



Carnegie Shul Chatter

July 4, 2023



Light candles 8:35pm — Shabbat Services 9:30am

Shabbat Services

Join us in the sanctuary, providing you have been vaccinated for Covid 19, or attend virtually. Watch your email for a Zoom link or contact Rosalyn Hoffman at rjlynman@yahoo.com. The complete Torah reading, in Hebrew and English, can be found at https://www.chabad.org/parshah/torahreading_cdo/aid/2495776/jewish/Pinchas-Torah-Reading.htm

Something is Still Wrong

In this week's Haftorah, Elijah is awaiting the divine presence to appear before him. And, as the Haftorah says, "Elijah was instructed to leave the cave and stand on the mountain: "Behold! G-d's Presence will pass." There was a great and strong wind splitting mountains and shattering boulders, but Elijah realized that G-d was not in the wind. Then came an earthquake followed by fire, but again Elijah understood that not in the earthquake nor the fire was G-d. After the fire there was a subtle silent voice, and Elijah realized that the Divine Presence had appeared."

I hear many people ask today, "Where is G-d? Where are his miracles?" Some even opine that G-d must be dead because we don't see huge miracles like the parting of the Red Sea anymore, but we do see countless wars and tragedies.

But as this Haftorah tells us, G-d's presence does not have to be in earthquakes and fires. G-d's presence can come in the subtle silent voice as well. G-d's presence is all around us, if only we open ourselves to seeing it in the miracles that we many consider to be less significant because they are lacking sound and fury, but are daily with us nonetheless. Take everyday

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life itself for example. Here is a line in Macbeth that says of life, “It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

I beg to differ. Life is G-d’s greatest gift to us. It may sometimes be full of sound and fury, but it is even in the simplest of things in life that we can find Hashem’s presence, and that presence signifies everything that matters.



Pinchas in a Nutshell

From Chabad.org

Numbers 25:10–30:1

The name of the Parshah, “Pinchas,” refers to Phineas, who zealously avenged G-d’s name, and it is found in Numbers 25:11.

Aaron’s grandson Pinchas is rewarded for his act of zealotry in killing the Simeonite prince Zimri and the Midianite princess who was his paramour: G-d grants him a covenant of peace and the priesthood.



A census of the people counts 601,730 men between the ages of twenty and sixty. Moses is instructed on how the Land is to be divided by lottery among the tribes and families of Israel. The five daughters of Tzelafchad petition Moses that they be granted the portion of the land belonging to their father, who died without sons; G-d accepts their claim and incorporates it into the Torah’s laws of inheritance.

Moses empowers Joshua to succeed him and lead the people into the Land of Israel.

The Parshah concludes with a detailed list of the daily offerings, and the additional offerings brought on Shabbat, Rosh Chodesh (first of the month), and the festivals of Passover, Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret.

Haftorah in a Nutshell

I Kings 18:46–19:21.

The prophet Elijah is the main protagonist of this week’s haftorah. According to tradition, Elijah shared the same soul as Pinchas, the hero of this week’s Torah portion. They also both zealously fought on G-d’s behalf, while disregarding the dangers involved.



Following the showdown with the Baal prophets at Mount Carmel, which led to the execution of the Baal priests, the evil Queen Jezebel issued a death sentence for Elijah. Elijah fled to the Judean desert and asked G-d to take his life. While he slept, an angel awoke him and provided him with food and drink. Reenergized, Elijah went for forty days until he arrived at Mount Horeb (Sinai), and he slept in a cave on the mountain. And the word of G-d came to him and asked him for the purpose of his visit. "And [Elijah] said: 'I have been zealous for G-d, the Lord of Hosts, for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant. They have torn down Your altars and they have killed Your prophets by the sword, and I have remained alone, and they seek my life to take it.'"

Elijah was instructed to leave the cave and stand on the mountain: "Behold! G-d's

Presence will pass." There was a great and strong wind splitting mountains and shattering boulders, but Elijah realized that G-d was not in the wind. Then came an earthquake followed by fire, but again Elijah understood that not in the earthquake nor the fire was G-d. After the fire there was a subtle silent voice, and Elijah realized that the Divine Presence had appeared.

