

הָאֲזִינוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֲדַבְרָה וְתִשְׁמַע הָאָרֶץ אֲמַרִי כִּי: ספר דברים פרק ל"ב פ"א

Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; and may the earth hear the words of my mouth.

When the Great Maggid of Mezritch ZY"A, was once away from home studying at the Heilige Ba'al Shem Tov ZY"A, he expressed his wish to his Rebbe to return home to his family that was awaiting him. The Great Ba'al Shem Tov requested that he stay longer. After some time, The Ba'al Shem Tov gave the Maggid permission, and explained his actions as follows. Just as Moshe Rabbeinu said "Hazienu hashomayim vo'adabeiroh, etc., If the heavens listen I will speak, etc. so too said the Baal Shem Tov, as long as you my Talmud [student] is listening to my words, I will be a wellspring to utter the words of Torah of Hashem.

- Mipi Hashmu'oh

שׁוֹבָה יִשְׂרָאֵל עַד ה' אֶלְקֶיךָ כִּי כָשַׁלְתָּ בְּעֹנֶךָ: ספר הושע פרק יד פ"ב

Return, Israel, unto Hashem your G-D, for you have stumbled because of your sin. [Hoshea 14:2]

This Shabbos is called Shabbos Shuvoh, as such starts the Haftoroh. It is also called Shabbos Teshuva [Repentance], as it is the Shabbos of Aseres Yimei Teshuvoh [Ten Days of Repentance]. It is noteworthy that this Possuk is not only read in this weeks Haftoroh, it is also read in the Haftoroh of Parshas Vayeitzei, and in Sephardic communities also on Tisha B'Av at Minchah - May it become a Yom Tov speedily. At the Oifruf, on Parshas Vayeitzei, of Rav Yankel Horowitz Shlit"a - Rav of Telshe Minyon BP, Rosh Yeshivas Beis Meir, The Ponivisher Rov ZT"L was Mechubod [honored] with the Aliyah of Maftir and Haftoroh. As is the Minhog [custom] in that Shul, the Oleh leined the Haftorah out loud. When the Ponivizsher Rov ZT"L, reached the Possuk of "Shuvoh Yisroel ad Hashem Elokechoh", tears started to stream from his down his face, as thou it was Shabbos Shuvoh. If so, surely on Shabbos Shuvoh itself one must utilize the moment to its proper level.

- Story heard by Reb Lipa Friedman Shlit"a

ברכת גמר חתימה טובה

שנת גאולה וישועה לנו ולכל ישראל אכ"ר  
תחיל שנה וברכותי - ת'הא שנת פ'ורקנה א'מן

וְשָׁמְרוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת הַשַּׁבָּת לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת הַשַּׁבָּת לְדֹרְתֵם בְּרִית עוֹלָם: בְּיָמֵי וּבְיַם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֹת הוּא לְעַלְמֵם כִּי שֵׁשֶׁת יָמִים עָשָׂה ה' אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שָׁבַת וַיִּנְפָשׁ: שְׁמוֹת פִּלְא פִּטְ"ז - י"ז

The Children of Israel shall observe the Sabbath, observing the sabbath throughout the ages as a covenant for all time: it shall be a sign for all time between Me and the Children of Israel. For in six days Hashem made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He ceased from work and was refreshed. [Shemos 31:16-17]

As this Shabbos is Shabbos Shuvoh - the Shabbos of Repentance, one must make a viewing if his Shabbos observance is as it should be, and he is now given a chance to rectify it. To this note we will relate a story, I heard from Rav Binyomin Adler Shlit"a, of Yerusholayim, of a Kotzker Chossid who at an elderly age gave his Tefillin to a Sofer [scribe], to have them checked to be Kosher. After the inspection, the scribe gave him the sad news that since his Bar Mitzvah he had not practiced the Mitzvah of Tefillin, as they were not Kosher. The Kotzker Chossid broke out in a dance, and exclaimed happily, "until now unfortunately I did not perform the Mitzvah of Tefillin, but NOW I will be able to, for the rest of my life"!!! As Shabbos and Tefillin are both an "Ois" - a sign, [and therefore Tefillin is not worn on Shabbos], so too we can be more careful, in our observance, respect, and honor of Shabbos. The one key to know is, as in the above story to make an acceptance NOW. As we must also repeat the words of the Ramba"m [Maimonides], Ho'omer echteh vi'oshuv, ein maspikin biyodo lasos Teshuvoh [He who says I will sin and repent, he is not given the chance to repent]. Teshuvoh is a gift from Hashem, let us utilize it! Tefillin! Shabbos! Geshmack!!! - Wonderful!!!

יוצא לאור ע"י מכון בית צדיקים - שידלוב סטאשוב

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Gemar Chasimoh Toivoh

Ah Guttin Shabbos - Rabbi Naftali H. Ganzweig