



PARSHAS BEHA'ALOSCHA

18 SIVAN 5785 | JUNE 14, 2025

Parsha Summary

The lighting of the menorah is explained, and inauguration of the Levites' service in the mishkan is detailed. Those Jews who were carrying Joseph's coffin for burial in Israel were unable to partake in the Paschal offering, because they were tameh (ritually impure) from contact with Joseph's remains. They asked Moshe for a solution to their disqualification, and Moshe turned to Hashem. Hashem's answer was the "second Pesach," a make-up opportunity for those who could not celebrate the Pesach in Nissan.

The organization and logistics of Machaneh Yisrael, the camp of Israel as it traveled through the desert included Divine signals of when it was proper to travel as well as human signals of silver trumpets that sounded signals. The camp's formation is also explained here.

The sojourn in the desert was not without discord: forgetting the harsh conditions of slavery, some began to long for the 'comfort foods' of Egypt and complain about the manna. They were rebuked, but Moshe took it very personally and it grieved him deeply. False prophecies spread, even members of Moshe's own family voiced concerns, and the mood was down. G-d spoke to the elders and reminded them of His trust and confidence in Moshe's leadership.

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Another Fast Day? Don't worry.

Monday is the 20th of Sivan on the Hebrew calendar, and these days most Jews of Ashkenaz do not observe a custom of fasting. But a very few do—some Jews from Galicia in Poland; and some communities of Hungarian Jews.

Fasting in Sivan dates back to the earliest blood libels in France, in the town of Blois over 850 years ago. The crusades of 1096 saw the decimation of Jewish communities in the Rhineland, so the 20th of Sivan was established as a fast day in memory of those dark times. Also emerging from that period was the Av Harachamim prayer which we mentioned in shul the other week that we still recite on the Shabbat when we bless Sivan in memory of those martyrs.

Apparently the fast day fell out of practice over the years. Until the Cossack pogroms of 1648-1649 in Ukraine. These massacres are referred to by their Hebrew year dates, “tach vetat,” taf-chet and taf-tet; 5408-5409. Historians write that these murderous times were statistically as devastating to the Jewish communities in those lands as the Shoah of 1938-1945.

In the code of Jewish Law, Shulchan Aruch, The Magen Avraham, Rabbi Avraham Gombiner of Kalisz, Poland writes: that it has become a custom again to fast in Sivan

and he references selichos, penitential prayers written for the fast day by Rabbi Shabtai Hakohen. Rabbi Hakohen himself comments that the 20th of Sivan never occurs on shabbat, so there would not be the problem of whether to observe it or not.

For reasons that are probably obvious (we don't like to fast!), Jews have not taken to establishing fast days anymore. While we have more than one day on which to commemorate the Shoah, we have not established a fast day for the Shoah. However in the early days of Israel the Chief Rabbinate designated the 10th of Tevet, a fast day the week after chanukah, as the day to say Kaddish for holocaust martyrs. The day was already on the calendar; this just added another layer of significance.

So perhaps it's still too soon, but maybe someday Israel will add a layer onto the already existing Fast of Gedalia, the day after Rosh Hashana when we recall the assassination of a Jewish leader, Gedalia ben Achikam by other Jews in 423CE (see 2 Kings 25). Prime Minister Rabin's murder took place later in the fall, and doesn't seem to be marked on the calendar or with any other notoriety.

And we are still in the thick of fighting and suffering from "Milchemet Simchat Torah," the war which began over a year and a half ago on October 7th. It will take a while until we have clarity on this era in our people's history, to be sure.

Shabbat Shalom



Earliest Candle Lighting: 7:24pm | Mincha & Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:00pm

Candle Lighting: 8:42pm

Shacharit: 9:15am | Torah Reader: Yaakov Kanofsky

Chumash: Stone p. 774 | Haftorah: Stone p. 1182

Mincha/Talmud Sanhedrin: 8:35pm

Ma'ariv/Havdallah/Shabbat Ends: 9:56pm

SHABBAT KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP

Kiddush this week is sponsored by the Krakowski family, in honour of Barbara's milestone birthday. Mazel tov! Ad Me'ah V'Esrim!

Kiddush Sponsorships can be made by visiting our website under the "Donate" or by contacting the office.



Help Your Friends Say Kaddish

7^{am}
Monday-Friday

830^{am}
Sunday

SUN

June 15

Shacharis 8:30am



MON

June 16

Shacharis 7:00am
Women's Essential
Talmud: Tractate
Chagigah 12 noon
(Please note time
change)

TUE

June 17


Shacharis 7:00am
Women's Class: Rav
Kook 12:00pm

WED

June 18

Shacharis 7:00am
Annual KST Golf Day


THU	FRI	SHABBOS
June 19 Shacharis 7:00am -Office Remote-	June 20 Shacharis 7:00am Breakfast Learning 7:45am Earliest Candle Lighting 7:26pm Candle Lighting 8:44pm Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00pm -Office Remote-	June 21 Shacharis 9:15am Mincha/Talmud Sanhedrin 8:35pm Ma'ariv/Havdallah/Shabbat Ends 9:58pm



**GRADUATION
2025**

Share the Nachas: Let us know about your graduates! We will publish a list of all those graduating/receiving degrees in June.

Deadline for submission is Monday June 16th.
office@shaareitorah.com



**CHESED
COMMITTEE**

Our KST Chesed Committee is waiting to help. Please reach out if you need a hand, we are here to help the KST Community when you could use a hand...

All matters are kept strictly confidential

No matter what it is, we will always try to help you in any way we can.

Email: chesed@shaareitorah.com or call the office.

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ONLY ONE SPOT LEFT!