



October 28, 2023

Lech Lecha

13 Cheshvan, 5784

Dear Mispallelim,

I am away for Shabbos at a family simcha, the engagement of our granddaughter, Chana (Levi) Kaplan, to Levi Yitzchok Farkash from Los Angeles.

During such a critical time, I must share some of my thoughts with you.

Though we are focused on events in Eretz Yisroel (and are saying Tehillim twice daily and doing other *mitzvos* in their merit), we must not forget what is happening right here in this country and everywhere else worldwide. The Ribono Shel Olam has given us an almost unprecedented '*hisorerus*' among Jews of all stripes.

The shock at seeing sympathy expressed for the vile, inhuman murders of Jews, to a greater or lesser degree, in substantial segments of the population, blaming the Jews for being victims, has led to the realization among American Jews that despite complacently believing for years that the US is different, and we are the same as everyone else, it has all been a tragic illusion.

Now is the time for us who have held on to the eternal light of Torah and *mitzvos* to utilize this opportunity to inspire anyone in our reach, family, friends, coworkers, etc., to improve their observance and Torah study. They are open to this and long for us to approach them and suggest they adopt a new mitzvah, put on Tefillin, light Shabbos candles, or attend a Torah class.

The Ribono Shel Olam has given us this opportunity to literally be matzil nefoshos from complete assimilation. We rightly marvel at (and support) Hatzallah and Zaka here and in Eretz Yisroel, who save lives daily. But our Torah clearly states that saving someone in *ruchnius* is an even greater deed (Rashi, Devorim, 23:9).

Clearly, the *tzav hashaa* (the call of the hour) is for us not to spend time looking at the news (a useless activity anyway) but to think about whom we can talk to and how we can approach them for this purpose.

This is also the best way to do something (in addition to Tehillim) about the situation in Eretz Yisroel.

On the *posuk* in this week's *sedra*, וַיֵּצֵא אֱלֹהֵי הַחוּץ וַיֹּאמֶר הִבְטֵנָה הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וּסְפֹר הַכּוֹכָבִים אִם-תִּזְכָּר לֵאמֹר לֹא יִהְיֶה זֶרַעךָ "And He took him outside, and He said, "Please look heavenward and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So will be your seed." The Midrash comments that the Jewish Hashem compared the Jewish People to the stars and the earth's dust to tell Avrohom that when your children do My Will, they are like the stars, and no one can touch them but when ... . When we help one more Yid to do a mitzvah, all of our people become more untouchable, like the stars of the heavens.

The main impediment to doing this is our own inhibition and lack of confidence, but I can tell you from personal experience and from a few who have taken up this challenge that once you do it, you will feel uplifted and seek to do it again and again.

'May 'merit to see Hashem's protection of Klal Yisroel, and may we hear only good' news.

Gut Shabbos,

*Rabbi Shmuel Kaplan*

## Guardian of the Pledge

In this week's Parashah, we read about the Brit Bein Ha'betarim / "Covenant between the Parts." We refer to this covenant in the Pesach Haggadah, when we say: Blessed is He Who is Shomer / He keeps His pledge to Yisrael, Blessed is He! For the Holy One, Blessed is He, calculated the end [of the bondage] in order to do as He said to our forefather Avraham at the Brit Bein Ha'betarim, as it is stated (15:13-14), "Know with certainty that your offspring will be aliens in a land not their own, they will serve them, and they will oppress them for four hundred years. But, also the nation that they shall serve, I shall judge, and afterwards they shall leave with great wealth." [Until here from the Haggadah]

R' Yosef Chaver z"l (Lithuania; late 19th century) writes: A Midrash states that the verses of the Brit Bein Ha'betarim foretell, not only the slavery in, and Exodus from, Egypt, but all of Jewish history. It is an aspect of Hashem's kindness to us that He makes promises about events in the distant future, and He is "Shomer" / He guards and protects those promises. When Hashem "speaks," it begins a process that ultimately ends in the manifestation of His "words" in this world, though He may decide that that process should take a long time. As long as the process is still underway, we are assured of His continued protection, even if we are unworthy, so that His words can be fulfilled. If Hashem made promises to us only close to the events in question, we would not have that protection. This is what we refer to when we say in the Haggadah, "Blessed is He Who is Shomer / He keeps His pledge to Yisrael." (Haggadah Shel Pesach Zero'a Netuyah)

(by Rabbi Shlomo Katz from Project Genesis at [www.torah.org](http://www.torah.org))

### Community Information of Interest

**October 28: Dashed Hopes and new Horizons: The State of Israel and The Jewish People 1996 – 2000.**  
**Lecture by Rabbi Dovid Katz.** *Ehud Barak and the attempt to "give-away-the-store".* This lecture will begin at 8:45 p.m. and be held at the Congregation Shomrei Emunah.

**Cantor. and Mrs. Allan Berman** are sponsoring Kiddush this Shabbat  
in memory of Allan's father, **Hillel ben Shmuel**,  
whose yahrzeit is this Wednesday.



### Yahrzeits This Week:

Cantor Allan Berman    17 Cheshvan - Tuesday night / Wednesday    for father    Hillel ben Shmuel

### SHUL DIRECTORY

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### DAVENING AND SHIURIM SCHEDULE

#### Friday, 10/27 — 12 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Candles — 5:53 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:55 p.m.

#### Shabbat, 10/28 — 13 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:08 a.m.  
Minchah — 5:40 p.m.  
Shiur — after Minchah  
Ma'ariv — 6:54 p.m.

#### Sunday, 10/29 — 14 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 8:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

#### Monday, 10/30 — 15 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

#### Tuesday, 10/31 — 16 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

#### Wednesday, 11/1 — 17 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

#### Thursday, 11/2 — 18 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:50 p.m.

#### Friday, 11/3 — 19 Cheshvan

Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
Candles — 5:45 p.m.  
Minchah / Ma'ariv — 5:45 p.m.