

Zmanim

קבלת שבת

London 8:55

Manchester 9:13

מוצאי שבת

London 10:18

Manchester 10:37

# חזון בני

ח' אב תשפ"א

שבת חזון - פ' דברים



## EMUNOH IN THE PARSHA



ה' אלוקינו דיבר אלינו בחורב

(דברים א:ו)

The **Chidushei HoRim** zy"l famously said that *Shabbos Chazon* is a time of great closeness to the *Ribono shel Olom* and an opportune time to *daven*. However, we know that the Shabbos before any event contains all the elements of that event (for example the Shabbos before Yom Kippur which is *Shabbos Shuvoh* or before Pesach, *Shabbos Hagadol*). So how can the Shabbos before Tisha B'Av be a good time?

The **Alexander Rebbe, Reb Henech** zy"l, explained that when a father has to send his son away, before he leaves, he gives him a hug and holds him close. Tisha B'Av is sadly a day when Klal Yisroel became more distant from Hashem. But it was for our ultimate benefit and only because of Hashem's love for His children. And so, on the Shabbos preceding this separation, Hashem holds us even closer. This, says the **Tiferes Shlomo** zy"l, is how we can understand the *posuk* mentioned above: Hashem speaks to us "בחורב", even at a time of *churban*; in fact, especially at a time of *churban*. *Golus* is not *chas vesholom* a rejection of Klal Yisroel. On the contrary, it helps us improve and thereby survive. But the separation is painful. So prior to this pain, we are given a special Shabbos, when in many ways Hakodosh Boruch Hu comes closer to us than at any other time, providing us with an opportunity to draw close to Him through our *teffilos*, may they be answered speedily in our days:

יהי רצון מלפניך שתעלנו בשמחה לארצנו...

## EMUNOH IN THE SIDDUR



שעשה לי כל צרכי

The *brocho* of *SheOsoh Li Kol Tzorki* is said with reference to our shoes. Shoes are a vital part of life. Unlike animals, we have sensitive feet and need to protect them to be able to walk outside. Put simply, without shoes we are unable to function properly as humans, which is why the *gemoro* (Shabbos 129) says that if need be, one should sell the beams of his house in order to buy shoes.

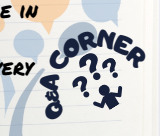
An *ovel* who is sitting *shiva* may not wear shoes, therefore on Tisha B'Av, when we are all *aveilim*, we don't wear shoes either. This is a sign of humility, as without shoes we are unable to accomplish much. It is this *anovo* that brings us to a sense of *teshuva*, which is the ultimate goal of the *taanis* and which *iyH* will usher in the era of *Moshiach*.

As such, there are those (notably the *Gr"o*) who hold that this *brocho* should not be recited on Tisha B'Av, as it is a day when we don't wear shoes. Rather one should make the *brocho* after the *taanis* when he has put his leather shoes back on.

**Q: AFTER A RECENT SPORTING EVENT, MY FRIENDS AND I WERE VERY UPSET. IS THAT WRONG?**

**A: YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE TO ASK US THIS QUESTION! THE CHOFETZ CHAIM ZT"l SAYS PSHAT IN THE HADRAN WE SAY AT A SIYUM: אנו עמלים ומקבלים שכר והם עמלים ואינם מקבלים שכר - "THOSE WHO TOIL IN TORAH ARE REWARDED BUT PEOPLE TOILING IN SECULAR WORK ARE NOT". OF COURSE THE SECULAR WORLD IS ALSO REWARDED - THEY GET PAID AFTER ALL. BUT THEY ARE ONLY REWARDED FOR RESULTS,**

**NOT FOR TOIL, NOT FOR EFFORT. IN RUCHNIYUS, THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE. WHEN YOU "SHVITZ" OVER YOUR GEMORO, EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T FULLY UNDERSTAND IT, YOU ARE FULLY REWARDED BECAUSE YOU TRIED. THE RECENT EVENT YOU REFER TO, PROVES THE FUTILITY OF THE WORLD OUTSIDE TORAH. IN THAT WORLD, THERE IS ONLY JOY IF YOU WIN, NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRIED OR HOW FAR YOU CAME, MUCH BETTER TO INVEST YOUR TIME IN RUCHNIYUS, WHERE YOU'RE A WINNER EVERY TIME...**



## EMUNOH IN OUR CHACHOMIM



**Rav Yitzchak Zilber** zt"l, whose *yohrzeit* is on Tisha B'Av, was born in 1917, several months before the Russian Revolution. In those years, it was virtually impossible to live as a Jew, and if you were caught in the act, the consequences were horrifying. His father, a *Talmid Chochom*, realised that his son was being born in a time of *shmad*. As such, he refused to enrol him in a state school and instead taught him Torah secretly at home, teaching everything he would need to know to be self sufficient as a *shomer Torah Umitzvos*.

Rav Silber's life was nothing short of remarkable. Most of his life was lived under the daily inhumanity, tyranny, suppression and cruelty of Soviet Communism. However, with remarkable *emunoh* and *bitochon*, he managed to live a life of courage, perseverance and *mesirus nefesh* completely infused with *yiras shomayim*. Along the way, he became a famed mathematician, and spent ample time in Stalin's gulag, for living according to his beliefs.

He worked as a maths teacher in a Soviet school, which of course functioned on Shabbos. He said about himself, that in over thirty years of having to do so, he was never once *mechallel* Shabbos, neither *de'oraysa* nor *derabonon*, employing all manner of trickery and subterfuge to avoid *meloch*.

In 1972, he was allowed to emigrate to Eretz Yisroel, where he spent the rest of his years teaching Torah and influencing fellow Russian Jews (who had been robbed of any semblance of a Torah education), to return to a live a life of Torah and Mitzvos. Many people regarded him as being one of the *lamed vov tzadikim*, with so many of his *maasim tovim* being hidden from the public.



**CHURBAN YERUSHOLAYIM**  
 UNDERSTANDING THE LOSS  
 תשעה באב

EXPLANATORY KINNOs WITH R' SILKIN + R' ROODYN  
 SUNDAY 18TH JULY: 11AM - 1PM



## EMUNOH IN OUR LIVES

At this time of year, when we try to focus on **בין אדם** לחבירו, our **אמונה** should also be focused on ourselves and on the unique greatness of Klal Yisroel:

*Adapted from R. Dovid Kaplan shlit"a*

One erev Pesach morning, Mr Leibowitz\* was walking home from shul, when he noticed someone had thrown out a dining table together with his *chometz*. He had a good look at the table and although it was quite worn, it still looked usable. He made a note of the address and when he got home he dialled the house.

"I saw your table. Are you getting rid of it? Can I take it?" he asked.

"I wouldn't if I were you, it's quite damaged" came the reply.

"It looked fine to me" he said.

"I really wouldn't advise it".

And so Mr Leibowitz shrugged his shoulders and gave up.

3 hours later, a delivery truck arrived at the Leibowitz family front door with a brand new dining table. The neighbour had correctly assumed they couldn't afford a table of their own...