

ב"ה

CONGREGATION BETH JACOB OHEV SHOLOM

Founded 5630/1869

Weekly Daf HaTorah

Parashat Shmini

Lev.: 9:1 – 11:47

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דברת בם

ViDibarta Bam/And you Shall Speak of Them: Thoughts on the Weekly Parsha

– by Rabbi Yehoshua Mizrachi

“If any of these dead [animals] falls on a vessel, it will become unclean.... That article must be immersed in a mikveh ...” (Lev. 11:32)

What is source of the amazing power of the mikveh to transform that which **Tameh** into that which is **Tahor**?

The very act of immersing ourselves in water contains a profound psychological lesson. All ethical defects, flawed character traits and misguided opinions stem from the same fundamental mistake: not recognizing that life in this world is transitory.

Unlike the Nations of the World, who are described by the Maharal as **Bnei Olam Hazeh**, as denizens of this world, we Jews are described as **Bnei Olam Haba**, as denizens of the World to Come. For the Nations, this world is truly their turf; they bask in and savor the unalloyed physicality of earthly existence. And when spiritual seekers among the Nations do yearn for spirituality, the most they can achieve is to imbue some small measure of spirituality into their rooted experience of the physicality of life.

But we Jews aren't from here; we are only passing through this sphere of existence. We are spiritual beings having a temporary physical experience. Therefore, whatever we find here of value should only be utilized for its eternal value.

When we immerse ourselves in water, we are forced to recognize our existential estrangement from the physical universe. How long can we survive under water? The experience of submerging ourselves drives home the realization that our existence in this world is transient, and we should strive towards more enduring goals.

- Shabbat Shalom

News & Announcements

The rummage collection is going well, but we are still collecting items for rummage - clothes, shoes, baby items, electronics, etc. Please see Mr. Needelman or Rabbi Mizrachi to donate.

We will also need six or seven volunteers on a Sunday morning. Please volunteer make this fundraiser a big success for our shul!

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut

This Thursday, April 19, is Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.

Please join Rabbi Mizrachi for lunch at at Pita Express for falafel and Divrei Torah to celebrate this important event!

BOARD MEETING

This Sunday April 15, 9:30 AM

MEMBERSHIP MEETING & ELECTION OF OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

This Sunday April 15, 11:00 AM

To sponsor the weekly Daf HaTorah please contact Rabbi Mizrachi at rabbi@congbjos.org Only \$25 - such a deal!