

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. IX, No. 38,

Friday, May 31, 1946

Sivan 1, 5706

Numbers — במדבר

Sedrah of the Week

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

Census

1. "AND THE LORD SPAKE UNTO MOSES SAYING, TAKE YE THE SUM . . . AFTER THEIR FAMILIES BY THE HOUSE OF THEIR FATHERS, WITH THE NUMBER OF THEIR NAMES. . . ." The Rabbis point out that the sum total of this census (see verse 46) was the same as of that which was taken after the Israelites were forgiven for the sin of the Golden Calf. (See Exodus, Chapter 38, verse 26.) The question arises: Why was this second census ordered? The answer is given in the next verse. This census also emphasized the importance of the individual. G-d is not interested merely in the total, but takes notice of each individual person. Each Jew is compared to a star as we read in Genesis, Chapter 22, verse 17, and Chapter 26, verse 4, —"And I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, etc." Though the stars are innumerable (see Isaiah, Chapter 40, verse 26 and Psalm 147, verse 4),—"He calleth them all by their names". So, each individual is a separate entity, a world in himself. Each soul revolving within the cosmos of the Torah serves G-d in its own peculiar fashion and accordingly enjoys individual Divine Providence.

Family Purity

"BY THE HOUSE OF THEIR FATHERS," etc. The family purity of the Israelites was of such a high degree that the father was the one according to whom the offspring was numbered. We cannot say of Israel as was said of the other nations at that time, that "it was a wise child who knew its father."

Some of the nations at that time inquired of Bilaam as to why they were not given the Law on Sinai. His answer was that none of them could produce such a pure family pedigree as Israel. It was Israel's family purity which endeared itself to the Holy One, Blessed be He, and the Holy Word, — the Torah, and therefore put into its custody.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE OUTSTANDING RECORD REMEMBER JUNE 12th



Mrs. Maurice Greenstein, President

Mrs. Maurice Greenstein, recently re-elected President of our Women's League for the 3rd consecutive term, presented a most gratifying record of achievement of our Women's League, during the past year, at the closing meeting of the season. She reported that among other activities, the Women's League provided periodic Holiday treats for the children of the Talmud Torah, presented Bibles to Bar Mitzvah boys and brides, decorated the Synagogue with flowers and greens for Shevuoth, collected hundreds of pounds of food and clothing for the Jews of Europe, sponsored a Junior Women's League and class in Jewish cookery, and raised almost \$10,000 for the United Jewish Appeal and Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Drives.

Our Women's League has made substantial contributions to the following important organizations and movements: Yeshiva College Women's Organization, Agudath Israel Youth Council, Serve-A-Camp of the Jewish Welfare Board, United Jewish Appeal, Red Cross, Women's Branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, The Cancer Drive, The Greater New York Fund, Food For Russia, Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, West Side Council and to the Synagogue proper.

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt sympathies are extended to the family of the late MORRIS WEITZMAN and to the family of the late CELIA GREENBAUM upon their irreparable loss.

REMEMBER THE CAUSE . . .

The United Jewish Appeal

REMEMBER THE DATE . . .

Second Day Shevuoth, June 6th

REMEMBER THE PLACE . . .

West Side Institutional Synagogue

Announce your U. J. A. pledge through our synagogue.

"A DAY IN THE COUNTRY"

The committee which went up to Rye, to make arrangements for the Women's League reception there on June 12th, reports that the Padawer and Zuckerman estates, where we are to be entertained on that day, are the last word, in scenic beauty, elegance and comfort. The picturesque landscaping, the spacious lawns overlooking the Sound, and the colorful flower beds, are breathtaking, in their beauty. No effort is being spared to make this day one to be long remembered.

If you wish to be a member of our party on June 12th, please send your check of \$5, made out to the Women's League of the West Side Institutional Synagogue, at once, to Mrs. Harry Ward, Chairman, c/o West Side Institutional Synagogue, 122 West 76th Street. This will include your transportation, lunch, games, Mah Jong and swimming.

