# Av 27, 5771

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

Hakham Tsefet and his amazing genius…

**Lloyd Nelson:** Pirqe Abot V:12, In that, whatever lot we are given in our ability to study and learn Torah, we can still be triumphant by making the effort necessary and never, never, giving up the struggle

**Dr. Elizabeth Oakley:** I liked Abarbanel’s Commentary on the Pirqe Abot. The attributes of the four types of students was very interesting. It reminded me of the four sons we read about in the Haggadah at Pesach.

**Lukas A. Nelson:** Numbers 35: 33b... the blood which is shed in the land cannot be atoned for except through the blood of the one who shed it. Ps. 106: 47. Redeem us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the Gentiles, to give thanks in Your holy name, to boast in Your praise. Isaiah 54: 16. Behold, I have created the smith who blows fire in coals, and produces a vessel for its worth; I have created the destroyer to destroy; Mark 13: 26. And then shall they be seeing the Son of Mankind coming in clouds with much power and glory.

His Eminence – the pollution of the land.

**2. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B‘Midbar 34:3?**

YOUR SOUTHERNMOST CORNER SHALL BE – Where does this refer to?

FROM THE DESERT OF ZIN – Where is the limit of the wilderness of Zin?

**Lloyd Nelson:** YOUR SOUTHERNMOST CORNER SHALL BE – Does this include the entire length, from east to west?

FROM THE DESERT OF ZIN – Which lands (areas) are included in this boundary?

**3. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B‘Midbar 34:4?**

THE BORDER THEN TURNS SOUTH OF MAALEH AKRABIM – What does the term וְנָסַב mean?

PASSING TOWARD ZIN – What does the Hebrew word צִנָה mean?

ITS ENDS SHALL BE –What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase תוֹצְאֽתָיו ?

IT SHALL EXTEND – How was this boundary extended?

**Dr. Elizabeth Oakley:** THE BORDER THEN TURNS SOUTH OF MAALEH AKRABIM – What is significant about using the term וְנָסַב or וְיָצָא?

PASSING TOWARD ZIN – How does the word צִנָה compare with מִצְרַיְמָה?

ITS ENDS SHALL BE – What is meant by the word תוֹצְאֽתָיו?

IT SHALL EXTEND – What are the positions of the boundaries?

**4. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B‘Midbar 34:7?**

NORTHERN BORDER – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase גְּבוּל צָפוֹן ?

FROM THE GREAT SEA TURN YOURSELVES TOWARD MOUNT HOR – How does this boundary extend from Mount Hor?

TURN YOURSELVES – What is meant by “turn yourselves”?

TURN YOURSELVES – Are there other possible meanings for this phrase?

**Lukas A. Nelson:** NORTHERN BORDER – What does: צָפוֹן גְבוּל mean?

FROM THE GREAT SEA TURN YOURSELVES TOWARD MOUNT HOR – What is important regarding Mt. Hor?

TURN YOURSELVES – Turn yourselves how so?

TURN YOURSELVES – What does this expression denote?

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pangaea

**5. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B‘Midbar 34:17?**

WHO SHALL INHERIT THE LAND ON YOUR BEHALF – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase לָכֶם?

**6. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B‘Midbar 35:4?**

ONE THOUSAND CUBITS ALL AROUND – How can this be?

**Lloyd Nelson:** ONE THOUSAND CUBITS ALL AROUND – Why does this say one thousand cubits, doesn’t it conflict with the next verse, which says two thousand cubits?

**7. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B‘Midbar 35:14?**

THE THREE CITIES – How does this relate to the balance of the cities of refuge among the Bne Yisrael?

**Dr. Elizabeth Oakley:** THE THREE CITIES – Which cities are these and where are they located?

**8. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B‘Midbar 35:25?**

UNTIL THE KOHIN GADOL…. DIES – How is all of this related to the Kohin Gadol?

WHO ANOINTED HIM WITH THE SACRED OIL – Who was anointed by the one who anointed him with the sacred oil?

