

4 months ago, you only purchased a box with 30 cholesterol tablets at Drugsale Network.

I bought more from another drugstore.

It's not showing on your credit card statement

I paid in cash

But you did not withdraw that much cash according to your bank statement

I have other sources of cash...

This is not showing as per you last Tax form unless you bought them from undeclared income source.

What the hell?

I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the intention of helping you.

Enough! I'm sick of google, facebook, twitter, WhatsApp. I'm going to an Island without internet, cable TV, where there is no cell phone line and no one to watch me or spy on me.

I understand sir but you need to renew your passport first as it has expired 6 weeks ago...

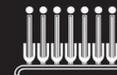
Calendar

- ◆ Shacharis 8:30 am; Shtibl 8:45 am
- ◆ Shul Brocha in the Seeff Hall.
- ◆ **Smorgasbord of Shiurim.**
- ◆ Mincha: 5:15 pm
- ◆ Pirkei Avos: Chapter 2
- ◆ Shabbos ends: 6:27 pm
- ◆ Mincha next week 5:45 pm
- ◆ Shofar and Psalm 27 daily



Published by the Sydenham Highlands North Hebrew Congregation Johannesburg, South Africa

Good Shabbos SYDENHAM!



2 Sep 2017

Parshas Ki Tzeitzei

11 Elul 5777

Shul Seating

This Shul office will be open

THIS Sunday 7 Sept

from 9:30am-12pm

Otherwise you will be able to take care of seating through the office during the week.

Special Ladies

Rosh Hashana Shiur with Rebbetzin Estee Stern

Sunday 10 September 9am
Community Centre – Seeff Hall
Coffee, tea & refreshments

Rabbi's Yom Tov Appeal. Help Us Help The Needy!

Cheques to Shul office or EFT to Rabbi Goldman Discretionary Fund
FNB Norwood: Branch Code 258624
Account No: 503 600 89202
Thank You and G-d bless you.

- ◆ The **Scottish Leader Signature** whiskey at Shul is sponsored by **Distell** & available for purchase at **Norman Goodfellows**.
- ◆ **Nathan Fine** of I.deal Furnishers at Midway Mall, Bramley Gardens wishes all congregants a Good Shabbos. Call 011-887-5456/082-854-5706. **Furniture, Bedding & Appliances.**
- ◆ **Vehicles wanted. Any make, any condition. Best prices. Phone ARNOLD ORKIN 082 823 7826**
- ◆ Acknowledgements: Chabad.org
- ◆ Please take Good Shabbos Sydenham home if you will only carry it within the Eiruv.

DIY Judaism

by: *Rabbi Yossy Goldman*

Where do I fit in with Destiny?

This week in Deuteronomy 22.8 we read, *Ki tinne bayit chadash... when you build a new house, you must place a guard-rail around your roof so that you will not bring blood upon your house should any man fall from the unenclosed roof.*"

In the olden days, most roofs were flat and people would use them as entertainment areas.

The Hebrew wording is *Ki yipol hanofel*. Now, literally, *hanofel* means, "the one who falls" which the commentators say implies that this individual was actually destined to fall off a roof and lose his life. So the question is, if that person was, in fact, pre-ordained to fall, why is it my fault just because it happened in my house? Why am I responsible for him acting out his destiny? Why should his blood be on my shoulders?

Jewish philosophers would answer this question by saying that although we do definitely believe in destiny and that whatever happens is part of the Almighty's vast eternal plan; nonetheless, every individual has an obligation to do his best to prevent tragedy. We must take precautions. Although we **believe** in miracles we are not permitted to **rely** upon them.

There is a Yiddish proverb that "the man destined to drown will drown even in a glass of water." But that doesn't mean that you have to be the one to put his head under the tap. In short, we believe in the concept of *bashert* but we mustn't live by it. Otherwise,

why go to work? We say in the *Bentching* (Grace After Meals) that G-d is the feeder and provider for all. So if G-d will support me why must I *shlep* off to work?

