

# AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

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פרשת וישלח  
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PROJECT DEDICATED BY MENACHEM AND BINAH BRAUNSTEIN AND FAMILY  
L'ILLUI NISHMAS RAV MOSHE BEN RAV YISSOCHOR BERISH AND MARAS YENTA BAS YISROEL CHAIM

PARASHAH

## THE BATTLE OF A LIFETIME

*Touched by the Parashah by Rabbi Yechiel Spero*

In this *parashah*, Eisav, together with 400 soldiers, came to fight Yaakov. And although Yaakov managed to avoid physical war with his brother, he had to fight against the *Sar shel Eisav*, Eisav's angel, Samael, in an epic battle that has repercussions until the end of time, for in actuality, Samael is the *yetzer hara*.

Only after this monumental battle did Yaakov earn the name of Yisrael. Although he was maimed in the fray, he was ultimately victorious, thus providing his children with the guidance and tools to overcome the *yetzer hara* in the various areas of life in which it presents itself.

On the morning of the *levayah* of Rav Nosson Tzvi Finkel, the Rosh Yeshivah of Mir Yerushalayim, a woman called the school where I teach and left a message for me to call her back immediately. When I called her, she sounded very emotional. She told me how tragic the passing of the Rosh Yeshivah was. Soon I would discover why she felt that way.

Her son, Moshe, had struggled mightily in high school and soon fell in with a terrible crowd. Before long, he headed into a downward spiral and there seemed to be no bottom. After a difficult period of time, he started to pull out of it. Showing signs of growth, he tried to break free of his friends and their influences, but it became harder and harder. Finally, he decided that he must get out of the country. On a pipe dream, he headed to the Mir.

He was up front and honest with the Rosh Yeshivah; he could barely read a Rashi. But the Rosh Yeshivah believed in him. He sensed the sincerity and desire in the boy's heart and his *neshamah*, and he accepted the young man into the Mir.

Thrilled that he had been given a second chance, Moshe capitalized on the opportunity and flourished. Before long, he developed into a full-fledged *ben Torah*. But after

the year was up, he began to worry. How was he going to deal with his old friends when he returned to his home turf? They would certainly mock him and try to lure him back to his troublesome ways.

Terrified, he decided that the only protection would be a *berachah* from the Rosh Yeshivah. Imbued with the Rosh Yeshivah's vote of confidence, he would be able to conquer any challenge that came his way.

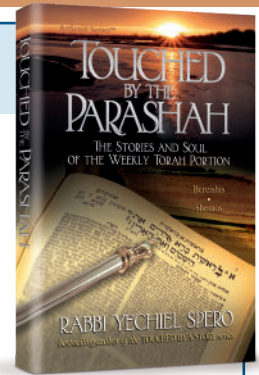
His flight was leaving Motza'ei Yom Kippur. Immediately after *Maariv*, Moshe tried to approach the Rosh Yeshivah, but the *bachurim* were dancing in front of him and his *gabbaim* were trying to whisk him back to his home to break the fast. Moshe rushed to the Rosh Yeshivah's home and waited in his dining room.

However, when the *gabbaim* walked through the door, their glaring eyes pierced right through Moshe, as if to say, "How dare you invade the Rosh Yeshivah's home after Yom Kippur?!" The Rosh Yeshivah's weak constitution and frail health called for immediate rest and food. But Moshe begged. He ran up to the Rosh Yeshivah and pleaded for one minute of his time. "Please, Rebbe, I'm terrified to go back home. You know my story. Please give me a *berachah*."

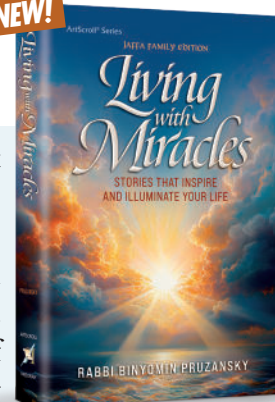
Rav Nosson Tzvi could barely speak. He managed an audible whisper, "You'll be back."

