



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 Balak 5785
July 12th • 16 Tamuz

Shivah Asar B'Tamuz

The fast of Shiva Asar B'Tamuz is this Sunday, July 13th. Five tragedies occurred on Shiva Asar B'Tamuz:

- 1) The first Luchos were broken.
- 2) In the waning days of the First Bais Hamikdash, the daily *tamid* offering ceased to be brought.
- 3) In the waning days of the Second Bais Hamikdash, the walls of Yerushalayim were breached, ultimately leading to its destruction.
- 4) Apostomos burned a Sefer Torah.
- 5) An *avodah zarah* was placed in the Bais Hamikdash.

During *chazaras hashatz* of *Shacharis*, the *sheliach tzibbur* adds *Aneinu* as a stand-alone *berachah* (between *Go'el Yisrael* and *Refa'einu*). *Selichos*, *Avinu Malkeinu*, *Tachanun*, and *Kerias haTorah* follow *chazaras hashatz*. *Tefillas Minchah* includes *Kerias haTorah* with the *haftarah* of *Dirshu Hashem*. Those fasting add *Aneinu* (as part of *Shema Koleinu*). *Bircas Kohanim* is recited in *chazaras hashatz*. *Sim Shalom* replaces *Shalom Rav* (*Nusach Ashkenaz*). *Chazaras hashatz* is followed by *Avinu Malkeinu*.

3 The Three Weeks

The Y'mei Bein Hametzarim, the Three Weeks, begin at *shekiya* (sunset) on Motzaei Shabbos, July 12th. This period between the 17th of Tamuz and the 9th of Av is a national period of mourning over the *Churban* of both Batei Mikdash. One should give focus to the *churban* and *galus* during this period. Some halachic practices during this time period differ for *sefardim*. Activities restricted during this period include:

Music and Dancing: Children of chinuch age are included. Many *poskim* are lenient when the music is secondary in nature (e.g. background music on a story recording) or when the listening is not purely for enjoyment (e.g. to help one stay awake while driving). Many *poskim* are stringent regarding a cappella "*sefirah music*". Playing and practicing music are permitted for the purpose of earning a livelihood (e.g. a professional musician). Playing music to develop one's skill is a matter of dispute amongst the *poskim*.

Haircuts and Shaving: Men, women and children are included in the prohibition. In cases of discomfort, many permit women to tweeze and remove hair from areas other than the head. One should consult a Rav in regards to a father, *sandek* and *mohel* at a bris, and in regard to an *avel* who finishes the sheloshim mourning period during this time.

Weddings: Weddings are not held during this period. An engagement may be celebrated, although

without dancing or music. A *Sheva Berachos* may be held without music, although dancing (and singing) is permitted.

Shehecheyanu: We avoid situations that would necessitate reciting the *berachah* of *Shehecheyanu* (e.g., eating new fruits, etc.).

Miscellaneous: One should consult a Rav regarding signing a contract on a new home, moving into a new home, house decorating and elective surgery.

Reminders

Pirkei Avos: Perek 6 | **Daf Yomi - Shabbos:** Bavli: Avodah Zara 24 • Yerushalmi: Pesachim 44 • Mishnah Yomis: Horayos 2:7-3:1 • Oraysa (coming week): Moed Katan 6a-8a • Kitzur Shulchan Aruch: 176:8-177:8

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

The Y'mei Bein Hametzarim, the Three Weeks, begin this Motzaei Shabbos, Parashas Balak, July 12th.

The fast of Shiva Asar B'Tamuz is this Sunday, July 13th.

Shabbos Mevorchim Chodesh Av is next Shabbos, Parashas Pinchas.

Rosh Chodesh Av is Shabbos Parashas Matos Masei, July 26th. This marks the beginning of the Nine Days.

Tisha B'Av begins Motzaei Shabbos Parashas Devarim, August 2nd.

613 Taryag Weekly

Balak: 104 Pesukim • No Mitzvos Listed

Parashah in a Paragraph

Balak: Balak sends messengers to Bilaam • Bilaam refuses to come • Balak sends more distinguished messengers, Bilaam again refuses • Hashem appears to Bilaam and 'permits' him to go • An angel impedes Bilaam's donkey three times • After striking his donkey, the donkey speaks and Bilaam is forced to admit that he wronged her • Bilaam tells Balak that he will speak only that which Hashem will put in his mouth • Balak prepares sacrifices three times • Bilaam blesses the Bnei Yisrael three times • An angry Balak sends Bilaam on his way • Bilaam predicts future events • Bnei Yisrael sin with the daughters of Moav • 24,000 perish in a plague • The plague ceases when Pinchas kills Zimri and Kozbi.

