



# 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!'



In Memory of Rav Meir Zlotowitz zt"l

Parashas Yisro 5784  
February 2nd • 23 Shvat

## Shabbos Mevorchim

This week is Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh Adar Rishon. Rosh Chodesh is on Friday and Shabbos, February 9th-10th. The *molad* is Friday night at 9:29 pm and 5 *chalakim*.

The first opportunity for Kiddush Levanah is Monday night, February 12th. The final opportunity in the USA is Friday night, February 23rd (it should preferably be recited before Friday night).

## Leap Year

This year is a Jewish Leap Year which includes two Adar months. Boys becoming Bar Mitzvah this year were born in a leap year (5771/2011) and the Bar Mitzvah is held in the Adar in which they were born.

Regarding a *yahrzeit*: if the *petirah* took place during a leap year then the exact *yahrzeit* is observed. If the *petirah* occurred in a non-leap year, then the prevalent Ashkenazic custom is that the *yahrzeit* is observed in Adar Rishon, although some rule to be stringent and observe the *yahrzeit* in Adar Sheini as well. According to many Sefardic customs the *yahrzeit* is observed in Adar Sheini. Consult your rav.

*Mishe'nichnas Adar marbim b'simcha*, as we enter Adar we increase in joy. The poskim discuss whether this applies to Adar Rishon in the event of a leap year as Purim is observed in Adar Sheini; it is worthwhile to be stringent :)

## Reminders

During *Kerias HaTorah* of Parashas Yisro, the minhag of most Ashkenazic congregations is to stand when the *Aseres HaDibros* are read. Most Sephardic congregations are particular not to follow this practice.

This is the fifth week of Shovavim (TaT).

As the precarious situation in Eretz Yisrael continues, each person should increase reciting *tehillim* or performing other *mitzvos* as a *zechus* for the many *Acheinu Beis Yisrael* 'in travail and captivity'.

Daf Yomi - Friday: Bavli: Bava Kamma 92 • Yerushalmi: Terumos 31 • Mishnah Yomis: Kesubos 8:8-9:1 • Oraysa: Next week is Yoma 59a-61a.

Make sure to call your parents, in-laws, grandparents and Rabbi 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

Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh Adar Alef is this week, Shabbos Parashas Yisro.

Purim Katan is on Friday, February 23rd.

## Parshah in a Paragraph

**Yisro:** Yisro arrives at the Jews' encampment along with Moshe's family • Moshe greets him in distinguished fashion; Yisro praises Hashem • Yisro witnesses Moshe's wearying schedule and suggests a system of judges • Moshe implements Yisro's system • Moshe escorts Yisro as he leaves • The Jews arrive at Har Sinai • Moshe ascends the mountain • Moshe prophetically tells Bnei Yisrael that they are the chosen nation and must actualize their potential • Bnei Yisrael respond by saying "Na'aseh" • Hashem tells Moshe that He will reveal Himself to ensure the Nation's eternal faith • Bnei Yisrael prepare three days for the revelation • Moshe sets boundaries around the mountain • Hashem's glory descends on Har Sinai in an awe-inspiring manner • Moshe warns Bnei Yisrael not to approach • The first two commandments are spoken by Hashem • The remaining commandments are said by Moshe • *Aseres Hadibros* - See *Taryag Weekly* for the various *mitzvos* • The event elicits intense fear and trembling • Prohibition against making idols • Laws regarding construction and ascension of the altar

Haftarah: The Parashah discusses *Kabbalas HaTorah*, the awesome event at Har Sinai, which was an amazing spectacle of the glory of Hashem. The Navi Yeshaya relates the great heavenly spectacle that he saw in his *nevuah*. (Yeshaya 6:1 - 7:6)

## 613 Taryag Weekly

**Yisro:** 72 Pesukim • 3 Obligations • 14 Prohibitions

- 1) Recognize and believe in Hashem's existence and His eternal omnipotence.
- 2) Do not believe in any other godly power.
- 3) Do not form or commission the formation of an idol.
- 4-5) Do not perform Temple services, or any other services, for another god.
- 6) Do not swear with Hashem's Name in vain.
- 7) Sanctify the Shabbos.
- 8) Do not perform melachah on Shabbos.
- 9) Honor your parents.
- 10) Do not commit murder.
- 11) Do not commit adultery.
- 12) Do not kidnap.
- 13) Do not testify falsely.
- 14) Do not attempt to acquire or covet another's possessions.
- 15) Do not create a statue or form of a human.
- 16) Do not construct an altar by carving stone.
- 17) Do not ascend the altar via stairs or with wide strides.