Clearly, this is not the Jewish attitude. That's why it is a commandment of the Torah to safeguard our health. Likewise, we are not to live dangerously by leaving roofs unenclosed or swimming pools unfenced or our doors unlocked.

One may ask, is it not an expression of faith to leave it all to G-d? To put our trust implicitly in Him that He will provide? That He will protect and guard us from accidents? The answer is an emphatic NO. "G-d helps those who help themselves." Far from being an irreligious statement, this is quite consistent with Jewish belief.

Elsewhere, the Torah states that "Hashem, your G-d, shall bless you in all that you do." Meaning that to succeed in any endeavour, we need G-d's blessing, but He blesses us in all that we **do**. So, in order to merit His blessing, we must first lay the ground work and create the opportunity for Hashem's blessings to work.

It's like the farmer who knows that the success of his crop depends on G-d granting rain, but the blessing of rain will only help after the farmer has tilled, ploughed and planted.

Remember the story of the *shlemiel* who kept praying to G-d three times daily that He help him win the lottery and solve all his financial problems. Day after day he implored the Almighty to grant him his personal salvation via the lottery. When the lottery was drawn, unfortunately our *shlemiel* was not the winner. So he went back to Shul the next

young jewish joburg
Spirit Shul 'n Social

MIND BODY & SOUL

in preparation for the New Year

 REBBETZIN ESTEE STERN TUES 29 AUG 7:45 pm <small>Estee is a rebbetzin at Sydenham Shul, a popular lecturer and a mother of five children. Her passion and enthusiasm for Judaism leaves her students wanting to come back for more.</small>	 DR MANDE SCHEEPMAKER TUES 5 SEPT 7:45 pm <small>Mandi is a registered homeopathic practitioner. She runs her own private practice and oversees the Homeopathic Campus Clinic at UJ for the 5th year homeopathy students.</small>	 LEONARD CARR TUES 12 SEPT 7:45 pm <small>Leonard is a clinical psychologist with over thirty years experience in counselling. He runs his own practice and is internationally recognised as an expert on personality and relationships.</small>
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sydenham SpiritShul
Venue: **Factory on Grant 'Upstairs Box'**
(corner Grant Ave & Nellie Road Norwood)
AGES 19-39 ONLY | ENTRANCE FREE

day and cried out to G-d bitterly, "Hashem you let me down, I prayed so hard. Why didn't I win the lottery?"

And a deep, booming voice rang out from the Heavens saying, "Because you never bought a ticket, dummy!"

This concept applies to everything in life. As Gary Player said, "The more I practice, the luckier I get." If you want to be *mazel dig*, don't depend on *mazel* alone. If you want to have *nachas* from your children, don't rely on the luck of the draw that they will marry the right person. Parents have to plough and plant (and pray very hard) for *nachas* to happen.

In the words of the Psalmist which we say in *Shir Ha'maalot (Psalm 126)*, "He who sows with tears, will reap in joy."

Parsha Pointers

Ki Teitzei: Artscroll Chumash pg 1046; Living Torah pg 967

This Parshah contains no less than 74 of the 613 Biblical commandments. The wide range of topics covered gives us a vivid demonstration of how the Torah speaks to us on every level. There are religious, national, social, ethical, and moral subjects included. Some of the more famous ones are: laws of warfare, capital punishment, lost and found, the bird's nest, forbidden combinations, adultery, rape, illegitimacy, prostitution, fair labour practices, divorce and remarriage, the levirate marriage (yibum and chalitzah), and remembering what Amalek did to us.

Who Are You Fighting Today?

*3 Steps to Victory
By Chana Weisberg*

How many battles did you fight today?

None, you say? Think again.

Did you fight fatigue in order to pry your eyes open this morning? Did you fight the mad traffic jam to navigate to work? At the office, did you fight laziness to climb the stairs instead of riding the elevator? Did you fight lethargy to focus on the tasks at hand?

Did you fight the clock to meet your deadline? Did you fight your cravings to avoid unhealthy snacks and choose nourishing food?

Every day, every hour, every minute, we wage countless battles.

This week's Torah portion begins by telling us about our battles and clues us in on vital knowledge to win them.

