

RABBI AHARON ZIEGLER - PARASHAT PINCHAS - 2021 5781

****MAZAL TOV** WE ARE PLEASED TO INFORM YOU OF THE BIRTH OF OUR "GREAT GRANDSON", BORN TO OUR GRAND CHILDREN, YAAKOV & DEVORA SCHWARTZ , MAZAL TOV TO SHEA & JUDY SCHWARTZ THE PARENTS OF YAAKOV SCHWARTZ , AND TO Dr. MARC & KAREN SILVERMAN PARENTS OF DEVORA.**

Shabbos Maverchim Chodesh Manachem Av-Rosh Chodesh will be Shabbos July 10

"THE IMPORTANCE OF CONCISTENCY "

Is it not ironic, that the Parasha which introduces the Mitzvah of bringing the T'midim- the sacrifice of the two lambs, one in the morning and one in the afternoon (28:4) is also the Parasha that most times precedes the fast of Shiva Asar B'Tamuz (17th of Tamuz) or the same week, on which day the T'midim ceased to function (Taanit 26b)! On the one hand the Parasha commands us to bring the T'midim on behalf of all of Klal Yisrael, and on the other hand we have the tragedy of its demise until the second Beit HaMikdash and again, until the building of the third Beit HaMikdash, speedily in our time.

The Mitzvah of T'midim teaches us the importance of consistency. "One lamb is to be offered in the morning and one lamb is to be brought toward the evening". This offering is brought every day of the year, 24/7, even on Shabbat, even on Yom Kippur. There is something beautiful about consistency. But consistency has its drawback. This drawback is hinted to, by a strange pasuk in the middle of the chapter. For no apparent reason the Torah states (28:6), "The continual Burnt Offering, which was made on Mt. Sinai for a pleasant aroma, a Fire Offering, concerning the Daily Sacrifices. Asks the Gemara Chagiga (6b). That which happened on Mt. Sinai is history! Why mention it here?

When something is done day in, day out, as wonderful as it may be, it eventually becomes done by rote; it becomes stale, automatic and without thought. Saying Shemoneh Esrei every day, putting on Tefillin every day or even lighting Shabbat candles every week for some 60, 70, 80 years, without missing even once, is commendable. We can and should be proud- it is 'Tamid'. But that Tamid becomes 'rote' and sometimes lacks the true meaning of the Mitzvah. That is the drawback of Tamid.

The Torah therefore states, "The Continuous Burnt Offering that was offered on Mt. Sinai for a pleasant Aroma, a Fire Offering to GD", reminding us of that first Tamid. Remember the tremendous enthusiasm and excitement? The Torah does not expect the same caliber of enthusiasm and excitement every day of our lives, but the Torah does expect that there always be a little of that Tamid in the Tamid we bring every day.

This is a difficult request, because the two qualities of Tamid and Enthusiasm are mutually exclusive. But lacking any slight enthusiasm in our davening in Birkat HaMazon, in Brachot, is an affront to GD and certainly not “A Pleasant Offering to Him. It could be that this was the cause of Ha’Shem’s cessation of the Tamid on the 17th of Tamuz. Let us correct our shortcomings!!.

Shabbat Shalom, from Yerushalayim, Rabbi Aharon Ziegler

QUESTIONS ON PARASHAT PINCHAS

1-In 29:36, Rashi cites the Midrash Tanchuma that seems to imply that “fish” is a more important dish than “meat” (steak) . Can you find this implication?

2- Although not written specifically, from which word do we know that a husband does inherit the assets of his deceased wife?

3- In 27:1-11, the Torah lists the Halachik order of inheritance. What important aspect of Yerusha laws [inheritance] is missing here, but is included in Devarim 21: 15-18?

4-In the listing of the shevatim [tribes] for the census, the names have an added letter “Heih” at beginning and an added “Yud” at the end. What is the significance of this”

5- Who was the GREAT- GREAT-GRANDFATHER of Pinchas?

6-Under what conditions can a daughter inherit from her father’s estate?

7-How does the Torah refer to the Yom Tov of Rosh HaShana and Shavu’ot, by what names?

A JEWISH PROVERB:

“ONE OF LIFE’S MYSTERIES IS - HOW THE BOY WHO WASN’T GOOD ENOUGH TO MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER, CAN BE THE FATHER OF THE SMARTEST GRANDCHILD IN THE WORLD”