G-d asked Elijah again for the purpose of his visit, and Elijah repeated his earlier response. G-d instructed Elijah to go to Damascus and anoint Hazael as king of Aram and Jehu as king of Israel and to anoint Elisha as a prophet in his stead. These three would continue Elijah's battle against the Baal.

Elijah followed the instructions and he immediately found Elisha and recruited him as his aide and eventual successor.

Haftorah Commentary

By Reuben Ebrahimoff
"Haftorah Man"

To prove who is the real god to the Baal worshippers, Eliyahu's request for Hashem to perform miracles is answered at Mt. Carmel.

The connection of the Haftorah to the Parsha:

Pinchas and Eliyahu both acted zealously on G-d's behalf and were rewarded in return. In addition, there are many popular beliefs as to the relationship of Eliyahu to Pinchas. According to some, Eliyahu is in fact a "reincarnation" of Pinchas himself. Others believe that Eliyahu is Pinchas at a later stage of his life.

The storyline of this week's Haftorah:

The Haftorah begins with Eliyahu fleeing for his life from the wicked Queen Jezebel. She promised him an imminent demise for he had slain all of her precious false prophets that were proponents of Ba'al, a false G-d. He escapes into the wilderness and sits under the solitary tree there, begging Hashem to reclaim his soul. Hashem answers this suicidal cry by sending an Angel who brings food to Eliyahu and also sends a vision to him emphasizing the supremacy of His power. Hashem shows the following to Eliyahu in the vision: Wind, an Earthquake, and Fire. Hashem points out that none of these things aptly represent Him. Then a thin, still sound is heard, implying G-d's strength is not found in the obvious but even in the smallest, seemingly insignificant thing. Hashem then commands Eliyahu to go anoint the Kings of Aram, and Yisroel and anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat to be the prophet in his stead. Eliyahu fulfills G-d's commandment and the Haftorah concludes with Elisha as Eliyahu's apprentice.



Eliyahu's Biography:

- ◆ Lived around 875-850 B.C., 2850 years ago. He was known both as Eliyahu Hatishbi, and Eliyahu ha-giladi, from the Territory of Gilad.
- ◆ Was a student of Achiya Hashiloni. Eliyahu was a Great Prophet and priest of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Eliyahu was the leader of the sons of the prophets – The B'nai Haneviem.
- ◆ He had 4 Students: Michah, the Prophet and Rabbi of Isaiah the prophet; Jonah - One of the prophets in the Trey Assar; Ovadiah - One of the prophets in Tray Assar; Elisha – Elijah's disciple, he requested from Eliyahu a blessing to perform double the miracles and resurrections as Eliyahu.
- ◆ Was never married. He was zealous on G-d's behalf. He gained a reputation of appearing and disappearing like the wind. Eliyahu rose up to heaven in a chariot of fire led by horses of fire.
- ◆ His body was never separated from his soul so he still lives. He did not die because his mission was not completed. The Pasuk in Malachi clearly tells us "Behold I am sending you the prophet, before the great and awesome day of G-d." Eliyahu is the one who will be responsible to bring the Messiah.
- ◆ Eliyahu performed eight miracles in his lifetime. five of which were private miracles, and the other three public miracles.

Famous Phrases:

Melachim 1 19:12, “Kol dimamah dakah” “A hushed voice, a gentle whisper” (Some say this refers to the voice of Hashem). This phrase appears in the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Mussaf prayer of “Unetaneh Tokenf”

Haftorahman’s Lesson of the Week:

Do you have a successor? It is about continuity. Eliyahu ran away from Jezebel, and begged for his soul to be claimed, telling Hashem that he is ready to stop fighting Bnei Yisroel. Hashem understood Eliyahu’s desperation and so told him to prepare the successors. Hashem did not just tell Eliyahu to go anoint them, but to also take Elisha into his stead and teach him what must be done. It is always important for one to cultivate the younger generation because they will one day take over. From Rabbi to student, from parent to child, one must always remember to leave behind a legacy, and the way to do that is to invest all your knowledge into the next generation.

Yahrtzeits

This week the Carnegie Shul acknowledges the yahrtzeits of:

Dr. Harry W. Cooper
Bertrand Joseph Speizer
Harvey Srolovitz

Eva R. Weiss
Ruth Lee Roteman

May their memories be for a blessing.

Donations

The Carnegie Shul is most grateful for the following recent donations:

Howard and Shelly Miller
In memory of Lawrence I. Miller