**Lukas A. Nelson:** UNTIL THE KOHEN GADOL…. DIES – What are reasons this period rests upon the High Priest’s lifetime?

WHO ANOINTED HIM WITH THE SACRED OIL – What does this elliptical verse teach us?

**9. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B‘Midbar 35:33?**

AND YOU SHALL NOT CORRUPT – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase ולֹא-תַחֲנִיפוּ ?

**Dr. Elizabeth Oakley:** THE THREE CITIES – Which cities are these and where are they located?

**10. What question/s were asked of Rashi in B‘Midbar 36:4?**

EVEN IF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WILL HAVE A JUBILEE – How do we interpret this pasuk?

WILL HAVE A JUBILEE – How do we understand this Jubilee?

**11. In your opinion when were or will be fulfilled the prophecies of the Master in Mark 13:24-37? Please provide reasons for your answer.**

From Mordechai’s (Hakham Tsefet) present materials, we would surmise that the event DID NOT take place in the past. If the events occurred in a measure, they were only a rehearsal of things to come. Mordechai’s opening passage tells us that these things will occur AFTER the Birth Pangs.

**Lloyd Nelson:** When we see the things spoken of, in not only this pericope, but also the previous ones related to this topic, we have the indications that His Majesty is at the door. Although the return of Messiah ben David is not determined by our alertness, HaShem in His mercy, for His Elect, has tipped His hand as to what to watch for. It seems to me if that time is not fast approaching their might not be much to return for (will I find Faith on the earth), but that to has also been prophesied.

**12. Why is the phrase ―REMAIN FOCUSD repeated 3 times in Mark 13:32-37?**

EACH servant has his or her appointed task and duties. These tasks are of preeminent import. Therefore, we (servants of the master) MUST STAY FOCUSED on our appointed task. Focus on the duties and tasks of others OR, worrying about all these “SIGNS” will only serve as a distraction. Therefore, mental clarity and focus are COMMANDED!

**Lukas A. Nelson:** A head too oft in the clouds may make one’s mind feel foggy.

**Dr. Elizabeth Oakley:** Each time a word or phrase is repeated in the Torah it signifies the importance of its message. For the phrase, “remain focused” to occur three times shows us how very important this message is.

**Lloyd Nelson:** As in the pasuk, “Verily, Verily, I say unto you”, is an emphasis as to the importance of what is about to be said, in this case we have a triple repeat in this emphasizing the importance of this lesson.

In Mordechai 13: 33, the phase “STAY FOCUSED” is associated with watching, using discernment and prayer as the tools to use to not be caught off guard.

In Mordechai 13: 34, the phase “REMAIN FOCUSED” is associated with the work that was left in the charge of His servants to maintain His house (Body of Messiah). Since this was charged to the doorkeeper that would be a message to the Hakhamim.

In Mordechai 13: 35, the phase “STAY FOCUSED” is a call/command to everyone to stay on task to whatever one is appointed to perform.

**Chazaq! Chazaq! V’Nitchazeq!**

**13. In what way do the readings for this week are signaling clearly that we are about to enter a new month?**

By understanding the Biblical Calendar, we should interpret and count the weeks of Naḥmu. In so doing we will understand that this is the fourth week after the 9th of Av, therefore making this week the third week of Naḥmu. The third week of Naḥmu should always bring us relatively close to Rosh Chodesh.

**Lukas A. Nelson:** There is the readings for the Shabbat preceding the new moon, there is a sentiment for the beginning of new tasks and responsibilities, there is revisited emphasis on women and the end of a book, and there is speech involving the moon’s darkness and the return of the Messiah.

**14. In your opinion what is the intent of Hakham Tsefet‘s pericope by the hand of his scribe Mordechai (Mark)**

I believe that Hakham Tsefet’s point this week is two-fold.

The (present) Heavens and the earth will pass (come to an end) but my words (Mesorah – The Oral Torah) will not pass (become invalid).