"When you go out to war on your enemies, the L-rd your G-d shall deliver them into your hands and you shall capture from them captives." (Deut 21:10)

The Torah doesn't write, *if* you go out to war, but rather *when*. Turbulence and struggle is inevitable.

We fight real wars just as we fight moral one. We fight character traits just as we struggle to use our time wisely and develop our talents fully. We battle to protect loved ones from the harsh realities of our world and to create a better reality.

Here are 3 important things to know about your wars.

1. Your battles don't define you.

The Hebrew phrase *al ovecha*, "on your enemies," literally means "on top of your enemies." Just because we are constantly engaged in struggle doesn't mean that we are defined by them. We win and inevitably we lose. Don't focus on your losses; you are far more than your conflicts. You have a divine soul that is perfect and untarnished in spite of your struggles. So just get back up, reenergized and begin anew.

2. You are not fighting alone.

When your battles become oppressive, when your enemy gains the upper hand, you may need to take a step back and reevaluate. Affirm that there is no true existence other than G-d. This means that nothing contrary to G-d's goodness and truth has any real power over you. Go to war with the optimistic confidence that "G-d shall deliver them into your hands," in order to succeed.

3. You can grow from your experience.

"You shall capture from them captives." Anything nega-

tive in man or in the world can be exploited for the good. You were exposed to your circumstances for a reason. "Capture captives" and find a lesson in every situation.

Wishing us all strength and victory in fighting our many battles!

Is There Family Without Religion?

By Rabbi Aron Moss

Question:

I am an atheist. I dropped my faith a while ago. To be honest, I don't feel I am missing anything with G-d out of my life. If anything I am more free. It has made me wonder, if I lose my religion, have I really lost anything worthwhile?

Answer:

People often make the mistake of thinking that if you take away religion, you just get rid of G-d. This is not true. You lose much more than G-d when you drop religion. Something else you lose when you drop religion is the idea of family.

Family is a concept that cannot be taken for granted. The family is built and sustained on a belief system, a set of values, a worldview that sees marriage as a sacred covenant and parenthood as a moral responsibility. Without these supporting beliefs, the family is a baseless ideal that will erode with time. And these beliefs are religious.

Only religion can provide a meaning to life that is higher than me. I was created with a purpose that is beyond myself. I am here to serve. I was given the gift of life, and I should share it with others. Without these beliefs, there is no ideological base for the concept of family. No secular argument is strong enough to inspire you to give up your own freedom, get married and have children.

Look around at secular societies. The less religious the society, the weaker its families. Marriage is replaced with casual relationships, and having children is optional, as long as it doesn't interfere with career and living my life my way. In a godless world the lonely, unattached individual is idealized. The disintegration of family life in the west is a direct result of its secularization.

Of course there are atheists and secularists who make devoted husbands and loving wives, dedicated mothers and attentive fathers. But this is in

spite of their atheism, not because of it. People often do things that are not consistent with their beliefs. A secular family is one example. Having a family is an act of faith no less religious than attending prayer services.

You may not see the full of impact of secularism in one generation. But fifty years from now, the family unit as we know it will be the exclusive domain of the religious. The children of today's atheists, if they have them at all, are less likely to get married and have children of their own.

We need G-d in our lives, not for His sake, but for the sake of our children. By rejecting religion, secularists are throwing out their babies with the bath water.

Live & Laugh Pizza Order

Hello! Gordon's pizza?

No sir it's Google's pizza.

So it's a wrong number? Sorry

No sir, Google bought it.

OK. Take my order please

Well sir, you want the usual?

The usual? You know me?

According to our caller ID data sheet, in the last 12 times, you ordered pizza with cheeses, sausage, thick crust.

OK! This is it ...

May I suggest to you this time ricotta, arugula with dry tomato?

What? I hate vegetables.

Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

How do you know?

We crossed the number of your fixed line with your name, through the subscribers guide.

We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.

Okay, but I do not want this pizza! I already take medicine ...

Excuse me, but you have not taken the medicine regularly, from our commercial database,

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