



# Carnegie Shul Chatter

March 26, 2020



Shabbat

Shalom

Light Candles 7:29pm

Services cancelled

## The Eleventh Plague

Passover is just one week away, and we continue to suffer from the plague known as the coronavirus.

We are saddened by the fact that we will not have the family all at one table for the Seder, but please do not give in to temptation — follow the social distancing guidelines even on Pesach.

Passover is a holiday on which we give thanks for our deliverance from bondage in Israel. Below is an article from the South Florida Sun Sentinel discussing thanksgiving as it relates to this week's Torah portion, Tzav.

## Making Good Use of Your Time

Why is this year different from all other years? Well, this year we have the eleventh plague, Coronavirus.

Sometimes, when things are bleak, as they are now, I ask of God, "Why are you doing this? What have we done to deserve this?" But as bad as this is, mankind has survived much worse. Compared to the Holocaust, World Wars, the Black Plague, etc., this thing is not the worst that has ever happened. But that still does not make it easy. It is hard, and it is scary.

But being a slave in Egypt was hard and scary too, wasn't it? And God delivered our ancestors from bondage and took them to the Promised Land, didn't he?

And so with Passover upon us, the message today is not to lose faith.

We will get through this.

And let's give thanks for the blessings that we have.

Dayenu!

# Parsha Tzav: Giving thanks for the mundane

By Rabbi Avi Weiss,  
Sun Sentinel Correspondent  
Mar 30, 2020 | 1:31 PM

This week's Torah portion tells us that one type of peace offering (Shlamim) is known as the thanksgiving sacrifice (Todah). (Leviticus 7:12)

Rashi notes that this sacrifice was given after experiencing a special miracle. He specifies one who has endured a sea voyage, a trip through the wilderness, a prison stay or a recovery from an illness.



To this day, those who survive difficult situations are obliged to recite the thanksgiving benediction at the Torah (birkat ha gomel). Jewish law extends the obligation to include those who are saved from any type of peril.

For Ramban, the offering of thanksgiving at such exceptional times reminds us that all times are exceptional. Thus, God's intervention in the supernatural should give one a sense of God's involvement in the everyday. For example, from the splitting of the sea, an event in which God was so obviously manifest, one should come to recognize the input of God every day in containing waters within the boundaries of the sea shore. (Exodus 13:16) In the words of Nehama Leibowitz, "the unusual deliverances and outstanding miracles are there merely to draw our attention to the miracle of existence."

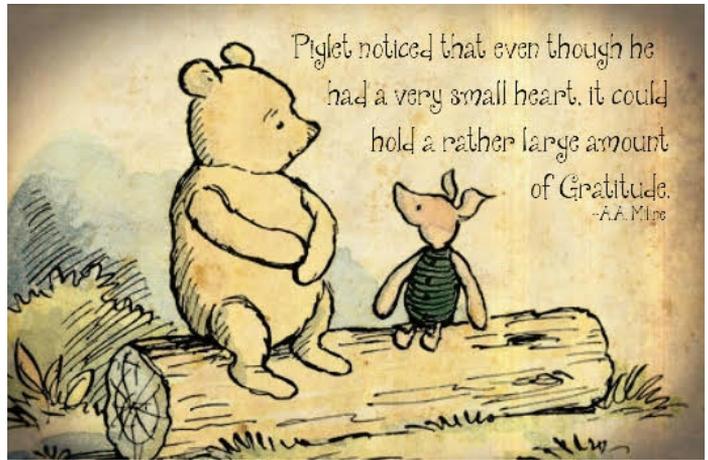
The idea that the natural is supernatural, deserving our gratitude, is found in the Dayenu sung at the seder. Some think Dayenu deals with our telling God that we have had enough suffering. In reality the song says the reverse. We say to God, had you only performed but a fraction of the larger miracle, it would have been enough. Dayenu is the quintessential statement of thanks to God.

The fact that the thanksgiving sacrifice is a type of peace offering is of great import. When giving to God, the human being achieves a level of inner peace. This is because love is not only a function of receiving, but also of giving.

How I remember writing to the Rav, Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik, upon his return to class after he lost his wife. After listening to his lecture (shiur), I was so taken that I wrote to him expressing my love and admiration. A few days later, he thanked me, but told me the note was unnecessary. I responded, "Rebbe I wrote the letter for you, but even more important, for

myself. I had a need to tell you, 'I love you.'" The Rav nodded and told me that he understood.

If only we would learn the message of the thanksgiving offering. To say the simple words to those who mean the most to us, but whom we often take for granted — words like todah, thank you, to our closest of kin and, of course, to God Himself.



## Bringing Israeli tourism into your home!

Last year's Passover broke Israeli tourism records. 1.5 million tourists flew in and out of Ben Gurion Airport, a record number of tourists visited and more Israelis than ever flew out to spend Pesach abroad. Who could have predicted that Israel's borders would be closed for Passover 2020 and that this year Israelis would not only be forbidden from travelling, but confined to their homes?

No industry has been hit harder by the coronavirus crisis than tourism: hotels shuttered, the airport empty, and tourists sites vacant. Equally, Israeli families find themselves with time on their hands. Yet, with a little creativity, you can entertain your family and support Israeli tourism by bringing some of the excitement, fun and beauty that their sites offer into your home. By thinking outside the box, innovative Israeli businesses are bringing their talent to you using the wonders of internet with remote virtual tours and deliveries of workshops and experiences they offer.

Can't get to historic sites to visit them? Let them come to you with virtual museum tours!

### The Ancient City of David

Until they can open their doors once again, the City of David is bringing Jerusalem to you with free premium content including family-friendly, inspiring and educational content such as virtual tours, short videos on the history of Jerusalem and archaeological discoveries, coloring pages, riddles and more. Visit: <https://www.cityof david.org.il/en/tours/summer>



## Beit Hatfutsot

The Museum of the Jewish People/Beit Hatfutsot in Tel Aviv, is offering a live virtual tour and a number of engaging activities for families during this period. The daily live virtual tour for groups of up to 50 people (via Zoom) explores their permanent exhibit including historic synagogues and artifacts from around the world, complemented by photo activities, family tree building and genealogy databases, photos from Jewish all over the world, and more. Visit:

<https://www.bh.org.il/staying-indoors-visit-beit-hatfutsot-home>.



## The Biblical Museum of Natural History

The Biblical Museum of Natural History is offering tours of their new museum building exclusively for a very special type of person: those who can't come! Their live online 50-minute programs are perfect for people who are unable to physically visit, and an ideal solution for the coronavirus lockdown. All you need is an internet connection. They will give you interactive tours of museum exhibits, during which you will be able to ask questions. It's the next best thing to actually visiting. Visit: <https://www.biblicalnaturalhistory.org/live>



## The Israel Museum

The Israel Museum is always a wonderful place to visit and now you can click to go on a virtual tour of the museum. They will be adding more on their website. Visit: <https://tours.imj.org.il/en>

