

Parashas Toldos • November 20th • 4 Kislev 5781

 **Reminders**

Daf Yomi: Erev Shabbos is Eiruvin 103. The Siyum for Eiruvin is this Sunday, Mazal Tov! Meseches Pesachim, containing 120 blatt, is next. Start now to be Mesayeim Pesachim right before Pesach!

The final opportunity for Kiddush Levana is Sunday night, November 29th until 3:07am.

Make sure to call your parents, inlaws, grandparents and Rabbi to wish them a good Shabbos. If you didn't speak to your kids today, make sure to do the same!

 **Next on the Calendar**

Chanukah begins in three weeks, on Thursday Evening, December 10th.

The fast of Asarah b'Teves is on Friday, December 25th. This is the only fast day observed on Erev Shabbos.

 **Parshah in a Paragraph**

TOLDOS: Yitzchak and Rivkah pray for children • Rivkah is expecting, experiences pain, receives word of twin children • Yaakov and Eisav are born • Eisav sells his firstborn rights for lentil soup • Hashem commands Yitzchak not to leave E"Y • Yitzchak settles in Gerar • Fearing for their safety, Yitzchak claims Rivkah is his sister • Avimelech realizes their relationship and assures their protection • Yitzchak prospers and the envious Avimelech sends him away • Avimelech's men claim Yitzchak's wells • Avimelech comes to make a treaty • Yitzchak's men find water at Be'er Sheva • Esav marries at the age of forty • Yitzchak wishes to bless his son, Eisav • Rivkah commands Yaakov to seize the blessings • Eisav is bitterly disappointed and vows to kill Yaakov • Rivkah sends Yaakov to stay with her brother Lavan • Yitzchak exhorts him not to marry a Canaanite

woman • Eisav marries Yishmael's daughter in addition to his other wives arah passes away • Avraham acquires the Me'aras Hamachpelah from Efron, buries Sarah there • Avraham sends Eliezer to take a wife for Yitzchak • Eliezer prays to find a girl who excels in kindness • Rivkah, daughter of Besuel, offers Eliezer and his camels water to drink • Eliezer gives her gifts of jewelry • Rivkah's brother Lavan hears of the gifts and enthusiastically invites Eliezer to stay with them • Eliezer relates the day's events to Rivkah's family and requests her hand in marriage for Yitzchak • Lavan attempts to delay the marriage, but Rivkah chooses to leave immediately • The blessings of Sarah's tent return upon Rivkah's arrival • Avraham marries Keturah and bears six sons • Avraham passes away at the age of 175 and is buried by Yitzchak and Yishmael in Me'aras Hamachpelah • Yishmael's children • Yishmael dies at the age of 137

613 Taryag Weekly

TOLDOS: 106 Pesukim • No Mitzvos listed

 **For the Shabbos Table**

"Va'yetar Yitzchak LaShem... Va'yei'aser Lo Hashem, Vatahar Rivkah Ishto", "Yitzchak pleaded with Hashem for a child... Hashem accepted his Tefillos, and his wife Rivkah conceived." (Bereishis 25:21)

Rashi quotes the Midrash which notes that although they both davened earnestly for a child, Yitzchak's Tefillos, not Rivkah's, were answered, as he was the son of a Tzaddik and Rivkah was the daughter of Besuel, a wicked man. One may conclude from this Midrash that their lineage was the only substantial difference between Yitzchak and Rivkah's prayers.

The Brisker Rav points out that in fact Rivkah was merely 22 years old at this point, whereas Yitzchak was already 60 and very accomplished, having passed the test of the Akeida. Yet this is not mentioned as the difference in their spiritual greatness.

The Brisker Rav explains that Rivkah faced many challenges growing up in the home of Besuel and Lavan, yet she did not succumb to the negative influences and grew into a true Tzadeikes. In the few difficult years spent overcoming challenges and surmounting obstacles, this young girl brought herself to a level of greatness similar to that of Yitzchak Avinu's decades long Avodas Hashem!

 **Halachos for Chanukah**

Included are select Halachos for Chanukah as we are 30 Yom Kodem La'Chag

THE MENORAH: How to light

Common practice is to light the rightmost candle on the first night, adding a new candle to its left each night. From the second night and on, lighting begins with the newest candle and moves to the right. The lit candle should be in one's right hand prior to lighting. One should stand in such a manner that the lit Shammos in hand is positioned closest to the night's new Ner (so that he does not 'pass over' any other Neiros when lighting the newest ner). (Those who light by a doorway may light the rightmost candle first as it is closest to the doorpost.) The Berachos of L'hadlik Ner Shel Chanukah and She'asa Nissim are recited, as well as Shehecheyanu on the first night. Following the Hadlakah, Haneiros Hallalu and Ma'oz Tzur are recited or sung. One should be sure that one wick is reliably aflame before reciting Haneiros Halalu. One may not derive benefit from the Menorah lights, and for this reason an additional Shammos is lit. A Ner Mitzvah should not be used to light another Ner; rather another candle or Shammos should be used to light all the Neiros.

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