



Adelaide Hebrew Congregation News

Volume 12 Issue 1

December 2, 2011

Shabbat Details

- Friday night service
6.30pm
- Saturday morning
service 9:15am
followed by
Kiddush
- Times for Shabbat:

LC 7:56 PM

ends 8:59 PM

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Notices

- **Special thanks** to Michelle Cohen, Hinneri Madrichim , JAZY, and all the ladies who helped organized the beautiful Youth Shabbaton we had last week. Yishar Koach to you all!
- **Our Library Grows Again-**We were amazed and delighted when all the following new Art scroll publications arrived as an incredibly generous donation from Asher Milstein of Florida: 17 volumes of Talmud Yerushalmi, 4 volumes of Midrash Rabbah and Rubin's 3-volume edition of the early Prophets. **Thank you Mr. Milstein!**
- **Chanukah Candles are available from the AHC Shul shop.**
- **Massada speech night and farewell** - Sunday 6 December 4:30pm at Parkside primary school.
- **Chanukah communal picnic-** Wednesday 21 December Tusmore Park 6:00-8:00 pm Children's activity, BYO , and Candle Lighting.
- **Chanukah Minyanim-** first night Tuesday 20 December 7:00pm Mincha - Ma'ariv and candle lighting + Sufganiot.
- **Rosh Chodesh and Chanukah** Monday 26 December 7:00am .
- **AHC Office closure dates for New Year Period:** from **26/12/11** till **15/01/12**
- **Refuah Shlemah-** Nina Hassan , Tamar Kempf, Janette Ailion, Renato Hassan . If you know of anyone who is unwell, please contact the Rabbi or the office.

Please note -**New AHC office hours** :
Monday/Friday 9:00AM-3:00PM
Tuesday 12:30PM-4:30PM
Wednesday 9:00AM-1:00PM
Thursday Closed

Yahrzeits:

We wish the following members long life on their Yahrzeit:

Mrs. Dora Kabbani for son Jack Kabbani

Mr. Erwin Schwarz for mother Roza Schvarcz

Mr. Peter Yudkin for aunt Anne Williams



Parasha Vayetze

Thoughts of the week: The meaning of Ya'acov's dream of the ladder

Our Parasha starts with Ya'acov's departure from Be'er Sheva in Eretz Yisrael to Charan. Then Ya'acov is dreaming a very strange dream:

"He dreamt, and behold, a ladder was set earthward and its top reached heavenward; and behold, angels of G-d were ascending and descending on it." (Bereishit 28:12) Our Sages interpret this vision in Yaakov's dream in many different ways.

The *Midrash Tanchuma*, on this Pasuk, states that Hashem showed Yaakov the guardian angels of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Edom [Rome] ascending and descending the ladder. Hashem asked Yaakov why he was not ascending, but Ya'acov remained afraid and said that if the angels can fall, then so would he. Hashem told him that if he were to climb, he would not fall. However, Yaakov did not believe this, and did not climb.

In this *Midrash*, Chazal allude to one of the fundamental differences between *Bnei Yisrael* and the rest of the nations. The Divine Guidance, which governs from heaven the people of earth, differs totally in its relationship with Israel from its relationship with the rest of the nations. *Bnei Yisrael*, who are connected with and close to G-d, are guided directly by Him, whereas the rest of the nations, who are far from Hashem, are directed via G-d's angels and emissaries, not directly by G-d Himself.

This coincides with the *Ramban's* interpretation of the Pasuk, "Hashem, your G-d, has chosen you to be for him a treasured people" (*Devarim 7:6*), that Israel's destiny is guided by G-d and not by a ministering angel.

In another place, the *Ramban* (*Vayikra 18:25*) demonstrates that this idea is the link between the *Bnei Yisrael* and *Eretz Yisrael*. G-d, when creating the different nations and their lands, gave each of them a ministering angel to govern them, and He governs supreme above them all. *Eretz Yisrael*, however, was not given a ministering angel, but was given to the *Bnei Yisrael*, who are also governed solely by G-d Himself.

This idea is also found in the *Midrash* (*Devarim Rabbah 2:34*):

Rabbi Yitzchak opened with the Pasuk: "G-d is my portion," says my soul, therefore I have hope in Him." (*Eicha 3:24*). *R. Yitzchak* said: This is comparable to a king that enters a country with his dukes and advisors. Some of the citizens of the country chose a duke to govern them, while others chose an advisor. One smart man said, "I choose only the king, because the king remains, while everybody else passes."

Similarly, when G-d descended to Sinai, groups of angels accompanied Him. Michael came with his following, and Gavriel with his following. Some of the nations chose Michael to govern over them, while others chose Gavriel. *Yisrael*, however, chose G-d to rule over them. They said: "G-d is my portion," says my soul." This is [the meaning of], "Hear O Israel, Hashem is our G-d, Hashem is One."

Ya'akov refused to ascend the ladder because the ladder symbolizes guidance by the angels and emissaries. However, Ya'akov sought the direct leadership and guidance of G-d, which is the ideal for him and his offspring.

Closeness to Hashem without any intermediary is the true joy and the greatest pleasure that can be found. (*Mesillat Yesharim*, ch. I)

**Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Netanel Friedler**

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