**Some Questions to Ponder:**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat, which reading touched your heart and fired your imagination?

I was touched by the Hakham’s commentary and especially his explanation of the violence of the fourth century which led to the eradication of the Nazarean movement.

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 31:32?

**The plunder which was in addition to the spoil…** - Why does scripture express it this way? Why were these detailed separately?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 31:48?

**The officers** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: הַפְּקֻדִים?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 32:17?

**We will then arm ourselves quickly** – What is the intent of this pasuk?

**before the children of Israel** – What does it mean to go before them?

**Our children will reside** – When will they reside?

**in the fortified cities** – What fortified cities are being spoken of here?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 32:24?

**for your sheep** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: לְצֽנַאֲכֶם?

**and what has proceeded from your mouth you shall do** – What is included in this statement?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 32:36?

**fortified cities and sheepfolds** – What does this pasuk relate to?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 32:38?

**Nebo and Baal-Meon** – Why are these names mentioned?

**and Sibmah** – What do we learn from this name?

1. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B’Midbar 32:42?

**and called it Nobah** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: לָה?

1. What implicit teachings are given in the text of B’Midbar 32:42?

Novach literally means ‘to bark’ and thus cannotes a dog. The teaching then is an enjoinder against talebearing and informing on a fellow Jew to the heathens.

Dr. Elizabeth Oakley:

1. Any Jew that betrays his brother or his brother’s property sins greatly

2. It teaches against talebearing and informing on a fellow Jews to the heathens

3. We must refrain from evil by holding our tongues.

4. An informer has not part in the world to come.

5. A man must fulfill his obligations toward his fellowman just as he is obligated to do to God.

1. What four features are necessary when crafting legally binding stipulations as taught in B’Midbar 32:28-30?
2. It must be a double stipulation.
3. The affirmation clause must precede the the nullification clause.
4. The condition is to be specified before the intended transaction itself is affirmed.
5. The stipulated condition must be such that it can be fulfilled.
6. In your opinion when were or will be fulfilled the prophecies of the Master in Mark 13:9-20? Please provide reasons for your answer.

They will be fulfilled after all have had a chance to accept the mesorah. This is explicit in the text. Additionally, the past provides a preview from the the days of Antiochus Ephiphanes who set up an abmoination in the holy place – in the winter, at Chanukah. Since this event happened before Yeshua spoke, it seems to be the model for the master’s allusion.

Walter Oakley: The events will take place in the future. The sum of historical events demonstrates that the “abomination of sacrilege” has only superficially been accomplished. Therefore, the events of the future must include an “abomination of sacrilege” greater than the events of Antiochus IV during the Maccabean period.

To say exactly “when” these events would take place is a matter of conjecture.

However, it would seem self-evident that the Mesorah of Messiah would be taught to all nations before these events took place.

1. Why does the text of Mark 13:14 “let the reader understand” connect to Daniel’s “abomination of Desolation”?

Because Daniel also spoke of such an abomination and we connect because of the sixth rule formulated by R. Hillel: **Ka-yoze bo mi-makon aher**: Similarity in context to another scriptural passage.

1. Why is Mark 13:9-20 anchored in the special Ashlamatah more than in the rest of the readings?

Because the emphasis for this period of time is the consolation found in the special Ashlamatah.

Walter Oakley: I believe that Hakham Tsefet wants us to know that Yeshua is the Messiah and his messianic mission is the of Menaḥem.

1. In your opinion what is the intent of Hakham Tsefet’s pericope by the hand of his scribe Mordechai (Mark) for this Shabbat?

To encourage us to ‘stay the course’ despite the storms that are coming.

Dr. Elizabeth Oakley: Hakham Tsefet is reminding the people that even though these troubled times are coming; the people must look past them to see the salvation of the righteous/generous by the hand of their G-d.

1. In what way does the Torah, Psalm, Prophetic reading of Malachi, and Mark 13:9-20 point to the fact that this is the first of seven Sabbaths of Consolation?