Moshe was elated. He apologized that he had overstepped his bounds, but he desperately needed the *berachah*. And now he had it. He ran back to his *dirah* to catch the taxi that would bring him to the airport. Suddenly, he heard someone calling his name. He turned around and saw one of the *gabbaim* calling him back to the Rosh Yeshivah's home. He ran back to the house, anxious to hear what the Rosh Yeshivah

*continued on page 3*



Rav Nosson Tzvi Finkel



This story illustrates the power of believing in another person. We have the power, through our positive influence, to help someone overcome every obstacle and reach his goal, because nothing stands in the way of a person's will.

Years ago, Rabbi Shmuel Steinharter was a rebbi in Ohavei Torah, a *kiruv* yeshivah in Bnei Brak. There, American young men who were seeking a connection to their roots found a place where they could grow in Torah and *avodah*. In addition, beyond the walls of the yeshivah, the many *talmidei chachamim* and *tzaddikim* who lived in the city provided a rich wellspring of inspiration for the students.

One year, on Simchas Torah, the bidding for *aliyos* and other honors was underway. The "currency" of the bidding was not dollars or *shekalim*, but rather, a commitment to learn Mishnayos. This was a suitable currency for yeshivah students who were short on cash but flush with the desire to learn.

The opening honor of *Atta Horeisa* received an initial bid of 50 Mishnayos. Someone else called out "100!" A third dared to commit to 500. When the bidding reached 1,000 Mishnayos, the competition ground to a halt. Going once, going twice... it seemed that the bidder for 1,000 Mishnayos would win.

But then, another voice broke through. "*Shishah Sidrei Mishnah*," called the young man, a fairly new

*baal teshuvah*. He was committing himself to learn the entire six orders of Mishnah, a tall order even for an accomplished learner. The room fell silent as everyone looked at this young man with big dreams. He had clearly won the bidding, but would he be able to accomplish such a feat?

Later that day, a few people from the yeshivah brought the young man to speak to the rosh kollel of Kollel Chazon Ish, Rav Yudel Shapiro, an esteemed *talmid chacham*



Rav Yudel Shapiro

**HE HAD CLEARLY WON THE BIDDING, BUT WOULD HE BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH SUCH A FEAT?**

and *gadol*. Because these people were certain that the young man had gotten in far over his head, they asked Rav Yudel to annul his vow to free him from the obligation.

Rav Yudel looked the young man in the eye.

"Do you really want to learn all of *Shishah Sidrei Mishnah*?" he asked.

The young man confirmed that this was his desire.

"Do you think it's possible for you to accomplish your goal?" the rav asked.

"I think it's possible," said the young man. "I'm determined to do

it. I just don't know how yet."

"I will tell you how you can do it," said Rav Yudel. "If you are willing to come to my

home every evening to learn with me, I will help you finish the entire *Shishah Sidrei Mishnah*."

The young man smiled brightly. "I'll do it!" he said.

Rav Yudel and this *talmid* learned Mishnayos every night. One year later, on Simchas Torah, the young man made a monumental *siyum* on *Shishah Sidrei Mishnah*.

But the learning wasn't the total picture of the relationship that blossomed. Rav Yudel took this idealistic *baal teshuvah* under his wing. He continued learning with him and supporting his growth. "And don't worry about a *shidduch*," Rav Yudel told him. "When the time comes, my wife will do everything she can to help you find the right one." And indeed, she did. After his marriage, the young man and his wife would spend every other Shabbos at his in-laws' home, alternating with the Shapiro home. They became part of a family that bestowed on this young couple the *mesorah*, *middos*, and *hashkafos* of greatness.

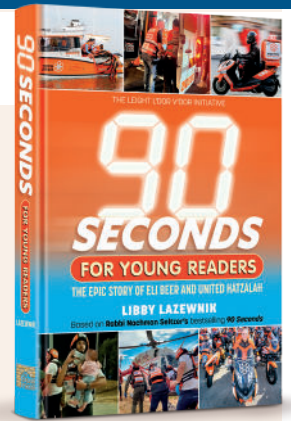
*Our every word, expression, and action is different when we believe someone has potential. We impart the strength that helps him achieve his goals.* 📖

YOMI SCHEDULES FOR THIS WEEK:

