

**TorahFax: Bereishis**  
Rabbi Zalmen Marozov

Tuesday, Tishrei 25, 5784 / October 10, 2023

It is with a very heavy heart that I'm writing today's Torah Fax, after the massacre in Israel.

Coming from one of the most joyous holidays of the year, Simchat Torah and the holiday of Sukkot, which are called, Z'Man Simchateinu – Season of our rejoicing, it is so difficult to face the reality of one of the worst murders of Jews in Israel experienced in one single day.

The mind doesn't comprehend it and our hearts are bursting with pain over this great calamity that befell our people. We grieve for the close to thousand murdered in cold blood by these Arab savages. We cry for the elderly, for the women, children and soldiers, taken hostage into Gaza. We pray for the thousands of wounded and we pray for all those who are searching for their relatives who are missing.

The following is a letter from an Israeli soldier fighting in Gaza. Here is an English translation of what he wrote:

“Today our hearts beat with fear. Who among us is going to die? And who will return safe and sound? We are your messengers in battle. We fight so that you can live in peace with your children and so you can stay alive. We are your protection.

Will you be one of us? We go on this dangerous mission knowing that some of us will not return but will ascend to our next position in a storm to heaven, as Eliyahu the prophet did. We go there with devotion and dedication.

We ask you to be our protection through your prayers. Protect us by going beyond yourselves through spirituality and good deeds. Pray for us. Pray that you will not see another mother bury her son. Pray that you will not see our women as widows raising our children in tears.

Pray that our children will grow up knowing who their fathers are. Pray that we eliminate the terrorists who aim to destroy us, and that we do not harm innocent women and children. Please, we implore you, as you read this, don't just move on to the next thing you do. Say a chapter of psalms. Awaken King David to ask the Almighty for full redemption and peace for the whole world.

Take upon yourself another good deed. And please pass this on. I am sure your prayer will make a difference. Remember, we are in this together. We are on the front lines with weapons, and you fight with us in your prayers. Every word of your prayer gives us strength, protection, and success.”

Please, Let's do our part. We all heard him, “We are in this together.” The soldiers of the IDF are fighting not only for our brothers and sisters in Israel, but for ALL of us in every corner of the world. Their safety is our safety. Their battle is our battle. Let's do our part and pray for them. Let's add in performing mitzvot. Let's give extra charity in their merit. May G-d watch over them and protect them from any danger. May they fulfill their mission to the fullest and get rid of this great evil called Hamas.

Thursday, Tishrei 27, 5784 / October 12, 2023

Now that the holidays are over, I am looking forward to another great year of Torah Fax.

Did I say the holidays are over? Well, they are over in the physical sense. We won't be blowing the Shofar, nor will we be sitting in the Sukkah and shaking the Lulav and Etrog, however, the spiritual effects of the holidays continue.

This month, Tishrei, has the most holidays than any other month of the year. Our sages compare the many special holidays of this month, Tishrei, to a merchant who travels to the fair in the big city, to stock up on his merchandise for the winter. At the fair he buys whatever he needs for himself and for his store, until the next fair. He returns home loaded with all he purchased, and over the next half a year, unpacks whatever he needs at that time.

The same is with the holidays we just celebrated. The greatest span between the holidays mentioned in the Torah, is from Sukkot until Pesach, which will be, G-d willing, in seven months (as this year is a leap year). The dose of spirituality which we absorbed during the holidays should last us until Pesach.

While we may be working hard at losing the physical weight we gained from the holiday meals, we must at the same time continue to be energized by the spiritual power we gained during the holidays.

This Shabbat, we began the new Torah reading cycle for the year, 5784, with the reading of Parshat Breishis.

In Parshat Breishis the Torah tells the story of creation. Next Parsha will be Noach (Noah), which is about the story of the Great Flood, when, as a result of the great corruption of the world, every living being was wiped out, only Noach and his immediate family were saved.

The time span from creation until The Great Flood was around 1500 years. Although, when G-d created the world, the Torah tells us, "And G-d saw that everything He created was good," yet, it didn't take that long until every living being became corrupt.

Q. How did a perfect world, which G-d saw that it was good, become so corrupt?

A. The answer is that part of perfection is the ability for imperfection. It is called "Freedom of choice." In order to have a perfect world, which means that we should get credit for our achievements, G-d gave us the ability to sin, so that we should have the freedom of choice. This way, when we do a good deed, it is to our credit and not something we would do robotically. Thus, the ability for imperfection was embedded in perfection.

Unfortunately, too many misinterpret the gift of freedom of choice, which was intended that we choose right from wrong, into choosing wrong from right...

Friday, Tishrei 28, 5784 / October 13, 2023

This Shabbat we begin the new Torah reading cycle for the year 5784, with the first Parsha in the Torah, Parshat Breishis. This Parsha tells the story of creation, what G-d created in each of the first six days. On day one G-d created heaven and earth. Adam & Eve were created on day six. On the seventh day (Shabbat), G-d rested. The name Shabbat means, "Rest."

Q. "Torah" comes from the Hebrew word, "Teaching." What teaching is there from the story of creation?

A. Our sages explain that G-d wants to teach the world that it was HE who created the world and thus the entire world belongs to Him. As a result, He has the right to give whatever land to whomever He wants. He chose to give the Land of Canaan to the Jewish people as recorded in the Torah. Thus, the Torah teaches us that if ever the nations will say that we stole this land, G-d recorded in the very beginning of the Torah that the whole world was created by Him and that He gave the Land of Israel to the Jewish people as an everlasting inheritance for ALL generations.

The first murder recorded in the Torah is in this Parsha, when Cain murdered his brother, Hevel (Abel). G-d said to Cain, "Where is your brother Hevel? To which Cain replied, "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?" G-d said to Cain, "What did you do! Your brother's bloods are screaming to me from the earth." G-d tells Cain that he will be punished for his sin in seven generations when one of his descendants will kill him.

Q. G-d said to Cain, "Your brother's bloods are screaming to me from the earth." Why does G-d use the term Bloods (plural), when it should have said, Blood (singular)?

A. Our sages answer, "By murdering Hevel, he didn't just murder one person, as a result he murdered all the future descendants and future generations which would eventually have come from Hevel, had he been alive. This is why the Torah uses the expression, "The bloods of your brother are screaming to me from the earth." It refers to his blood and all the future generations which have been murdered.

It is less than a week since we witnessed the brutal murders of over 1300 men, woman, children and even infants, murdered in cold blood so cruelly and barbarically, by sub-human savages.

The number 1300 who were murdered is not the total number. We can only imagine (or maybe we cannot even imagine) how many future descendants and generations have been murdered along with them. "Their BLOODS are screaming to G-d from the earth..." May the curse called Hamas be wiped off the face of the earth.

We wish the IDF to succeed in their holy work to uproot this evil from the face of the earth and to avenge for the bloods of our brothers and sisters crying from the earth. Let's do an extra Mitzvah for their sake. Let's light our Shabbat candles today & bring more light to push away the darkness of this world.