

(continued from back)

Leviticus 26:18 states:
וְאִם עַד אֵלֶּה לֹא תִשְׁמָעוּ לִי וְיִסְפַּתִּי לְיִסְרָה אֶתְכֶם שִׁבְעַ עַל חַטֹּאתֵיכֶם:
And if, for all that, you do not obey Me, I will go on to discipline you sevenfold for your sins.

Our parasha states that if Israel does not learn its lesson after receiving the punishments in this chapter, then their sentence will be multiplied sevenfold. Divre Hayamim thought that the retribution of Israel was over after just 70 years. Daniel, however, saw that because they had not yet repented, the period of their domination would continue for 490 years. Nevertheless, both authors derived their calculations by combining Jeremiah’s prophecy with the details of this parasha.

Considering that Hasmonean rule proved to be short lived, and the Second Temple too was destroyed, various authors and thinkers have continued to analyze these prophecies to calculate a still future date for the Messianic salvation. However, the most important lesson we can gain from this parasha and from Jeremiah is that our redemption depends not on a set calculation but rather on our own actions and our ability to fulfill the terms of the covenant. This is a lesson especially relevant on this Shabbat, as we celebrate on Yom Yerushalaim and the ongoing miracle of the State of Israel. May we all have the merit to live in the land in peace and prosperity.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Members: Shari and Nathan Lindenbaum

Mazal Tob to Deena and Nissim Aboodi on the marriage of their daughter Debra to Steven Sasson. Congratulations as well to the Groom’s brother, Rafe Sasson.

Mazal Tob to Jenna Roberts on becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Congratulations to her parents, Joy Saleh and Bruce Roberts.

Hazakim U’berukhim to our members, Janice Weinman Shorenstein and Stuart Shorenstein who will be honored at the Lincoln Square Synagogue dinner.

We mourn the loss of our member, Richard Mateles. Condolences to his wife, Roslyn Mateles and to his children, Naomi Karmi, Susan Spira, and, Sarah Mateles.

Shearith Israel notes with sadness the passing of our long time Superintendent, Rene Andreu, who served the synagogue for many years with great dignity and joy. Condolences to his wife, Maria and Rene’s entire family, including his niece, Liz Rios, head teacher of our Toddler program.

Fulfilling Prophecies
Rabbi Hidary

Among the long list of consequences in this parasha for disobeying the laws of the covenant, is one punishment that reverberated through the history of the Jewish people for many centuries. Leviticus 26:34–35 states:

אֲזַ תְּרָצָה הָאָרֶץ אֶת שְׁבַתֶיהָ כֹּל יְמֵי הַשָּׁמָה וְאַתֶּם בָּאָרֶץ אִיְבֵיכֶם אֲזַ תִּשְׁבַּת הָאָרֶץ וְהָרָצָה אֶת שְׁבַתֶיהָ: כֹּל יְמֵי הַשָּׁמָה תִּשְׁבַּת אֶת אֲשֶׁר לֹא שְׁבַתָּה בְּשְׁבַתֶיהָ:
בְּשַׁבְתְּכֶם עָלֶיהָ:

Then shall the land make up for its sabbath years throughout the time that it is desolate and you are in the land of your enemies; then shall the land rest and make up for its sabbath years. Throughout the time that it is desolate, it shall observe the rest that it did not observe in your sabbath years while you were dwelling upon it.

As retribution for not fulfilling the commandments, including and especially the land sabbatical every seventh year, Israel will be expelled from the land. Sure enough, when Judah was exiled in 597 and 586BCE, the author of Chronicles saw their banishment as a fulfillment of these verses, as stated in Divre Hayamim 2 36:20-21:

וַיִּגַּל הַשְׂאָרִית מִן הַחֶרֶב אֶל בָּבֶל וַיְהִי לֹו וּלְבָנָיו לַעֲבָדִים עַד מֶלֶךְ מַלְכוּת פָּרַס: לְמַלְאוֹת דָּבָר יִקְנוּ בְּכִפִּי יִרְמְיָהוּ עַד רִצְתָהּ הָאָרֶץ אֶת שְׁבַתֹותֶיהָ כֹּל יְמֵי הַשָּׁמָה שְׁבַתָּה לְמַלְאוֹת שְׁבָעִים שָׁנָה:

Those who survived the sword he exiled to Babylon, and they became his and his sons’ servants till the rise of the Persian kingdom, in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, until the land paid back its sabbaths; as long as it lay desolate it kept sabbath, till seventy years were completed.

