

## Lech L'cha

9 b'Cheshvan 5782 • Friday, October 15, 2021

### Shabbos

Candle Lighting (20 min.)	6:39 PM
Mincha / Kab. Shabbos	6:44 PM
Shacharis	Hashkama 8:20 AM Main 9:00 AM
Last Shema (Gr"a)	10:35 AM
Pre-Mincha Shiur	5:45 PM Rabbi Nosson Kunin: Sh'lichus b'Mitzvah—Father or Mohel?
Mincha	6:17 PM
Sunset	6:57 PM
Ma'ariv	7:32 PM
Shabbos ends (40 min.)	7:37 PM

### The Week of Oct. 17

	S	M	TU	W	TH	F
Shach.	8 AM			6:35 AM		
Earliest T & T		6:51	6:52	6:53	6:54	6:55
Mincha		6:35 PM (before sunset)				

### School of Jewish Studies

- Rabbi Travis:**  
Daf Yomi Sunday 7–8 AM  
Weekdays 6–6:30 AM
- Rabbi Alt on Zoom:**  
Hands-On Halacha  
Tuesday 8:30–9:10 PM
- Shmuel Plotsker:**  
712-770-4945, access code 664943#  
Intro to Talmud 101 (Chagiga 13a)  
Mon/Wed/Fri 10:30–11:15 AM  
Book Club: A Letter in the Scroll  
Mondays 1–2 PM  
Intro to Midrash (B'reishis Rabbah)  
Sundays 8:45–9:45 AM  
Tanach Tuesdays (M/W)  
II Kings 4 7:30–8:30 PM
- Kollel:**  
Parasha (on Zoom)  
Thursdays 8:30–8:50 PM  
Navi Insights with R' Marchuk  
after Hashkama kiddush

### Sponsorships

**Hashkama Kiddush** is sponsored by David & Shirley Snitzer in memory of Mrs. Snitzer's mother, Sarah bas Moshe.

### Shul Announcements

**PJL is back!** Five minutes of Practical Jewish Learning with the Kollel, at kiddush (when there are no other events or simchas). Rabbi Preis will kick it off **this Shabbos**.

**Shabbos Morning Kollel returns next week**—start your Shabbos morning with the power of Torah! Join a group, or study on your own. • Rabbi Alt: Mishnayos • Zechariah Belsky: Halacha

**Youth Groups are back!** They'll resume **next Shabbos**, P. Vayeira (Oct. 23), from 10:30 AM till kiddush.  
• Boys (grades 2–4), led by Rabbis Meissner, Pfeffer, and Roland (rotating)  
• Younger children, led by Mrs. Chanah Panchelyuga and friends.  
Groups will meet in the Social Hall until our new youth center is complete. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

**Meet the Rabbi—next Shabbos** (P. Vayeira): Rabbi Raphael Cohen, from Israel. A published author and founder of Bene Aharon Institute for *ba'alei teshuva* and *gerim* (Givat Shaul, Yerushalayim), Rabbi Cohen-Soae has taught Torah for many years in an array of institutions.

**Tribute to Rabbi Dr. Moshe Tendler z"l—His Life and His Torah**, with his granddaughter's husband, Rabbi Noach Kunin: Join us for a special Shabbos afternoon class in honor of Rabbi Tendler z"l's *s'hloshim*, Parshas Chayei Sarah (October 30).

**Coming soon: Winter Melave Malkas!** Casual fun, from November through February. See flyer for details.

### In the Community

**Mazal tov to...**

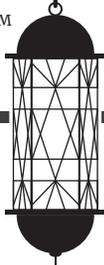
- Rabbi & Mrs. Nosson Wiggins and family, on the birth of a boy. *Shalom Zachar* 9–11 PM Friday night, at the Wiggins residence, 6515 Elbrook Ave, first floor. For men only; please be COVID-cautious.
- Rabbi Tzuriel & Miriam Gluck and family, on the birth of a boy. The *Shalom Zachar* will be held privately.
- Aaron Pressman and family. Aaron put on tefillin for the first time last Sunday. We look forward to his bar mitzvah on P. Vayeitzei (Nov. 13).
- Ira & Debbie Zimmerman and family, and grandmother Mrs. Ellen Pollock, on the engagement of Leah Zimmerman to Yoni Levine of Queens and Silver Spring.

**We extend our condolences** to Mel & Sheryl Gross and Shimon & Alissa Gross Oppenheimer, on the passing of Sheryl's mother. Burial was in Louisville on Friday. *Shiv'a* at 2424 Losantiville, Apt. 3, from late Sunday through Monday evening, then in Minneapolis till Thursday morning.

**A Stress-Free Life—Are You Kidding?** Naaleh's opening event, with guest speaker Dr. Norman Blumenthal—Sunday, October 24, 7:30 PM, at Maketewah Country Club.