	SHABBOS DEC 14 י' כסלו	SUNDAY DEC 15 י"ב כסלו	MONDAY DEC 16 י"ג כסלו	TUESDAY DEC 17 י"ד כסלו	WEDNESDAY DEC 18 י"ה כסלו	THURSDAY DEC 19 י"ז כסלו	FRIDAY DEC 20 י"ח כסלו
BAVLI	Bava Basra 172	Bava Basra 173	Bava Basra 174	Bava Basra 175	Bava Basra 176	Sanhedrin 2	Sanhedrin 3
YERUSHALMI	Shabbos 18	Shabbos 19	Shabbos 20	Shabbos 21	Shabbos 22	Shabbos 23	Shabbos 24
MISHNAH	Bava Basra 9:9-10	Bava Basra 10:1-2	Bava Basra 10:3-4	Bava Basra 10:5-6	Bava Basra 10:7-8	Sanhedrin 1:1-2	Sanhedrin 1:3-4
KITZUR	26:13-21	26:22-27:End	28:1-10	28:11-29:3	29:4-10	29:11-17	29:18-30:3

## OPERATION ORANGE WINGS

90 Seconds for Young Readers by Libby Lazewnik



One of the greatest—and most challenging—projects Eli Beer, founder of United Hatzalah, ever faced was helping to rescue thousands of refugees who'd fled from Ukraine.

The goal: to bring them to the homeland of every Jewish refugee. To bring them to Eretz Yisrael.

But before he could bring them home, his volunteers had to treat and feed them. Eli moved heaven and earth to get El Al to rent a plane to United Hatzalah so that they could fly in tons of medical equipment and kosher meat and chickens to Moldova for the refugees.

It was the middle of the winter, and many refugees arrived at the border freezing and starving. Once they crossed the border from Ukraine into Moldova, they found United Hatzalah volunteers waiting for them with hot food. Then a bus took them to the Agudah shul, where they stayed until they could get on a plane to Israel.

The problem was that many of the refugees had run from their homes so quickly that they forgot to bring their passports. United Hatzalah planes were landing in Iasi, Romania—but Romania would not allow the refugees to cross its border without a passport.

A top United Hatzalah staff member named Linor Attias was the one who convinced Romania to agree to let their planes land there—for a price. A *high* price. And *only* United Hatzalah planes were allowed to land there. Otherwise—because of the war—the skies were closed.

By the middle of June 2022, about four months after the war started, some seven hundred volunteers had come to and from Moldova, along with tons of food and medicine, doctors, psychologists, and many others who were part of the biggest such operation ever to take place outside of Israel.

All the fathers and husbands had been forced to stay in Ukraine and fight in the war. Mothers would bring their crying, hungry children through pouring rain, walking on the hard-packed snow as the sound of bombing filled the air. United Hatzalah volunteers wearing their bright orange vests were there to greet

them with warm smiles, candy for the children, and kosher food for them all. What a *kiddush Hashem*!

When it came to checking whether the refugees were really Jews, volunteers would ask them if they had family in Israel. If the answer was yes, the relatives would be contacted to make sure the refugee was telling the truth.

Among the endless wave of refugees were two elderly people, a brother and sister. The brother was ninety-four and his sister was ninety. Somehow, they'd managed to make their way to the border of Moldova.

"This is the second time I'm running away," the brother told Eli when they met at the border. "I remember being on the run from the Nazis. My mother took stale bread and soaked it in rainwater, so I'd be able to eat it. Now, all these years later, I've been walking for three days straight to escape the Russians..."

The United Hatzalah volunteers gave him and his sister their first hot meal in days. Then, even though the brother was afraid of flying, Eli convinced him to get on a plane and fly to safety.

Paulina, another Holocaust survivor, had run away from the Russian tanks that were rumbling down her street. One of the tanks killed her husband as he was standing in line waiting for bread and water.

When Linor Attias, a top United Hatzalah staff member heard her story, she decided to make sure that Paulina made it to Israel. She sent volunteers back to Paulina's house to get her passport and any other papers she needed. Then Linor personally flew with her on the plane back to Israel, where Paulina could be safe at last and start a new life.