## For the Shabbos Table

לֹא תַחַמְדַּם בֵּית רֵעֶךָ לֹא תַחַמְדֵם אִשְׁתְּ רֵעֶךָ וְעַבְדוֹ וְאִמָּתוֹ וְשׂוֹרֵךְ וְחֲמֹרוֹ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר לְרֵעֶךָ

"You shall not covet your fellow's home; You shall not covet your fellow's wife, servant, maidservant, ox, donkey or anything that belongs to your fellow man" (Shemos 20:14)

In the prohibition of coveting another's possessions, the Torah first details various items and then concludes by prohibiting "anything that belongs to your fellow man." Why does the Torah first list these various items if the conclusion is that everything is prohibited?

Rav Yaakov Galinsky zt"l explains that it seems to be a difficult task for a human being to not desire something he likes. To address this, the Torah writes sage advice on how to curb jealousy. "V'chol (everything) asher l'reiecha" explains that although your friend's home seems so appealing, you must take all of the homeowner's life circumstances and burdens into account - "all that is his." One would need to accept problems, issues, worries, and challenges that accompany this coveted item.

We can understand each person's unique circumstances and provisions with a parable from the Chofetz Chaim. A man enters a shop seeking to purchase an ax with which to chop firewood. The proprietor has no axes in stock, but the salesman offers him a quality saw used for cutting metal, and he implores the man to buy it. The man responds, "I am a woodchopper and have no need for blacksmith tools." The Chofetz Chaim explains that one must recognize that Hashem provides each person with a custom-tailored package of a wife, household, etc. he needs for his unique mission. Then, after the Torah lists these individual items, it guides us to understand that each of these gifts and possessions is uniquely suited to its owner. Through acceptance of this reality, jealousy dissipates quickly and easily, as one views his situation from its correct perspective.

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# זמנים לשבת



Parshas Yisro | February 2-3

	ר"ת	שקיעה שבת	סקש גר"א שבת	סקש מ"א שבת	שקיעה Friday Night	הדלקה עש"ק	פג מנחה עש"ק
Atlanta	7:22	6:10	10:12	9:34	6:09	5:51	5:02
Baltimore	6:40	5:28	9:46	9:05	5:27	5:09	4:23
Boston	6:12	5:00	9:27	8:44	4:59	4:41	3:56
Catskills	6:28	5:16	9:40	8:58	5:14	4:56	4:11
Chicago	6:19	5:07	9:32	8:50	5:06	4:46	4:03
Cleveland	6:56	5:44	10:08	9:26	5:43	5:25	4:40
Detroit	7:00	5:48	10:15	9:32	5:47	5:29	4:44
Lakewood	6:29	5:17	9:37	8:56	5:16	4:58	4:12
Las Vegas	6:20	5:08	9:17	8:38	5:07	4:49	4:02
Los Angeles	6:37	5:25	9:27	8:49	5:24	5:06	4:18
Miami	7:17	6:05	9:49	9:14	6:04	5:46	4:56
Monsey	6:27	5:15	9:37	8:55	5:13	4:55	4:10
Montreal	6:15	5:03	9:40	8:55	5:01	4:43	4:00
New York	6:27	5:15	9:37	8:55	5:14	4:56	4:10
Orlando	7:18	6:06	9:55	9:20	6:05	5:47	4:57
Passaic	6:27	5:15	9:37	8:56	5:14	4:56	4:11
Philadelphia	6:33	5:21	9:41	8:59	5:20	5:02	4:16
Toronto	6:42	5:30	10:02	9:18	5:29	5:11	4:27
Yerushalayim	6:31	5:14	9:12	8:35	5:13	4:38	4:06

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