

Rosh Yeshiva & Community Rabbi:
Dayan Abraham David Shli"ta

Please Note: This Newsletter has Holy writings and should be disposed of in Geniza only.

PURIM 5780

(Tuesday 10th March 2020)

On the 14th of Adar, Tuesday 10th March 2020, we celebrate Purim, derived from the word 'Pur' which means lots. It recalls the lots Haman cast to find the most favourable day to destroy the Jews and how G-d reversed this tragedy and turned this day into one of salvation. Nothing happens to us by chance; even the 'lots' are indicated by G-d.

Our Rabbis tell us that Haman's decree came as a punishment for our taking part in the feast King Ahashverosh made for his subjects in Shushan. Mordechai warned his people not to attend the festivities of the 'goyim' - we are a people apart from the nations. We are an example to the world as one nation with a message of belief in G-d, who has revealed His will to us in the Torah. We must not assimilate or dilute the Torah we were given at Sinai. Attending the festivities of the 'goyim' and fraternising socially with them only endangers our purpose and in fact makes them repel and despise us.

There were Jews who argued with Mordechai and called him 'old-fashioned' when he warned them not to attend. They argued that by not attending they would be hated and singled out by the King, the solution was to socialise etc., then everything would be alright.

We can imagine how surprised and confounded they were when Haman's decree became law with the king's approval, as it says in the Megilla, 'Ve Ha-er Shushan Navocha', they were really mixed up. Only then did they realise how they were mistaken and the 'old rabbi' knew what he was talking about. At Mordechai's suggestion, they repented, mourned and fasted; thus the decree was annulled.

According to our Rabbis, the Festivities they attended started on the 3rd of Tishri, so the 7th day was on Yom Kippur. This was the only day they stayed away and on this day the seeds of salvation were sown. Ahashverosh became light-headed and commanded that Queen Vashti be brought before him dressed only with her crown. She refused and we know the result; she was dethroned and the door was opened for Esther to become queen and bring about the salvation.

As world events take place and great changes are made in the world, we see the Hand of G-d lead and protect the Jewish people through their trials and tribulations. We await the final redemption and the destruction of evil. AMEN

MI SHENICHNAS ADAR MARBIM BESIMCHA – 25th / 26th FEBRUARY 2020

ADAR is the time for happiness therefore if someone has a court case with a non-Jew, this is an appropriate month to have it.

Some Laws Concerning PURIM according to our Custom.

1) The Shabbat before Purim, (7th March 2020), Parshat Tetzaveh, is called Shabbat Zachor - all men are obliged by the Torah to hear the Perasha about Amalek which is read for Mafteter, as it says in the Torah, "**Remember what Amalek did to you**" "**Zachor et Asher asah lecha amalek**". **Even though women are not obliged to hear this being read in the Synagogue, they will be rewarded if they do so.**

2) Taanit Esther this year will be on Monday 9th March 2020 and Purim on Tuesday 10th March 2020. One should not eat before the hearing of the megillah unless he feels weak or faint.

3) Both men and women are obliged to hear the reading of the Megilla at night and again during the day. It is a mistake to think that it is enough to hear the one reading only at night. Children must also be trained in the Mitzvah. But one should make sure that young children brought to the synagogue do not disrupt the services.

4) The person who reads the Megilla for women after he himself has already heard it, does not make a Beracha on their behalf and nor do the women themselves. But, if he or another man has not heard the reading of the Megilla, then the Beracha before and after the reading should be said even if there is no minyan according to the Ben ish Hai.

5) The Megilla is unrolled completely and folded like a letter before it is read. This only applies to the reader and not the congregation.

6) The one who reads the Megilla must have in mind to include all those who listen and the listeners should intend to fulfil their obligation. They must pay complete attention and must not miss out one word. If one of the congregation doses off during the reading of the Megilla, he has to hear it again from where he missed. Every congregant should have a Megillah to follow even if it is only printed, so that if he missed hearing a word, or some words, he can read it from the printed book itself and catch up to where the Chazan is, thus he fulfils his obligation.

7) The congregants do not need to stand while the Megilla is read but it is customary to stand up while hearing the Beracha before and after the reading.

8) We only need to make the Beracha Sheheheyanu on the Megilla at night and we have in mind to include all the Mitzvot of the following day, i.e. the 2nd reading of the Megilla, the Matanot Le Evyonim the Shelach Manot and the Seuda. But if for some reason the Beracha Sheheheyanu was not said at night, it can be said for the reading of the morning.

9) At the end of the reading of the Megilla, we all say Arur Haman, Baruch Mordechai, Arura Zeresh, Berucha Esther, Arurim Kol Hareshaim, Beruchim Kol Yisrael, Ve Gam Harbona Zachor Letov as it is written in the Siddur.

10) Both men and women are obliged in the Mitzvah of Shelach Manot, i.e. to send no less than two kinds of food which can be eaten without further preparation to one person (two kinds should be in separate containers or packed separately). Shelach Manot must be sent to an adult but Matanot Laebyonim may be given to a katan (under bar mitzvah) if he is a poor person in need.

11) Matanot Laebyonim must also be given by both men and women. The obligation is to give at least £1:50p each to two poor people this must be distributed on the same day. The Yeshiva will facilitate this and plates will be placed on the Teva for this purpose. It is more worthy to give bigger donations to the poor than to spend greater amounts on Shelach Manot.

12) It is a Mitzvah to make a special Seuda on Purim and to drink wine on the day. One does not fulfil this mitzva if done at night. One should dress with Shabbat clothing or other fine clothes on Purim.

13) Al Hanissim is recited in the Prayers and in Berchat Hamazon on Purim but not on Shushan Purim, the following day. But on both days, we omit the Anah and Tachanunim.

14) A mourner, within the year for his parent and within a month for other family, should not be sent Shelach Manot (gifts) for Purim but he is obliged to send Shelach Manot to one person and to give Matanot to the poor. But Shelach Manot can be sent to his wife and children.

Mahasit Hashekel

This is given for Sedaka before or on Taanit Esther which falls on Monday 9th March 2020 as a remembrance of the Shekalim which were donated to pay for the offerings in the Temple, it can be given after this as well. The correct amount is about **£4:60** to cover the value of a half Shekal of silver for each person.

PARASHAT ZACHOR will be read on Shabbat Tetzaveh on 7th March 2020. This is an obligation from the Torah to hear this Parasha.

BETH KENESSETH TIMINGS FOR PURIM 5780

Monday 9th March 2020

	Fast of Esther
Ta'anit begins	4:48 am (according to some Poskim it starts at 5:15am)
Shaharit	6:50 am
Mincha (Birchat Cohanim)	5:25 pm
Ta'anit ends	6:36 pm
Purim Arbit followed by Megilla	6.45 pm

Purim Tuesday 10th March 2020

Shacharit followed by Megillah	7:30am
Special reading for Women	12:05 pm at 28 Wykeham Rd, NW4
Mincha	3:30pm
Sunset	5:57 pm
Nightfall	6:47 pm
Arbit	7:30 pm

**Matzot
Mitzva**

*Hand baked soft Sedarim Matzot Made according to our Tradition
KASHER LE-MEHADRIN - Under the supervision of
Dayan Abraham David of Od Yosef Hai
Baked in the ZADIK Bakery on the premises of the Yeshiva
Makes the eating of the required Shiur of Matzot on Seder night easier
To Order: Enter requirements on Yeshiva Notice Board
or Tel: 020-8202 8374 or Email: dayandavid@odyosefhai.com*