Jacob (510) 482-1147

- SUN FEB 26, 5:30pm: Annual dinner

Palo Alto, CA: Emek Beracha (650) 857-1800 (Mikva 493-5555)

Phoenix, AZ: Beth Joseph (602) 277-8858

Portland, OR: Kesser Israel (503) 222-1239

Sacramento, CA: Keneset Israel Torah Center (916) 481-1159

- Shabbat FEB 3-5: Rabbinic candidate, Rabbi Deon & Yehudit Nathan
- SUN JUN 10: Annual Evening in Eden Auction Gala

San Diego, CA: Cong. Beth Jacob (619) 287-9890

- Mission to Israel: JAN 29 - FEB 7

San Diego, CA: Kehillat Ahavat Yisrael-KAY (858) 633-0181

San Francisco, CA: Adath Israel (415) 564-5665

- MON FEB 6, 7pm: An Evening of Remembrance-Kosher cookbook author, Joanne Caras

Seattle: Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath (206) 721-0970

- SUN MAR 11: Annual Dinner

Seattle: Ezra Bessaro (206) 722-5500

Seattle: Sephardic Bikur Holim (206) 723-3028

Valley Village, CA: Shaarey Zedek Cong. (818) 763-0560

- Shabbat FEB 3-4: S-I-R Rabbi Shalom Hammer
- Banquet 2012 honorees, Michael & Devora Teichman

Venice, Pacific Jewish Center-The Shul on the Beach:(310)392-8749

Washington-Mercer Island: Shevet Achim (206) 275-1539

Woodland Hills: Beit HaMidrash (818) 999-2059 (5850 Fallbrook Ave.)

West LA: Westwood Kehilla (310) 441-5288x2 director@kehilla.org

- Shabbat FEB 3-4: Guest Rabbi & Mrs. Eli Orzarowski
- Shabbat FEB 10-11: S-I-R Sara Yocheved Rigler

OU's JLIC @-UCLA Westwood-Rabbi Aryeh & Sharona Kaplan Aryeh@uclahillel.org

NCSY-JSU-YACHAD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office contact: 310-229-9000x209 www.westcoastnctsy.com

info on CITY NCSY, JSU, Torah High? Contact Solly at 310-557-6582 or Shess@westcoastnctsy.com

- ▶ NCSY Summer Program apply now!! Learn more @ nctsysummer.com
- ▶ Motzei Shabbat JAN 28, 8pm: Back-to-School Skate Night @ Culver Ice Arena
- ▶ DNL-- MONs 7pm: at Pizza World on Fairfax
- ▶ LATTE&LEARNING TUEs 7:30pm: @CB&T-233 S. Beverly Dr.
- ▶ DROP-IN THURSs 7-9pm: @ OU/NCSY Hdqtrs -4 highschoolers
- ▶ GET COLLEGE CREDITS AT TORAH HIGH! Email TH@NCSY.org or call office
- ▶ YACHAD: Call Perri @323-228-4191 for information >>>

B'NEI AKIVA OF LA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office contact: 310-248-2450 BneiAkivaLA@gmail.com

For More info call Shaliach Shimi Baras 310-988-0390

Bnei Akiva Bayit-8863 Cashio

SNIF will resume after Winter break on FEB 4

Shabbaton V'zach (6-8th grdrs) in the Valley FEB 10-11

SAVE-THE-DATE FEB 14: BALA's ANNUAL EVENING OF JEWISH HEROISM

with Zeev Raz-Lead Pilot of the attack on the Iraqi Nuclear Reactor and Yoel Zilberman-founder of Hashomer HaChadash-the New Israeli Guardian. Call Shimi Baras for info.

WEDs 7pm: Israel & Ice Cream meet @Toppings 349 S. Robertson,BH.

Manihigut (leadership) Fellowship Program for 9-10th Graders

BALA-Matan Bat Mitzvah Program - info chedvy8@gmail.com

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OU WOMEN'S TORAH NETWORK (WTN) Ongoing w/Geri Wiener

Mazel Tov to Geri on the birth of a grandson in Yerushalayim!!

Winter class schedule--\$20 per class

MONs-Valley: JAN 30, FEB 6, 13, 27, MAR 5, 12, 19, 26, APR 16

WEDs-City @ OU: FEB 8, 15, 22, 29, MAR 7, 14, 21, 28, APR 18

Shabbat Shira FEB 3-4 Parshat B'shalach: Community welcomes Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth Lord Jonathan Sacks & the 35-man Shabbaton Choir with Chazzan Lionel Rosenfeld. Shabbat meals. Sponsored by Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy--310.432.2923

SUN FEB 26, 9:30am-12:30pm @ BD-J:

International Agunah Day in LA -Taanit Esther - free

AIPAC's POLICY CONFERENCE - MAR 4-6 - IN DC

Be sure to sign up with your shul or AIPAC directly at

policyconference@aipac.org

Israel's Contribution to the World Israel21c.com

Sabra at the wheel

Major US auto race team recruits its first Israeli to be a racecar driver.

How car exhaust causes tornados

A joint American-Israeli research project demonstrates for the first time how tiny particles of pollution dangerously affect the clouds.

Israel's 'Footnote' makes Oscar shortlist

The Israeli film *Footnote* was shortlisted for the best foreign language category at the upcoming American Academy Awards.

Non-invasive tool identifies

Alzheimer's, depression and ADHD

Revolutionary Israeli system takes the guesswork out of diagnosing and treating ADHD, depression, Alzheimer's and other brain-related diseases.

EMC is walking on (Israeli) clouds

The multinational IT firm has opened a Center of Excellence in Herzliya and an R&D facility in Beersheva to capitalize on Israeli cloud computing ideas.



FEBRUARY is North American Inclusion Month

Let "NAIM" Enrich Your Jewish Community.

Opportunities to learn about the power of inclusion for your Synagogues, Schools, or Special Events

For more information contact YACHAD @ 212.613.8229

naim@ou.org



www.naim4inclusion.org