Rather, (I) say to you, (I) command to everyone “STAY FOCUSED” [in your appointed task]. Which I believe can be summed in the statement, stay committed to Torah Study, teaching and practice.

**Dr. Elizabeth Oakley:** He is telling the people to stay focused. They should be busy doing what they have been called to do. Prophetically, he is intimating that that the time of the fulfillment of the Kingdom is at hand.

**Lloyd Nelson:** It is a warning to not have us caught off guard, as to the at the door signs of the return of our Messiah by the emphasis’ of being warned three time to stay and remain focused.

**Lukas A. Nelson:** I see the intent as to reveal to those curious that there certainly is prophesy accessible, but more importantly, there is always a job at hand and further wisdom to be searched for through study.

**15. In what way does the Torah, Psalm, Prophetic reading of Ezekiel, and Mark 13:24-37 point to the fact that this is the third of seven Sabbaths of Consolation?**

The cities of refuge depict the consolation and strengthening of G-d.

The Psalmist looks at the time of distress and rebellion then remembers that the L-rd will remember His Covenant with His people.

Ezekiel looks to the time when the people of G-d would no longer be defrauded.

Mordechai makes mention of the fact that the Moon will be darkened, a revelation of the coming of Messiah at the new moon. Which, as I noted in q 13 is related to the Biblical Calendar by dating the readings from the 9th of Av.

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

The Psalmist recalls the wickedness of the generation lost to the wilderness and contrasts that against those who are G-d’s faithful. Likewise, the Psalmist sees the coming dispersion and petitions G-d for His mercy calling for Yisrael to return.

**17. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and the imagination of the prophet Ezekiel this week?**

The Prophet looks at the Torah Seder and the apportioning of the land.

**18. What part of the Torah Seder fired the heart and the imagination of the prophet in the Special Ashlamatah?**

The consolation of the Prophet looked at the Bne Yisrael about to enter the land an saw righteousness being established where the Torah would be taught and practiced.

**19. 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

Mordechai connects to the Torah Seder immediately through the idea and concept of land inheritance and return as is found in B’Midbar 34:2 and Mordechai 13:27

## Tehillim

The Psalmist speaks of those who “mingled with the nations.” In similar tone Mordechai s[peaks of gathering the elect (Jews)from the farthest regions of the earth and nations. Tehillim 106 35Mordechai 13:27

## Ashlamatah Ezekiel

Defrauding G-d’s people Ezek. 45:8 and land are serious crimes. They receive a special punishment. Such peoples are excommunicated from the people of Yisrael and the environment of G-d. This relates to Mordechai 13:27 and then they will see the son of man.

## Special Ashlamatah New Moon

The New Moon theme is relevant to Mordechai in that he refers to the new moon via its darkening. 13:24

B’Midbar 28:1, 1 Sam 20:18 – Mordechai 13:24

## Special Ashlamatah Isaiah

The general theme of this special Ashlamatah corresponds perfectly with Mordechai’s them of ending tribulation. (Isa. 54:12 – Mordechai 13:24-27)

**20. 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?**

As servants of the master, we MUST STAY FOCUSED on our appointed task. Focus on the duties and tasks of others OR, worrying about all these “SIGNS” will only serve as a distraction. Therefore, we MUST maintain mental clarity and focus which are COMMANDED! Torah Focus

**Dr. Elizabeth Oakley:** I thing Mordechai says it all this week………… Stay Focused………..Do not allow anyone or anything to distract you from doing what you know to do.

**Lloyd Nelson:** Watch, pray, warn (protect), and be diligently faithful about our Fathers business.

**Lukas A. Nelson:** As the consolation period progresses, so too does the dire nature of those who are not being consoled at this time. There are continued reminders for the chosen to see the good while many will see only wrath. Find comfort in Remaining Focused with senses set for understanding.

Tiferet

(Beauty) - Yellow

Virtue: Rachamim (Compassion)

Ministry: Darshan or Magid [Prophet]