Interestingly, the last verse also connects the return of the Judeans to their land in 539BCE under the Persian Emperor Cyrus as a fulfillment of a famous prophecy by Jeremiah in 20:10:

כִּי כֹה אָמַר יְקֹונָה כִּי לִפִּי מְלֹאת לְבָבִל שְׁבָעִים שָׁנָה אֶפְקֹד אֶתְכֶם וְהִקְמַתִי עָלֵיכֶם אֶת דְּבָרֵי הַטּוֹב לְהַשִּׁיב אֶתְכֶם אֶל הַמְּקוֹם הַזֶּה:

For thus said the LORD: When Babylon’s seventy years are over, I will take note of you, and I will fulfill to you My promise of favor—to bring you back to this place.

If we do the math, we see that the First Beit Hamikdash stood for about 410 years; add to that approximately 70 years of exile comes to around 480. Therefore, the total number of sabbatical years during this period was nearly 70. Considering that Bnei Yisrael did not fulfill this and other laws during this period would explain why the land needed to be empty for 70 years in Jeremiah’s calculation.

To add one further calculation that extends the above prophecies well into the Second Temple period, we can look to Daniel 9:2:


אֲנִי דָנִיֵּאל בִּינוֹתִי בִּסְפָרִים מִסְפַּר הַשָּׁנִים אֲשֶׁר הָיָה דְּבַר־יִקְוָה אֶל־יְרֵמְיָה הַנָּבִיא לְמַלְאוֹת הַחֲרָבוֹת יְרוּשָׁלַם שְׁבָעִים שָׁנָה:

I, Daniel, consulted the books concerning the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD that had come to Jeremiah the prophet, were to be the term of Jerusalem’s desolation—seventy years.

Daniel inquires of God to know the proper way to compute the 70 years of Jeremiah’s prediction. At the end of the chapter, the angel Gabriel reveals to him that Jeremiah’s prophecy actually meant not 70 years but rather 70 weeks of years, coming to 490 years. Historians explain that Daniel saw the true fulfillment of Jeremiah’s prophecy in rise of Hasmonean rule, the first and only period of independence from foreign domination during the Second Temple Period.

Still, we wonder, how can Daniel interpret Jeremiah’s clear words, “70 years,” as 70 sabbatical cycles? The answer may lie back in our parasha.

(continued on inside panel)



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Behukkothai

June 3-4, 2016

Hertz Pentateuch: Torah Reading: p. 542; Haftarah: p. 551
Kaplan Living Torah: Torah Reading: p. 640; Haftarah: p. 1178

CANDLE LIGHTING | 8:04 pm
MINHAH | 6:45 pm

ZEMIROT | 8:15 am | Main Sanctuary
SHAHARIT (NISHMAT) | 9:00 am | Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a sermon on the topic “The Last Man on the Moon”
TOT SHABBAT | Ages 0-4 | 10:00 am | Fidanque Office
YOUTH GROUPS | Ages 5-12 | 10:00 am | Children’s Library
JR. CONGREGATION | Ages 5-12 | 10:30 am | Little Synagogue
KIDDUSH LUNCHEON | Elias Room | *Sponsored by Joy Saleh and Bruce Roberts in honor of Jenna becoming a Bat Mitzvah*

TOPICS IN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY | Rabbi Hidary | 7:00 pm | For high school students | Held at the Hidary home, 1 W 85th St Apt. 6A

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR | Rabbi Soloveichik on the topic, “Hillel and Hamlet” | 7:00 pm | *Spring semester sponsored by Lewis Lipsey*

MINHAH/ARBIT | 8:00 pm
KETTER SHEM TOB | Rabbi Hidary | Main Sanctuary
HABDALAH | 9:05 pm

Weekday Service Times
Morning: Sunday: 8:00 AM; Tues-Fri.: 7:15 AM
Evenings: Sunday – Thursday: 6:45 PM (Minhah & Arbit)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

Yom Yerushalayim at Shearith Israel
“From King David to David Rubinger”
Sunday Morning, June 5 | Rabbi Meir Soloveichik
Following 8:00 am morning services, Rabbi Soloveichik will deliver a special shiur in honor of Yom Yerushalayim.