Haftarah: The *haftarah* of Parashas Balak is *leined*. Michah (5:6-6:8) encourages Klal Yisrael to remember

Hashem's many great *chasadim*, among them that He prevented Bilaam from cursing them.

For the Shabbos Table

”מי מנה עפר יעקב”
“Who has counted the dust of Yaakov”
(במדבר כג:)

”י” brings a *madras* that explains *בלעם*'s words to mean: “Who can count the number of *מצוות* that *כלל ישראל* fulfills with earth,” such as not plowing with a *שור וחמור* together, planting a mix of different seeds, and the earth mixed in the *סוטה*'s drink. But what's so special about “doing *מצוות* with earth”?

The Halachah is that a Jew can bring an *עולה* or *שלמים* as a *קרבן*, but *גוי* can bring only an *עולה*. R' Yaakov Kamenetzky זצ”ל explains this is because a *גוי* cannot understand that earthly enjoyment could be uplifted into *קדושה* and *רוחניות*. The *goy* only understands the 100% sanctity of the *קרבן* *עולה*, which is completely burned on the *מזבח*. But a *Yid* brings even a *קרבן שלמים*, of which only a small part is burned on the *מזבח*; the majority of the *קרבן* is *eaten* by the owners and *כהנים*. This is because a *Yid* understands that *גשמיות* enjoyment can become *רוחניות*.

This explains *בלעם*'s 'amazement' here: 'Who can count the many *מצוות* that *כלל ישראל* do with earth' — the most *גשמיות* object in the world! It's incredible how *כלל ישראל* attaches *קדושה* even to the most basic *גשמיות* found around them!

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זמנים לשבת



Klal Govoah
In Memory of Rav Meir Zlotowitz z"l

Parshas Balak | July 11-12

| | ר"ת | שקיעה שבת | סקש גר"א שבת | סקש מ"א שבת | שקיעה Friday Night | הדלקה עש"ק | פלג מנחה עש"ק |
|--------------|-------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Atlanta | 10:01 | 8:49 | 10:09 | 9:25 | 8:50 | 8:32 | 7:21 |
| Baltimore | 9:45 | 8:33 | 9:31 | 8:40 | 8:34 | 8:16 | 7:01 |
| Boston | 9:32 | 8:20 | 9:04 | 8:08 | 8:21 | 8:03 | 6:47 |
| Catskills | 9:45 | 8:33 | 9:19 | 8:25 | 8:33 | 8:15 | 6:59 |
| Chicago | 9:37 | 8:25 | 9:11 | 8:16 | 8:26 | 8:06 | 6:52 |
| Cleveland | 10:12 | 9:00 | 9:48 | 8:54 | 9:01 | 8:43 | 7:27 |
| Detroit | 10:20 | 9:08 | 9:52 | 8:56 | 9:09 | 8:51 | 7:35 |
| Lakewood | 9:38 | 8:26 | 9:20 | 8:28 | 8:26 | 8:08 | 6:54 |
| Las Vegas | 9:10 | 7:58 | 9:09 | 8:22 | 7:59 | 7:41 | 6:29 |
| Los Angeles | 9:17 | 8:05 | 9:24 | 8:40 | 8:06 | 7:48 | 6:37 |
| Miami | 9:27 | 8:15 | 10:02 | 9:22 | 8:15 | 7:57 | 6:50 |
| Monsey | 9:40 | 8:28 | 9:18 | 8:24 | 8:29 | 8:11 | 6:56 |
| Montreal | 9:53 | 8:41 | 9:08 | 8:06 | 8:42 | 8:24 | 7:06 |
| New York | 9:39 | 8:27 | 9:18 | 8:25 | 8:27 | 8:09 | 6:54 |
| Orlando | 9:37 | 8:25 | 10:03 | 9:23 | 8:25 | 8:07 | 6:59 |
| Passaic | 9:40 | 8:28 | 9:18 | 8:26 | 8:28 | 8:10 | 6:55 |
| Philadelphia | 9:41 | 8:29 | 9:24 | 8:32 | 8:30 | 8:12 | 6:57 |
| Toronto | 10:10 | 8:58 | 9:35 | 8:37 | 8:59 | 8:41 | 7:24 |
| Yerushalayim | 9:03 | 7:46 | 9:13 | 8:30 | 7:46 | 7:11 | 6:18 |

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