### Refu'ah Sh'laima

- Bracha Leah bas Rochel Mushka (Barbara Nagler)
- Eitan Chaim ben Elisheva (Ethan Kadish)
- Gavriel ben Peshah (Gary Walsh)
- Chana Rivka bas Ethel (Juanita Weiss)
- Tzvi Michael ben Leah (Hirsch Wise)
- Daisy bas Lulu (Mrs. Daisy Kattan)
- Z'ev Shmuel ben Malkah Rochel
- Reuven ben Malkah
- Simcha Leib haLevi ben Devorah
- Esther Hitzel bas Gittel (Esther Deutch)
- Bunim Tzemach Aharon ben Leiba (Barry Silver)
- Gittel Tova bas Yehudis
- Eliezer Nosson ben Sarah
- Dona bat Perla (Donna Taplits)
- Chaya Raizel Bas Sarah
- Aryeh Leib Yosef ben Miriam Sarah
- Yosef ben Frad'l
- Tinok ben Chana Lisa



# V'Dibartah Bam

## Life is a Test

LIFE SEEMS TO BE FILLED WITH CHALLENGES; IF IT'S not one thing, then it's the next. Sometimes it seems unfair. "Hashem why are you testing me? Don't I have enough to deal with? Have I done something wrong? What did I do to deserve this?"

In this week's parsha, we are introduced to Avraham Avinu. Avraham was the first man to reject idolatry and lead a revolution of monotheism in the world. Avraham was beloved to Hashem. Yet we find that even Avraham lived a life full of tests. The opening words of this week's parsha, "*Lech l'cha*—go for yourself," are a command from Hashem to test Avraham, challenging him to leave behind everything he knew and start a new life.

If Avraham was such a special person, why did Hashem choose to test him so many times?

Our forefather Avraham was tested with ten trials, and he withstood them all—to show the degree of our forefather Avraham's love for Hashem. (Pirkei Avos 5:4)

Many of the commentaries ask the obvious question: If Hashem knows what is in every individual's heart, then surely Hashem knew how much Avraham loved Him. Why, then, was it necessary to test Avraham to "show the degree of [his] love for Hashem?"

The Ramban writes, regarding the opening words of the *Akeidah* (arguably Avraham's greatest test):

"It was after these matters that Hashem tested Avraham..." The purpose of a test, in my opinion, is [this]: Every person has free will. If he's willing, he'll perform [a given task]. If he doesn't want to, he won't do it. "Test" describes the perspective of the person who is being "tested." However, the One who is administering the "test" [i.e., Hashem] is giving the command to bring potential into reality, so that the one being tested will receive the reward for good deeds, and not just for good intentions. Know that Hashem specifically tests the righteous, whom Hashem knows will fulfill His will... (Ramban, commentary to B'reishis 22:1)

According to the Ramban, the power to succeed is already present. It is only *because* Hashem knows that someone can succeed that He tests that individual, to

give him or her the opportunity to convert that potential power into tangible success.

Rav Gedaliah Schorr explains that this is what the *mishnah* means when it says that Hashem tested Avraham so that his love for Hashem should become known. Hashem tested Avraham so that the love which was in Avraham's heart would be brought out, would be revealed, through positive action.

Rabbi Schorr adds that many commentaries suggest that the very word for test in Hebrew, *nisayon*, contains this meaning. It is related to the word *neis*, "to raise up." When someone is put to the test, they raise themselves up through their perseverance.

This idea can also be read into the opening words of this week's parsha, "*Lech l'cha*—go for yourself." Through this first test of faith, Avraham is challenged to leave his homeland and his father's house, but in reality he will not be leaving at all—he is going *toward himself*, his true self, his higher self. Avraham will be moving closer to who he truly is, deep down inside, through the vehicle of Hashem's test.

This deeper understanding of the ten tests of Avraham lends us tremendous perspective toward the tests that we face in our lives.

We are tested by Hashem from time to time. When we ask the question "Why me?," Avraham teaches us that the answer is: It's *exactly* for you! Because Hashem and only Hashem knows that you possess the power to succeed, deep inside your soul. When things begin to feel overwhelming, we exclaim, "I can't deal with this!" but in reality, if we truly couldn't deal with it, Hashem would not have brought it our way. Our potential for greatness is waiting to be actualized, if we will only rise to the occasion.

This perspective should energize us and fill us with much more positive feelings about the challenges we face in life. Hashem is not testing us because we did something wrong or because He has turned His back on us (G-d forbid). On the contrary, it is a form of Hashem's "tough love," pushing us to actualize our potential and bring out those awesome strengths that lie within.

May Hashem bless us with the wisdom and skill to access those great powers within and pass all of life's tests with flying colors.

Good Shabbos,  
Rabbi Yosef Alt