



The sorts of tidbits

my father, Rav Meir Zlotowitz zt"l, made sure his family was up to date on
from the mundane, to the profound, to the 'thanks for reminding me!'

Klal Govoah

In Memory of Rav Meir Zlotowitz zt"l

Parashas Vayigash 5784
December 22nd
10 Teves Kislev

Asara B'teves

Today, Friday, December 22nd is the fast of Asara B'Teves. Asara B'Teves was the tragic day on which Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Yerushalayim. (This is the only fast day that can fall on Erev Shabbos.) During *Chazaras HaShatz* of *Shacharis*, only the *Shaliach Tzibbur* adds *Aneinu*. *Chazaras HaShatz* is followed by *Selichos*, *Avinu Malkeinu*, *Tachanun*, and *Krias Hatorah*.

Mincha includes *Krias Hatorah* followed by the *Haftarah*. Those fasting add *Aneinu* in *Shemoneh Esrei*. *Nusach Ashkenaz* says *Sim Shalom* in place of *Shalom Rav*. The *Shaliach Tzibbur* adds *Aneinu* and *Bircas Kohanim* in *Chazaras HaShatz*. As it is Erev Shabbos, *Avinu Malkeinu* and *Tachanun* are omitted. All the regular Shabbos preparations such as hot showers etc. are permitted.

While the fast ends at the regular *z'man* for a *Ta'anis* (*zeis hakochavim*), one may not eat or drink until after he hears *Kiddush*.

The Abudraham explains that this fast is observed even on a Friday because the Pasuk states regarding Asara B'Teves, "*B'etzem Hayom Haze*" (*Yechezkel* 24:2) which indicates it must be observed on this day specifically and is not postponed. He adds that this fast would technically be observed even on Shabbos itself - although this will never actually occur based on our current calendars. What is the significance of this day?

The B'nei Yissaschar explains that *Aschalta D'Paranusa Adifa*, the onset of tragedy is most significant, and that Asara B'Teves was the beginning of the siege which led to the destruction of the first *Beis Hamikdash* and subsequent tragedies. The Chasam Sofer (*Toras Moshe*, vol. 2, *Vayikra*, *Drush 7 Adar*) explains that on this date the *Beis Din Shel Maalah* decreed the destruction. Furthermore any generation which does not merit the rebuilding of the *Beis Hamikdash* is as if it was destroyed in those days. If so, each year on this date the *Beis Din Shel Maalah* reconvenes regarding the status of the generation and their worthiness for the *Beis Hamikdash*.

Reminders

The final opportunity for Kiddush Levanah in the

USA is Tuesday, December 26th.

Daf Yomi - Friday: Bavli: Bava Kamma 50 • Yerushalmi: Shevi'is 76 • Mishnah Yomis: Yevamos 15:8-9. The Mishnah Yomi *siyum* on *Masechta Yevamos* is this Wednesday, Mazal Tov! Next is *Masechta Kesubos* • Oraysa: Next week is *Yoma* 44a-46a.

Make sure to call your parents, in-laws, grandparents and Rebbi to wish them a good Shabbos. If you didn't speak to your kids today, make sure to connect with them as well!

Next on the Calendar

The fast of Asara B'Teves is today, Friday, December 22nd.

Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh Shevat is in two weeks on Shabbos Parashas Shemos.

Parshah in a Paragraph

Vayigash: Yehudah protests in defense of Binyamin • Yosef reveals his identity • Yosef asks the family to settle in Goshen • Yosef sends wagons with provisions for the brothers' journey to Canaan • Yosef gives the brothers gifts • Yaakov is informed that Yosef is alive • The members of Yaakov's family descending to Egypt are listed • Yosef and Yaakov's reunion • Yosef instructs his brothers how to speak with Pharaoh • Yaakov meets with and blesses Pharaoh • At the beginning of the years of hunger, the Egyptians can no longer afford food • Pharaoh supports the priests • The Egyptians sell themselves and their property to Yosef and Pharaoh.

Haftarah: The Parashah relates the episode of the brothers' reunion in Mitzrayim after years of separation. *Yechezkel* (37:15-28) relates the prophecy that the *Shevatim* will one day be united with true unity under the *Melech HaMashiach*.

613 Taryag Weekly

Vayigash: 106 Pesukim • No Mitzvos Listed

For the Shabbos Table

"וַיֵּרָא אֶת־הַעֲגֻלוֹת אֲשֶׁר־שָׁלַח יוֹסֵף"

"And he saw the wagons which Yosef sent" (*Bereishis* 45:27)

Chazal explain that Yaakov was rejuvenated upon

seeing the wagons which Yosef sent as they symbolized the last Torah topic they discussed, that of *Eglah Arufah*. What was this message which Yosef was sending to his father?

Rav Uren Reich shlit"l answers: Chazal say that when Yosef set out to find his brothers, his father began escorting him out. Yosef protested, "I do not require this escort, as I am not a guest, but rather a member of the household." Yaakov responded that a lone traveler may face dangerous circumstances along the way. Escorting a departing traveler even just a short distance provides a symbolic accompaniment and a sense that he is not alone, giving him confidence to persevere on his journey. Thus, it was important that he escort Yosef as well. This discussion of Yaakov and Yosef regarding escorting guests was thus related to the laws of *Eglah Arufah*, which pertains to properly escorting a departing traveler.

By sending the wagons, Yosef hinted to his father that he was, in fact, alive and well, both physically and spiritually. For despite their geographical distance, he constantly felt his father's presence, as this feeling of never being alone enabled him to withstand the spiritual challenges he faced over the many lonely years in a land devoid of spirituality.

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זמנים לשבת



Parshas Vayigash | December 22-23

	ר"ת	שקיעה שבת	סקש גר"א שבת	סקש מ"א שבת	שקיעה Friday Night	הדלקה עש"ק	פג מנחה עש"ק
Atlanta	6:45	5:33	10:07	9:28	5:33	5:15	4:31
Baltimore	5:59	4:47	9:44	9:01	4:46	4:28	3:48
Boston	5:27	4:15	9:27	8:41	4:15	3:57	3:18
Catskills	5:44	4:32	9:40	8:55	4:31	4:13	3:34
Chicago	5:35	4:23	9:32	8:47	4:23	4:03	3:26
Cleveland	6:12	5:00	10:08	9:23	5:00	4:42	4:03
Detroit	6:15	5:03	10:15	9:29	5:03	4:45	4:06
Lakewood	5:47	4:35	9:36	8:52	4:34	4:16	3:36
Las Vegas	5:42	4:30	9:14	8:32	4:30	4:12	3:29
Los Angeles	6:00	4:48	9:23	8:43	4:48	4:30	3:46
Miami	6:47	5:35	9:41	9:05	5:35	5:17	4:29
Monsey	5:43	4:31	9:37	8:52	4:31	4:13	3:33
Montreal	5:26	4:14	9:42	8:54	4:13	3:55	3:19
New York	5:44	4:32	9:36	8:52	4:32	4:14	3:34
Orlando	6:46	5:34	9:49	9:12	5:33	5:15	4:29
Passaic	5:44	4:32	9:36	8:52	4:32	4:14	3:34
Philadelphia	5:51	4:39	9:39	8:56	4:39	4:21	3:40
Toronto	5:56	4:44	10:02	9:16	4:44	4:26	3:48
Yerushalayim	5:56	4:40	9:07	8:27	4:39	4:03	3:36

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