**Torah** – Reuben and Gad are consoled concerning their families and flocks. The other tribes are consoled because they will have help in subduing the land.

**Psalm** – The Israelites were consoled by the destruction of the Egyptians and by HaShem’s constant destruction of the wicked in their midst in order that the rest should not be deceived.

**Isaiah** 49 / 50 – Israel is consoled concerning their ultimate redemption and that they will always have teachers who will teach them the truth.

**Mark** – The use of words of consolation like ‘do not worry’ and by telling us ahead of time when we are to flee to safety. Finally, we are consoled by the words that tellus that He will cut short our days of tribulation.

Walter Oakley:

**TORAH**

He memorialized the great Day of Judgment and made propitiation for their souls Targum 31:51

**PSALM**

G-d saved them from their enemies v 10

G-d sent emancipation for the soul v 15

**PROPHETS**

The L-rd helps me 50:7

**MORDECHAI**

Yesha’yahu 40:9, 13, 14, 16, 19-20, 22-23 – Mark 13:9, 10-11, 14, 19-20

1. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and imagination of the Psalmist for this week?

The tribes of Reuben and Gad in their future battles are on his mind as well as the tribes who have just returned from battle. He looks to the past to see the deliverances that are possible. He also speaks of their end should they be wicked by looking at what happened in the past when they turned away from HaShem. This seems to be a warning that they should remain focused in their future battles.

1. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and the imagination of the prophet this week?

The tribes of Reuben and Gad in their future battles are on his mind as well as all the tribes who have just returned from battle. The Prophet speaks of HaShem’s deliverence of His warriors. He also seems to allude to the Phineas the Priest who taught and accompanied them.

1. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and the imagination of the prophet in the Special Ashlamata?

The Prophet seems to be using the victory against the Midianites as a backdrop for the ultimate redemption.

1. What part/s of the Torah Seder, Psalm, and the prophets fired the heart and the imagination of Hakham Tsefet for this week?

**Torah Seder**

B’Midbar 32:18. **We shall not return to our homes until each of the children of Israel has taken possession of his inheritance**.

Mordechai 13:15. Then the one on the housetop should not go down into the house to remove anything from his house; 16.And the (one) in the field should not turn back to remove his clothing.

**Tehillim**

Psalm 106:8. And He **saved** them for His name's sake, to make known His might.

Mordechai 13:13. And (you will be) hated by everyone because of my name. But only those who keep (and teach the Mesorah) until they achieve the goal will be whole (experience Shalom).

**Ashlamatah**

Yesha’yahu 50:4. The Lord God gave me a tongue for teaching, to know to establish times for the faint [for His] word; He awakens me every morning, He awakens My ear, to hear according to the teachings.

Mordechai 13:10. First (or, as a matter of first priority), my Mesorah must be proclaimed to all the nations (Gentiles).

**Special Ashlamatah**

Yesha’yahu 40:9, 13, 14, 16, 19-20, 22-23 – Mark 13:9, 10-11, 14, 19-20

1. After taking into consideration all the above texts and our Torah Seder, what would you say is the general prophetic message from the Scriptures for this coming week?

Focus on doing the right thing and do not be detered by the events that surround us. Look to what has happened and realize that HaShem saves the righteous / generous and He will punish and destroy the wicked.

Dr. Elizabeth Oakley: Acts of generosity and righteousness will overcome any test or trial. God’s protection is always upon the righteous. By following the commandments, studying the Torah and aiding mankind with righteous/generous acts, we will have God’s attention.

Psa\_33:18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

Walter Oakley: Any Jew who is guilty of betraying either Jewish property or a Jewish person to a heathen or a heathen tyrant, even if he does not actually do this in person but merely indicates to the heathen where they may be located, has sinned very greatly.

The Jewish community must ALWAYS look to ITSELF for any problems, which arise. It is forbidden to look to Gentiles for solutions to our problems, which would arise within the Jewish community. In these coming weeks of “Nahmu”, we MUST work on the strengthening of the Jewish community.

Hakham Haggai: Never give up! Don’t waste time because then our lives will be wasted.