

PRAYER

I met a stranger in the night
Whose lamp had ceased to shine

*I paused and let him light
His lamp from mine.*

A tempest sprang up later on
And shook the world about

*And when the storm was gone
My lamp was out.*

But back to me the stranger came:
His lamp was burning fine.

*He held me to his precious flame
And rekindled mine.*

Unknown

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

The attempt to silence a man is the greatest
honor you can bestow on him. It means
that you recognize his superiority to yourself.

Joseph Sobran



December 17, 2011

כ"א כסלו תשע"ב

Parashat Vayeshev - Genesis 37:1 - 40:23 (וישב)

Hertz – p 141

Stone – p 198

Haftarah – Amos 2:6 - 3:8 (עמוס)

Hertz – p 152

Stone – p 1142

Kiddush sponsored by Sisterhood
Special cake provided by
Sol & Michelle Segal
in honor of Judah's 6th birthday

Talmud Class with Rabbi Gordon 3:00 PM

Minchah - 4:10 PM

Shabbat Ends – 5:23 PM

Chanukah Sameach!

First Candle Tuesday Night December 20th

On This Week's Torah Portion

וישב

In *Parshat Vayeshev*, the focus of the story shifts from Jacob to Joseph. The story of Joseph is a fascinating one, and it sets the stage for the Exodus story. The story contains many valuable life lessons, and raises many questions as well. The most glaring question in my mind is why the Torah goes into such detail with the story of Joseph?

In Exodus, Chapter 12, Verse 2, G-d tells Moses and Aaron that "This month shall be for you the beginning of months..." The significance of this verse is that it is considered to be the first commandment given to the entire Israelite Nation. Many commentators ask why the Torah does not begin with this commandment. The most well known response is that the book of Genesis was necessary to establish that G-d had promised the land of Canaan to the Patriarchs, and the land belonged to the Israelite Nation. As a result, no other nation could accuse the Israelites of stealing the land following the Exodus.

This brings us back to the original question, why does the Torah go into so much detail regarding Joseph? Clearly, some elements of the story are needed, as the Torah needs to set the stage for the Exodus from Egypt. Yet, Joseph is not a Patriarch, nor did G-d renew the promise He made with the Patriarchs to Joseph. Furthermore, in the end, Judah would become the dominant tribe, and G-d's promise to the Patriarchs would seem to be ultimately fulfilled by the tribe of Judah, not the tribe of Joseph.

I had difficulty answering this question, yet I ultimately came up with a Zionist answer, which I often do. In essence, Joseph lived the American dream. He was a foreigner who went to Egypt with nothing, and rose to be the second in command of Egypt. Perhaps the Torah is teaching us that while G-d may bless us both individually and as a People outside the land of Israel, we shouldn't get too comfortable in the Diaspora. We should strive to return to the land that was promised to our Patriarchs while we are living, and not wait like Joseph, until only our bones can be buried in Israel.

*Shabbat Shalom,
Zumi Brody*

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 22-January 4 Office closed for vacation.

Motzei Shabbat, Jan 7 **Family Game Night**, 7:30 PM. Bring your family, your friends, your board games; play games, schmooze & nosh, plus annual ping-pong tournament. \$5/person, *advance payment required by Thurs Jan. 5.*

Sunday, January 8 **Stitch & Schmooze**, 10:00 AM

Sunday, January 15 **2nd Annual Anna's Soup Kitchen**, 5:30-7:00 PM. Soups 'n sides, \$12/person, \$48 family max (kids under 5 eat free). Carry-out available, \$3 additional /person. *Advance reservations required by Fri. Jan 6.*

Chanukah is here... When you link to Amazon.com **from our website (www.tradcong.org)**, Traditional earns a commission on your purchase. Go to the Traditional home page, click on [Our Shopping Partners](#) in the left margin, scroll down to the Amazon.com banner and click on it. Make your purchase as usual, and Traditional receives a percentage—all at no extra cost to you!

And speaking of gift-giving...Dierbergs sells gift cards for a wide variety of other stores and you can use the Dierbergs scrip you purchase from Traditional to buy those cards as gifts for family and friends. (Of course, you can buy scrip and give scrip cards as gifts as well.) There are so many ways to help Traditional earn 5% on your purchases at Dierbergs (and Kohn's, too)!

Do you have...A box at the Fox? A condo in the Ozarks? Tix to the Cardinals, Blues or Rams? A service you can provide? We need your donation of items or services for our **Silent Auction** which will be held in conjunction with our fabulous **Casino Night on February 11th**. Get creative! Call Jennifer Tobias at 636-532-6621 and let her know what you can contribute to our Auction.

DAILY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday morning – 9:00 AM

Monday-Friday mornings – 7:00 AM

Monday-Thursday evenings – 6:30 PM

Friday evening – 5:45 PM