BAR MITZVAH

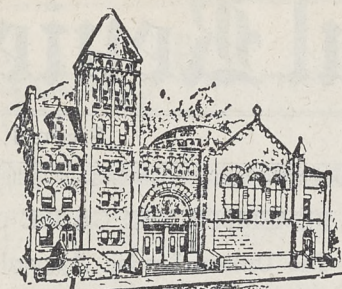


Harry Lax



Leon Prochnik

Our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lax upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son Harry and to Mr. and Mrs. Herman C. Prochnik upon the Bar Mitzvah of their son Leon, which will take place in our Synagogue tomorrow morning.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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Rabbi H. S. Goldstein Editor
Rabbi Emanuel L. Lifschitz Ass't Editor
Morris Jablow Managing Editor

THE 10 SLEDGE-HAMMERS OF MORALITY

This Wednesday morning in every Synagogue in the world the Ten Commandments (which may well be termed "The Ten Sledge-hammers of Morality"), will be read as part of the Scriptural portion of the day.

The Divinity of these Commandments, may be felt even in our day by the freshness of their message. Too many of us shudder at the thought of being urged to go back to old ideas, to walk in the "Ancient paths." It should be recognized however, that TRUTH is paradoxical. It must be OLD but yet ever NEW.

When Israel accepted the Revelation at Sinai, it became a living witness of these eternal truths, and hence an Eternal people, or as the Prophet Hosea put it, "And I shall betroth thee unto Me forever."

It would be a marvellous reminder to the people of our Country, if the daily newspapers would print beneath their mast-heads the Ten Commandments at least once a week. We feel sure it would go a long way to promote a better moral and ethical living and a holier Sabbath observance.



253rd COMMANDMENT Tattooing

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

We are forbidden to tattoo our flesh as it is written in Chapter 19, Verse 28, "Nor imprint any marks upon you, I am the L--d". This refers to the use of ink or powders or dyes for the purpose of imprinting any marks upon our flesh which we now call tattooing. The imprint must be both convex and concave. The marks must be on the skin and sunken into the flesh.

The purpose of the tattooing as a rule is to show that symbolically the person who is tattooed is a devotee to somebody or some institution. This clashes with the teachings of the Torah, namely, that man's ser-

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"

vitute is only to G-d and not to the symbol represented by the tattoo. Some of the Rabbis hold that this prohibition refers only to those who tattoo themselves with the name of some idol. Thus it is evident that this prohibition like the two previous ones was to do away with any form of idolatry or servitude or worship to any being other than G-d.

This commandment refers to any part of the body. It prevails at all times and at all places, and refers both to male and female.

254th COMMANDMENT "Reverence the Sanctuary"

We are bidden in Leviticus, Chapter 19, Verse 30, "Ye shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my Sanctuary: I am the L--d".

The late Dr. Hertz in his Commentary makes the following remark: "The parenthetical insertion of this injunction may be intended to impress upon the Israelite that reverence for Sabbath and Sanctuary will keep him from the heathenish rites and immoralities mentioned in the preceding verse and those following."

(to be continued)

SHEVUOS FESTIVAL WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

Yizkor Services Thursday Morning

The holiday of Shevuos or Pentecost, the Feast of Weeks, which commemorates the revelation of the Torah on Mt. Sinai, 4,394 years ago, is also known as the Jewish Festival of New Fruits. Its celebration will take place Wednesday and Thursday, June 5th and 6th. Its observance follows the counting of the Omer, which began on Passover, and as Maimonides tells us, it may be compared to one who, in expecting his most intimate friend on a certain day, counts the days and even the hours. We impatiently await the birthday of our religion when the Torah was given to Israel. As our sages teach us, Shevuos is considered as the wedding anniversary of the Jewish people, and the Torah is the marriage certificate between Israel and G-d.

On the first night, it is customary to remain awake and recite specially prepared passages, condensed from the Bible, Talmud and Kabalah which is known as 'Tikkun Lel Shevuos.' We study the tikkun in order to review our Written and Oral

Law, in preparation for receiving the Torah on the morrow, since according to our tradition, every Jew is considered as having been at Mt. Sinai at the time of Revelation. Another reason is that the Israelites were awake the entire night before they received the Torah, in anxious expectation of the great gift.

We read the Book of Ruth because our holiday, being a festival of law as well as of harvest, is reflected in this Biblical story. Ruth's desire to convert to the Jewish faith displays her great understanding and devotion to our way of life. In reciting the "Akdemus" prayer, composed by Meier Ben Isaac Nehira in the Eleventh Century, we find the extolling of G-d's love, of Israel's devotion to the Torah, and of the hope of the Messiah, when peace and goodness will reign in the world.

