

# DAF TSAFON

25 March 2023  
3 Nisan 5783

Parashat Vayikra  
ArtScroll 544 Hertz 410



This week we start reading the third book of the Torah, Vayikra - Leviticus. On the surface, this book appears dry, as the first parashiot deal exclusively with the laws of sacrifices. Our parasha, Vayikra, is a user's manual as to the different sin offerings individuals have to bring, depending on their status and the circumstances of their sin.

For example, there are the offerings brought by the individual which were different from those brought by a judge who erred in his ruling or that of the Nasi - the leader.

Hidden within the text is a significant change. In speaking about the individual - the Kohen and the congregation as a whole - the verse always uses the expression "Im" or "Ki" (connoting "if"). However, by the King or Nasi - leader, the verse uses the expression "**ASHER Nasi yecheta**" (WHEN the Nasi will sin), connoting a certainty that this will happen.

The Torah is teaching one of the truths of the ages, most famously articulated by the famous British foreign minister, Lord Acton, who said: "power corrupts". This is what the Torah is saying "**ASHER Nasi yecheta**" – We can almost count on it that the King will commit a sin because of his power and position.

Is it any wonder that we are left disillusioned by our leaders and their behaviour?  
The corruption and waste within the government?

On the other hand, there is another way to read the verse. Instead of ASHER NASI YECHETA, read the word as ASHREI – praised is the leader who will sin – ie: praised is a people who have leaders who will own up and admit that they have made a mistake. I saw the following story which is quite unbelievable but incredibly powerful.

In Israel there lived one of the great rabbinical personalities of our time. He was known as the Steipler Gaon (Rabbi Yaakov Yisrael Kanievsky). The story is found in the book, Parasha Parables by Rabbi Mordechai Kamenetsky. Everyone wanted to have the honour of the Steipler Gaon, attend their son's Bar Mitzvah. As Steipler Gaon became older, it became more difficult for him to attend. He could spend his whole Shabbat in Bnei Brak going from one Bar Mitzvah to another. There came a point where he had to tell people that he was no longer able to attend Bar Mitzvahs.

However, the Steipler Gaon made an exception and did attend one Bar Mitzvah. After davening, the Steipler Gaon wished the boy Mazal Tov, bent over to whisper something into the boy's ear and spoke to him for a couple of minutes. The boy responded, "No, no, it is alright!" Then the Steipler left.

This was not your typical "Mazal Tov". It took longer than that. Everyone was wondering what the Steipler wanted from this young Bar Mitzvah boy and what was the meaning of the Bar Mitzvah boy's reaction?

What had happened? Six years previously, when this boy was seven years old, he was davening in the same shul where the Steipler davened and apparently, he had a very large Siddur. The Steipler saw him and thought he was learning out of a Gemara in the middle of davening. He went over to him in the middle of davening and mistakenly criticized him for learning while he should be davening. The boy showed the Steipler he was using a Siddur not a Gemara. The Steipler was very apologetic and asked for forgiveness. The seven-year-old told him at the time that it was okay, he forgave him. However, since he was under the age of bar mitzvah, the law is that the minor has no right to forgive the slight. Rabbi Kanievsky waited the six years until the child became a bar mitzvah to be forgiven.

As Rabbi Berel Wein famously quipped, you can believe such stories or not, but people don't walk around telling stories like that about us.

Happy is a generation that has such leaders.

Shabbat Shalom

## Haftarah

ArtScroll 1214 Hertz 995

*On the Sabbath before Purim two Torah scrolls are taken from the Ark. From the first, the regular Sidrah is read. The second is used for the Maftir, and the reading is the commandment to remember (Zachor) the villainy of Amalek.*

*The original Amalek was a grandson of Esau, and it was he who carried on his grandfather's legacy of hatred of the Jewish people. Only weeks after the Exodus from Egypt, Amalek made the first sneak attack against Israel. This ambush became the paradigm of treachery, especially since the land of the Amalekites was not part of Eretz Yisrael, so that Amalek was motivated not by fear, but by hatred.*

## מזל טוב

### Wedding anniversaries

Allan and Eve Bank  
Arlaine and Anthony Berman  
Audrey Balla and Peter Berman  
Paul and Talya Lewin  
Ezra and Maureen Ravia  
Robert and Ellie Samuel  
Nathan and Raja Sperling  
Edgar and Pamela Stein

## מזל טוב

### Bar Mitzvah anniversaries

Mark Krischer  
Liam Mirkin

**Our congregation acknowledges the following  
yahrzeit anniversaries and wishes long life to  
those commemorating a yahrzeit,  
during the coming week.**

## חיים ארוכים

Hanni Beitscher	cousin of Silvia Kossard
Sam Fisher AM	brother of Mark Fisher
Mary Ann Forrester	mother of Peter Forrester
Mikhail Frishling	grandfather of Misha Saul
Norrie Haim	father-in-law of Mark Fisher
Adela Kreuzer	grandmother of Zvi Teichtahl
Isabella Moses	mother of Michael Moses
Joan Phillips	mother-in-law of Vivien Phillips
Ela Pines	father of Sandra Hepner
Keith Malcolm Sonenfeld	father of Sandra Fisher, grandfather of Nathan Fisher and Alana Fisher-Chejoski