**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which verse or verses impressed your heart and fired your imagination?

I was impressed by the final statement: **It is the duty of every Nazarean Jew to live by the words of the Hakhamim with regard to judgments and rulings for the benefit of the the local congregation and ultimately all Yisrael.**

This suggests that we are speaking about ***relationships***, not about rules per se.

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 25:19?

**And these are the generations of Isaac the son of Abraham**: Who are these “generations”?

**Abraham begot Isaac**: Why are we told this information?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 25:21?

**prayed** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: וַיֶעְתַּר?

**accepted his prayer** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew word: וַיֵעָתֶר

**opposite his wife** – How were they opposite?

**accepted his prayer** – What do we learn from this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 25:23?

**And the Lord said to her** – How was she told?

**Two nations are in your womb** – What do we learn about these ‘nations’?

**and two kingdoms** – Does the Hebrew word לְאֽם always means a kingdom?

**will separate from your innards** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

**will become mightier than the other kingdom** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 25:26?

**And afterwards, his brother emerged, etc.** – How is this to be interpreted?

**Esau’s heel** – What kind of a sign is this?

**and he named him Jacob** – Who named him?

**sixty years old** – How is this derived?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 25:30?

**Pour into [me]** – How was this accomplished?

**some of this red, red [pottage] red lentils.** – What is to be learned from this description?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 25:31?

**Sell me as of this day** – What is the meaning of this pasuk?

**your birthright** – Why did he want the birthright?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 25:34?

**and Esau despised** – Was Esau wicked?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 26:5?

**Because Abraham hearkened to My voice** – When did he do this?

**and kept My charge** – To what is this referring?

**My commandments** – To what is this referring?

**My statutes** – To what is this referring?

**and My instructions** – What does this include?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 26:35?

**a vexation of the spirit** – What is the meaning of this Hebrew phrase: מֽרַת רוּחַ?

**to Isaac and to Rebecca** – Why were they a vexation?

1. What determinate Halakhah is found in Mark 3:1-6‎?

As Nazarean Jews we must state that the Torah is a means to Live by! However, to fully understand these matters we emphatically assert that the Nazarean Jew must seek the council of a Hakham in such matters before taking any course of action!

1. How do we know that the Patriarchs irrespective of gender perfumed themselves?

It is written, *Myrrh and aloes, and cassia are all your garments,* In Psalms 45:9.

1. Why was it not befitting for Isaac to reside out of the land of Yisrael?

Because he was a perfect burnt offering and residing outside of Eretz Israel does not befit him.

1. How do we know that Isaac tithed to his Torah Teachers Shem and Eber?

Our Sages expounded [on the verse referring to Isaac, which says], *And he found in that ‎year a hundredfold*,[[1]](#footnote-1) that he measured the produce for the purpose of tithing,[[2]](#footnote-2) **since the patriarchs were the generous ones of the peoples,[[3]](#footnote-3)** **giving tithes to the poor or the priests of God, such as Shem and Eber and their disciples,** just as it is said, *And he was a priest of the most high ‎God*.[[4]](#footnote-4) ‎

1. How is Psalm 19 connected to the minor festival of Tu B’Ab?

Psalm nineteen is also connected to this time of the year, as we can see from the following Gemara.

***Yoma 72b*** *Resh Lakish said: From the body of the same passage this can be derived: If he is meritorious, it tests him unto life; if not, it tests him unto death.[[5]](#footnote-5) The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.[[6]](#footnote-6) R. Hanina said: This refers to one who studies the Torah in purity. What does that mean? — He marries a woman and afterwards studies the Torah.[[7]](#footnote-7)*

Now, the above Gemara connects our psalm with marriage and Torah study. This is a very interesting combination that has direct relevance to this time of the year (Tu B’Ab). Recall that this psalm was not arbitrarily chosen. This psalm is a commentary on our Torah portion by David. Because our Torah portion, in the septennial / triennial lectionary, is intimately tied to the time of the year, this psalm is also intimately connected with the time of the year.

1. There are seven Sabbaths of Strengthening/Consolation and there are seven Paqidim (officers) in the congregation. Who of the seven officers is addressed this Shabbat by the Special Ashlamatah for the second Sabbath of Strengthening?

Ministry: Sheliach [Chazan/Bishop]

1. What consolation/s (strengthening/s) are offered in the readings for this very special Sabbath?

A promise to be remembered in v.15 + 16.

1. ‎Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this ‎week?‎

Seek the avodah of HaShem by serving the Hakham and the Torah.

1. Further, Verse 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Beresheet Rabba 64:6. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Psalms 47:10. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Above, 14:18. Reference is to Melchizedek, whom tradition identifies as Shem, the son of Noah. See Ramban, ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. It tries and refines him, so that he lives a finer life. It tries him by suffering, which ultimately destroys him. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Psalm 19:10 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. So that he is undisturbed by impure thoughts. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)