As a reminder of the harvest aspect of Shevuos, the Synagogue and home is usually adorned with beautiful floral decorations since Mt. Sinai was strikingly bedecked with beautiful foliage on the day of the giving of the Torah. The green branches also remind us that the Torah is a Tree of Life.

YISKOR SERVICE

Yiskor Services will be held in our Synagogue on the second day of Shevuoth, Thursday June 6th. At that time prayers will be offered in memory of the departed.

If you wish to have prayers said for your dear departed, kindly fill out and return the attached form. We urge that this information be in our hands before Shevuoth, in order that we may maintain order and decorum.

West Side Institutional Synagogue
120-138 West 76th St., N. Y. C.

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I hereby request you to offer the Memorial Prayer for the coming Holiday for my

whose name is

and I herewith donate \$.....

Name

Address

SEA SCOUTS

WANTED—Young man between the ages of 15 and 18 to operate a two way radio. Must have FCC radio license.

PRAYER SCHEDULE

Today is the 45th day of the Omer
Light Candles Friday Evening 8:00

Weekly Portion: Bamidbor

Friday Evening Service 6:30
Saturday Morning 9:00
Junior Congregation 10:00
Rabbi Lifschitz's Class 7:15
Rabbi Hurwitz's Class 7:15
Mincha 8:15
Sabbath Terminates 8:49
Sunday morning Service..... 6:45, 8:45

DAILY SERVICES

Morning 6:45, 8:00, 8:30
Mincha 8:00

Followed by class in Shulchan Aruch
by Rabbi Goldstein

SHEVUOTH SERVICES

Tuesday Evening 8:15
Tikun Shevuoth, Tuesday Night 10:30
Wednesday Morning 9:00
Wednesday Evening 7:15
Thursday Morning 8:45
Yizkor Services Thursday morning

TALMUD TORAH NOTES

This Sunday morning at 11 o'clock the students of the Talmud Torah will observe the Festival of Shevuoth with a special program of songs, tableaux, and dances.

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CHATS ABOUT W.S.I.S.

By Morris Jablow

In three weeks we suspend publication of this paper until September. I am therefore submitting for your consideration at this time, the advisability of making reservation in our Memorial Park, situated amidst the scenic beauty of Westchester.

You, our readers, surely realize the advisability of making provision for the inevitable, at a time when you can do it calmly, liesurely and wisely.

Many people are reluctant to act until compelled to do so by the happening of a tragic event. At such a time the pressure is great, and clear thinking is difficult.

Mr. Joseph Buchsbaum, Chairman of our Cemetery Committee is ready to consult with you and to advise you at any time regarding a suitable selection in our Memorial Park. I sincerely urge you not to delay a decision upon this very important matter. Do it now, when all is well with you, when you can consider carefully all phases before making up your mind. In acting now you will be doing a real service to yourself and to the members of your family.

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Getting Personal

Mazeltov to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bernstein (nee Sylvia Livingston) and to the happy grandparents, director and Mrs. George L. Livingston, upon the birth of a son, Kenneth Joseph. . . . Glad to learn that George A. Gold is recovering satisfactorily from his recent operation. . . . It was good to see at services, director Samuel K. Beier, after his recent illness. . . . Betty Buchsbaum flew in from Cornell University to spend a week-end with her family; despite Betty's objections we are happy to announce that she made the Dean's list. . . . We were happy to see Thelma Spanback. . . . Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel A. Blumenthal (nee Vera Frank) and to the proud grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Max Frank upon the birth of a son. . . . We welcomed at services Lt. Paul Newman who is now on terminal leave. . . . Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Weiss upon the engagement of their son, Lt. Jerome Weiss, M. C. AUS to Marilyn Doris Levine. . . . Wedding anniversary congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Barney Jaffin. Incidentally, we want to felicitate them upon the birthday of their granddaughter, Doris Selma Jaffin. . . . Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Sol Janchel upon the birth of a son. We also want to extend our best wishes to the rejoicing grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Max Abeloff. . . . Special congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Josephson upon their 25th wedding anniversary. Let us see some more of you, Harry. . . . Birthday greetings to Nat Trotzky, Rene Kaufman, Joshua Levine. . . . Harold Levine took off for the West Coast. Happy landing, Harold. . . . Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. David Don on their wedding anniversary. . . . Birthday greetings to Mrs. Samuel Silver, and last but not least, our heartfelt good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Settel upon their wedding anniversary. . . . As we go to press we learn of Mrs. Meyer Pargament's mishap and are happy to hear she is on the mend.

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