Graduation Kiddush and Scroll of Honor
Saturday, June 11
Let’s spread the good news and celebrate the success and accomplishments of all our graduates from pre-school to PhDs! Go to shearithisrael.org/graduation2016 by THIS Wednesday, June 8 to ensure your graduate is listed on our scroll of honor. Even if you cannot attend, consider co-sponsoring our graduation kiddush for \$180 or just \$36.

Shabu`ot Public Lecture
When Jews Owned Slaves: An Often Untold Tale of History, Ritual and Jewish Law
Saturday Night, June 11 | 11:30 pm
Join us for what has become a popular Shabu`ot night tradition for the greater UWS and UES community. After the talk, guests are invited to mingle over cheesecake. Please consider sponsoring this lecture. Go to shearithisrael.org/shabuot-public-lecture.

Girls’ Megillat Ruth Reading
First day of Shabuot | Sunday, June 12
The girls of our synagogue recite Megillat Ruth for the congregation in the Main Sanctuary after services. We hope you will attend and support our girls. We are seeking additional sponsors and contributors for the kiddush in honor of our girls. For more information, and to sponsor go to shearithisrael.org/girls-book-ruth-reading

Donate to the Sisterhood’s
Shabu`ot Decorating Efforts
Looking forward to the botanical splendor in our sanctuary on Shabuot? The Sisterhood makes that happen every year. Please consider making a donation to the Sisterhood in appreciation for all that they do. Go to shearithisrael.org/sisterhood to donate.

Indoor Picnic for Young Couples and Families
Saturday, July 2, 2016 | Following Morning Services
Who wants to fret over rain clouds or bother with insect repellent? After all, the best thing about picnicing is relaxing with friends and enjoyable casual picnic fare. Organized by our fabulous committee of young couples, this year’s end-of-year picnic will be held at the synagogue, where we can enjoy our protected, park-facing Portico as well as the Elias Room. Fun for the kids and a rabbi’s lecture for the adults will keep everyone happy. Go to shearithisrael.org/indoor-picnic to sign up by Tuesday, June 28.

Register now for PTTTS Hebrew School
Polonies Talmud Torah School, provides children and teens, ages 3-16, with a substantive Jewish education in a positive and engaging environment. **NEW:** Refer a new family and earn a \$100 reduction in your synagogue dues or PTTTS tuition. Register at shearithisrael.org/hebrewschool

Contribute to the PTTTS Hebrew School
Scholarship Fund
We offer many scholarships to ensure that all qualified applicants can receive a Jewish education. Please consider sponsoring a student for an academic year or semester or contributing to our Hebrew school scholarship fund with a tax deductible contribution of any amount. Go to shearithisrael.org/hebrew-school-scholarship-fund

Sisterhood's Elsie Adlman Camp Fund
For many years the Sisterhood's Elsie Adlman Camp Fund has helped children and senior citizens, who could otherwise not do so, enjoy a Jewish summer experience outside the City. In this time of great economic need, it is more important than ever to be able to help change their lives for a month... a week... or even a day. Please help us by responding as generously as you can. Go to shearithisrael.org/sisterhood-elsie-adlman-camp-fund to donate.

WEEKDAY JUDAIC EDUCATION

For details go to: shearithisrael.org/judaic-education

- Tuesday*
- ◇ **Rambam’s Mishneh Torah** | Rabbi Hidary | 7:45 am
 - ◇ **Feasts and Fasts: The Festivals in Jewish Thought- A Class for Women** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 9:00 am
 - ◇ **Talmud Class: Tractate Rosh Hashana and the Philosophy of Jewish Time** | Rabbi Soloveichik | 8:00 pm | *Spring semester sponsored by Gregory Bell.*
- Sunday*
- ◇ **The Book of Kings** | Rabbi Hidary | 8:40 am |
 - ◇ **Saadia Gaon’s Book of Beliefs and Opinions** | Sjimon den Hollander | 9:30 am

Don't let us go dry.
Be a scotch or arak sponsor. To sponsor or contribute go to shearithisrael.org/scotch-and-arak-sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring a semester or a class. Go to: shearithisrael.org/sponsoraaclass

Parnas Office Hours
Louis Solomon would be delighted to meet with you. Please schedule a visit at parnas@shearithisrael.org.

Our next public tour is:
Wednesday, June 15 at 11:00 am