Altogether, United Hatzalah brought more than thirty-five planeloads of refugees out of the war zone and into Eretz Yisrael. For Eli, it was a matter of *pikuach nefesh*, saving lives. 🇮🇱



United Hatzalah in Ukraine

## THE BATTLE OF A LIFETIME

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wanted.

By this time, the Rosh Yeshivah was lying in his bed, unable to move. Moshe leaned in close to hear

what Rav Nosson Tzvi had to say.

With great effort and belabored breathing, he whispered, "I will be waiting for you."

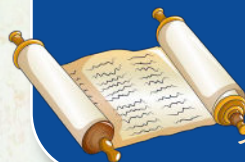
*The woman on the phone sobbed.*

*"Today, my son is a sho'el u'meishiv*

*in the Mir."*

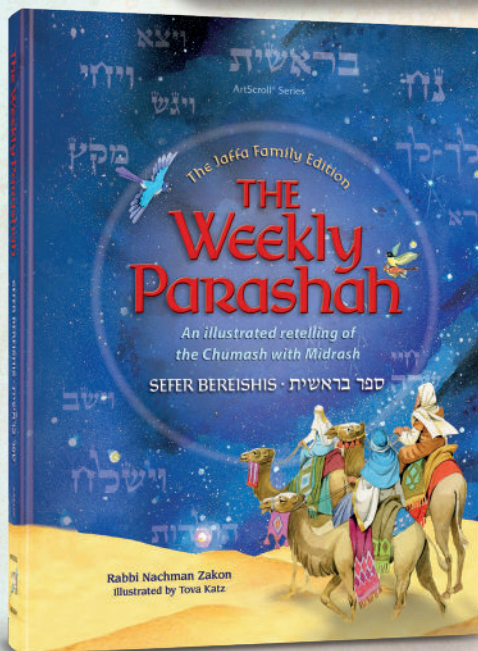
*If we would envision the Almighty, our loving Father, waiting for us with outstretched Arms, our battle against the forces of evil would be made so much easier.* 🇮🇱





# Parashah for Children

## פרשת וישלח



### Kever Rachel, Then



Yaakov, surrounded by his family, buried his dear wife Rachel. He built a monument over her kever (grave) to mark the place on the side of the road where he buried her.

Even though it would have been more respectful for Rachel to be buried in the nearby city of Beis Lechem, Yaakov buried her on the side of the road. Why?

Yaakov saw far into the future. He knew that one day the Beis HaMikdash would be burned, and the Jews would be taken to Bavel. The Jewish captives would be led on this very road, and pass the spot where Rachel died.

Yaakov decided to bury her there on the road, so when the Jews would pass by the grave of Mama Rachel, they would pray there and

cry bitter tears over the destruction of the Beis HaMikdash.

Yaakov made the right choice! After the destruction of the Beis HaMikdash, Rachel heard her children's cries. She came before Hashem and pleaded for mercy and for the return of the Jews to Eretz Yisrael. Hashem promised her that He would return the Jews to Eretz Yisrael.



### Kever Rachel, Today

Today, Kever Rachel is a very popular holy site where Jews come to pray. They come all through the year. It's only about a five-minute drive from Yerushalayim's city limits.

Rachel's yahrzeit, the anniversary of the day she passed away, is the eleventh of Cheshvan. On that day tens of thousands come to pray there, men, women, and children. Rachel is surrounded by her "children" on that day.

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## THE WEEKLY QUESTION

*Vayishlach Question:*

**Which of the shevatim was born as a triplet?**

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to [shabbosquestion@artscroll.com](mailto:shabbosquestion@artscroll.com) by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be found in *The Jaffa Family Edition Weekly Parashah*.

**The winner of the question for Parashas Chayei Sarah was: YISRAEL DAVRAYEV, Brooklyn, NY**

*Chayei Sarah Question was: What are two reasons Chevron is also known as Kiryas Arba?*

*The answer is: Because four pairs of holy people are buried in the city:*

*Adam and Chavah, Avraham and Sarah, Yitzchak and Rivkah, Yaakov and Leah. Also, because of four giants that lived in Chevron.*



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