



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 Gvoha
In Memory of Rav Meir Zlotowitz zt"l

Parashas Chukas - Balak 5786
June 27th • 12 Tamuz

Shivah Asar B'Tamuz

The fast of Shiva Asar B'Tamuz is next Thursday, July 2nd. 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 the Bais Hamikdash's 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* ("Vayechal") follow *chazaras hashatz*.

Tefillas Minchah includes *Kerias haTorah* along with the *haftarah* of *Dirshu Hashem*. Those fasting add *Aneinu* (as part of *Shema Koleinu*; the *sheliach tzibbur* adds *Aneinu* as a stand-alone *berachah*). *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 Wednesday night, July 1st. 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 regarding a father, *sandek*, and *mohel* at a bris, and regarding 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

Those in Eretz Yisrael have been ahead one Parashah since the Yom Tov of Shavuot. While those in Eretz Yisrael are up to *leining* Parashas Balak, Chutz La'aretz will lein a double-parashah this week, Chukas-Balak. Moving forward, Eretz Yisrael and Chutz La'aretz will be *leining* the same Parashah.

The final opportunity for Kiddush Levana is on Sunday night, June 28th.

Pirkei Avos: Perek 5 | **Daf Yomi - Shabbos:** Bavli: Chullin 58 • Yerushalmi: Chagigah 9 • Mishnah Yomis: Keilim 13:8-14:1 • Oraysa (coming week): Yevamos 76b-78b • Kitzur Shulchan Aruch: 168:6-171:1

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 Wednesday night, July 1st (at nightfall; see above) | The fast of Shiva Asar B'Tamuz is on Thursday, July 2nd | Rosh Chodesh Av begins Tuesday night, July 14th and marks the beginning of the Nine Days | Tisha B'av begins Wednesday night, July 23rd.

613 Taryag Weekly

Parashas Chukas: 87 Pesukim • 3 Obligations

- 1) Kohanim should oversee the preparation of the ashes of the *parah adumah*.
- 2) Observe the laws of *tumas meis*.
- 3) A Kohen shall purify someone who is *tamei* using the ashes of the *parah adumah*.

Mitzvah Highlight: *Zos Chukas HaTorah - Parah Adumah* is the prime example of a *mitzvah (chok)* that we perform solely to fulfill Hashem's command, even though we do not understand it.

Parashas Balak: 104 Pesukim • No Mitzvos Listed

Parshah in a Paragraph

CHUKAS: Laws of the *Parah Adumah* - its preparation and use in the *tahara* process • Miriam dies; the *be'er* well stops producing water, and the people complain • Moshe and Aharon are told to bring forth water by speaking to the rock; Moshe eventually hits the rock instead • Moshe and Aharon are told of the punishment for their sin • Bnei Yisrael ask for passage through *Edom* and are rebuffed • Aharon passes away at *Hor Hahar* • The Canaanites (really Amalek) attack and are defeated at *Chorma* • The people complain about the *Mon* and are attacked by snakes • The 'healing' copper snake • The great miracle of *Nachal Arnon* • *Shiras Habe'er* • The defeats of *Sichon* and *Og*

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

”מִי מִנָּה עֹפֶר יַעֲקֹב”

(במדבר כג:)

”Who has counted the dust of Yaakov” 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 together, planting a mix of different seeds, covering blood after *shechitah*, 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 עולה, but a *ger* can bring only an עולה. R' Yaakov Kamenetzky זצ”ל explains this is because a *ger* cannot understand that earthly enjoyment could be uplifted into קדושה and רוחניות. The *goy* only understands the 100% sanctity of the עולה, which is completely burned on the מזבח. But a *Yid* brings even a קרבן, 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 רוחניות enjoyment can become גשמיות.

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 קדושה כלל ישראל attaches even to the most basic גשמיות found around them!

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זמנים לשבת



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Parshas Chukas-Balak | June 26-27

	ר"ת	שקיעה שבת	סקש גר"א שבת	סקש מ"א שבת	שקיעה Friday Night	הדלקה עש"ק	פלג מנחה עש"ק
Atlanta	10:04	8:52	10:04	9:19	8:52	8:34	7:22
Baltimore	9:49	8:37	9:24	8:33	8:37	8:19	7:03
Boston	9:37	8:25	8:58	8:00	8:25	8:07	6:49
Catskills	9:49	8:37	9:13	8:17	8:37	8:19	7:02
Chicago	9:41	8:29	9:05	8:09	8:29	8:09	6:54
Cleveland	10:16	9:04	9:42	8:46	9:04	8:46	7:29
Detroit	10:25	9:13	9:46	8:48	9:13	8:55	7:37
Lakewood	9:42	8:30	9:14	8:21	8:30	8:12	6:56
Las Vegas	9:13	8:01	9:04	8:16	8:01	7:43	6:30
Los Angeles	9:20	8:08	9:19	8:34	8:08	7:50	6:38
Miami	9:28	8:16	9:57	9:18	8:15	7:57	6:50
Monsey	9:44	8:32	9:12	8:17	8:32	8:14	6:58
Montreal	9:59	8:47	9:02	7:56	8:47	8:29	7:09
New York	9:43	8:31	9:13	8:18	8:31	8:13	6:57
Orlando	9:39	8:27	9:59	9:17	8:26	8:08	6:59
Passaic	9:44	8:32	9:13	8:18	8:32	8:14	6:57
Philadelphia	9:45	8:33	9:18	8:25	8:33	8:15	6:59
Toronto	10:15	9:03	9:29	8:28	9:03	8:45	7:26
Yerushalayim	9:05	7:48	9:09	8:25	7:48	7:13	6:19

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