

# DAF TSAFON

22 March 2025  
22 Adar 5785

Shabbat Parah  
Parashat Vayakhel  
ArtScroll 516 Hertz 373



Our Parasha concludes the long process of building the sanctuary in the desert, the Mishkan. Finally, the people would have a central place to serve God. Our Parasha opens with the dedication ceremony performed by Aharon. As part of the ritual, God told Aharon to tell the Children of Israel to bring a he-goat (Seir Izim) for a sin offering [Vayikra 9:3]. What sin are they atoning for? Our Sages explain that this he-goat was intended as atonement for the sin of the sale of Joseph (during which the brothers dipped Joseph's coat into the blood of a he-goat, making it appear as if Joseph had been killed by a wild animal). Similarly, a calf was brought as a burnt offering (Korban Olah). The calf was intended to be atonement for the sin of worshipping the Golden Calf.

Why was the atonement only offered now, at the time of the final erection of the Mishkan?

Rabbi Zalman Sorotzkin, in his magnificent commentary on the Torah Moznaim LaTorah, explains that the sin of the sale of Joseph came about as a result of hatred between brothers, which stemmed from jealousy and sibling rivalry. In order for there to be atonement for a sin rooted in jealousy, more than a mere sacrifice was necessary. It was necessary to be able to correct the underlying bad character traits which caused them to sin in the first place.

The building of the Mishkan was something that mended the rift between various factions within the Jewish nation. The nation now had a central address and a central motif around which they could rally. Yes, each tribe may have their own interests and inclinations, but they now all had one supreme interest which overruled all their parochial and petty personal interests.

This is the reason why, when they travelled in the wilderness, the Mishkan was always in the centre of the camp. This was more than a convenient way of travelling, symbolic of the role that the Mishkan played in the nation. As long as the Mishkan was in the middle, all the Tribes could rally around one central idea and focal point.

One finds this same idea expressed in team sports. Professional athletes, for the most part, do not spend years refining their character traits. There is tremendous competition for fame, salary, statistical achievement, and so forth. All elements are present on these teams for constant internal strife. However, a good coach can motivate his players to set aside their squabbles and fights in order to rally around the goal of achieving a championship. Players do prove to be willing and able to sublimate their strong egos and desires for the personal headlines in order to win the championship. When team members feel that it is not worth it to sublimate those egos in order to win the title, then, in fact, they do not win the title.

There had been jealousy and hatred between the brothers and also between the various components of the Jewish people. Now, at last, there was a central rallying point, it was time to put away old rivalries and jealousies. This therefore was the appropriate moment in history to offer atonement for the sale of Yosef, caused by a personal rivalry that was now hopefully behind them.

Shabbat Shalom

Haftarah

ArtScroll 1216 Hertz 999

It could not be brought by an Israelite who was ceremonially unclean and the Haftarah stresses the importance of physical and moral purity.

Because Israel defiled the land through idolatry, says the prophet, they were scattered among the nations who assumed that God was unable to protect His own people. To vindicate his honour, He would restore them to their land, *'sprinkle clean water upon them'*, and implant a new heart and spirit. Cleansed of their iniquities, the land will become a Garden of Eden and all nations will recognize God's power.

The additional reading of the Law is taken from Numbers XIX, 1-22, which deals with the sacrifice of the Red Heifer and the ceremony of purification.

## מזל טוב

### Wedding anniversaries

Rachel and Yariv Abudy  
Audrey Balla and Peter Berman  
Arlaine and Anthony Berman  
Maximiliano and Alejandra Danielewicz  
Paul and Talya Lewin  
Ezra and Maureen Ravia  
Edgar and Pamela Stein  
Harold and Sandra Zev

## מזל טוב

### Bar Mitzvah anniversary

Max Lipski

## COMING... PRE-PESACH EVENTS

### SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, 11 April 2025

following the

Ma'ariv service at 6.30pm.

### SHABBAT LUNCHEON

Saturday, 12 April 2025

Shabbat HaGadol, Parashat Tzav.

Join us after the service.

**Our congregation acknowledges the following  
yahrzeit anniversaries and wishes long life to those  
who are commemorating a yahrzeit  
during the coming week.**

## חיים ארוכים

Yonah Leah Cohen	mother of Susan Davis
Rebecca Dobson	mother of Martin Dobson
Sydney Dobson	father of Martin Dobson
Margot Falk	mother of Monica Rock
Walter Flachs	father of Vivienne Beck, grandfather of Jacqueline Edwards and Tania Soulos
Isaac Fox	grandfather of Peter Gorfinkel
Leopold Franks	father of Stanley Franks
Fanny Lazar	mother of Vicky Rogut
Rebecca Lever	mother-in-law of Rachelle Lever
Sarah Levitan	mother of Brian Levitan
Chaim Sawicki	father of Leo Sawicki
Bella Stein	mother of Edgar Stein, grandmother of Terry Katz
Jack Stein	father of Leslie Stein