



**Please note:**

The shul office will be closed on *Tisha b'Av*

**Parshat Devarim**  
**July 16-17, 2010**      **6 Av 5770**

- *Mincha* only: 5:30 P.M.
- *Plag Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 6:40 P.M.
- Earliest Candles: 6:54 P.M.
- Early *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 7:00 P.M.
- Latest Candles: 8:09 P.M.
- *Zman Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 8:15 P.M.
- *Shacharit Hashkamah*: 7:30 A.M.
- *Tefillah shiur* by Allen Friedman: 8:20 A.M.
- Main *Shul*: 8:45 A.M.
- *Sof Zman Kriat Shema*: 9:20 A.M.
- Youth *Minyan*: 9:30 A.M.
- Early *Mincha*: 1:45 P.M.
- *Daf Yomi*: 6:50 P.M.
- Women's Learning Group: 7:00 P.M.  
 We will continue learning *Melachim Aleph*, Chapter 13.
- *Mincha*: 8:00 P.M., followed by a *shiur* by Michael East: "Rebuilding the *Beit ha-Mikdash*—One Shul at a time"
- *Maariv*: 9:09 P.M.
- *Havdalah*: 9:12 P.M.

The Youth *Minyan* is seeking volunteers to *lain* and give *divrei Torah* during the summer months. To volunteer, contact Rabbi Stephen Knapp, [dukeknapp@aol.com](mailto:dukeknapp@aol.com), (917) 837-2810.

Schedule for Week of July 18th:	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
	18	19	20	21	22	23
<i>Earliest Tallit</i>	4:38	4:39		4:41	4:42	4:43
<i>Shacharit</i>	6:30	5:40	<b>5:30</b>	5:55	5:40	5:55
	7:15	6:20	<b>7:00</b>	6:30	6:20	6:30
	8:00	7:10	<b>8:45</b>	7:15	7:10	7:15
	8:45	8:00		8:00	8:00	8:00
<i>Mincha</i>	1:45	<b>5:45</b> <b>6:45</b>	<b>1:40</b> <b>7:40</b>			5:30
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	8:10		8:55	8:10	8:10	6:40 7:00 8:10
<i>Maariv</i> :	9:30	<b>8:40</b>		9:30	9:30	

**Tisha b'Av -**

Fast begins on Monday, July 19th at 8:22 P.M.  
 Fast ends on Tuesday, July 20th at 9:09 P.M.

The **Tisha B'Av Women's Kinot** at Beth Aaron have been **cancelled**.

**Weekly Shiurim:**

- *Daf Yomi*: *Shabbat*: 6:50 P.M. For other *Daf Yomi shiurim*, go to [www.teaneckshuls.org/daf](http://www.teaneckshuls.org/daf)
- **Chabura on Revadim** method of Talmud Study: Sunday evening at 8:15 P.M.
- Rabbi Rothwachs' **Bava Kama shiur**: will be on hiatus until July 28th
- **Chabura by Rabbi Herschel Grossman** on *Sefer Nefesh ha-Chaim* - Thursday evening, 8:15 to 9:00 P.M.
- **Morning Mishnah Chabura**: Monday and Thursday - 6:55 A.M.; Wednesday and Friday - 7:00 A.M.

**Mazal Tov:**

- *Mazal Tov* to Rabbi Benjamin and Aviva Yablok on the birth of a grandson, born to their children Ephraim and Ronit Yablok.
- *Mazal Tov* to Chaya Gopin on receiving her doctorate in neuropsychology.

Please note that I will be in Israel from Sunday, June 27th through Tuesday, July 27th. For all time-sensitive questions, please feel free to contact Rabbi Pinchas Weinberger, (201) 837-1520, or Rabbi Michael Taubes, (201) 836-4334. In the event of an emergency, you may try to contact me on my Israeli cell phone, 052-616-4235. I hope that you have a pleasant few weeks, and I look forward to seeing you upon my return. — Rabbi Rothwachs

# Congregation Beth Aaron

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 Phone: (201) 836-6210 ·  
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 Laurence Rothwachs, Rabbi      Larry Shafier, President

## Shabbat Announcements

**Miscellaneous Shul Announcements**

The next **Sisterhood Book Club** selection is "**Black Cross**," by **Greg Iles**. We will be meeting to discuss this book this *Shabbat*, July 17th, at 5:00 P.M., at the home of Esther Schnaidman, 315 Frances Street. All Beth Aaron women are welcome to attend. For more information, or to be added to our mailing list, contact Diane Fogel, [difogel@aol.com](mailto:difogel@aol.com).

The next Beth Aaron Sisterhood **Women's Potluck Seudah Shlishit** will be held on *Shabbat*, July 24th, at 6:00 P.M., at the home of Barbara Yaros, 910 Prince Street. To RSVP, contact Rivka Fink, (201) 833-2527, [rivkafink@optonline.net](mailto:rivkafink@optonline.net). All women are welcome to attend.

We are pleased to announce that the **Beth Aaron Boys' Choir** is available for shul functions and Beth Aaron Community's *simchas*. Updates on all activities are on the shul's website in the Youth section. For more information, or to join the choir, contact Benjy Rosenbluth, [bdrosenbluth@yahoo.com](mailto:bdrosenbluth@yahoo.com), (201) 357-5685, or Yehiel Levy, (201) 357-5495, [yehiel@optonline.net](mailto:yehiel@optonline.net).

We would like to perpetuate the **women's tehillim group** that met at the home of Rochi Lerner, a"h. Between our members, we have always finished *Sefer Tehillim* each week. However, with summer at hand and changing schedules, we need help to finish weekly. If you have time, please join us. We meet every Monday, from 9:00 to 10:00 A.M., at the home of Sharon First, 21 Canterbury Court. For more information, please contact Sharon First, [keyfilla@gmail.com](mailto:keyfilla@gmail.com).

As an expression of their appreciation for Beth Aaron's support, **Beit Yatir** has sent the shul a **package of T-shirts** from their *kaitana* (day camp). Much of the text is in Hebrew about the *kaitana*, with the following wording in English: "Sponsored by Kehilat Beit Aharon." The T-shirts are available for free — while supplies last — in children sizes 4, 8, 10, 12 and 14, and adult small and medium. To obtain T-shirts, please contact Chana and Zvi Weissler, (201) 836-1606, [hweissler@yahoo.com](mailto:hweissler@yahoo.com).

The **Beth Aaron Men's Club kiddushim** will continue throughout the summer, as construction permits. Please join us this *Shabbat* after the main *minyán* for a light dairy kiddush. Sponsorships for the summer *kiddushim* are \$54. Sponsorships will be announced from the *bima* and printed in the weekly announcements. To sponsor a summer *kiddush*, or to learn about single-sponsored (*simcha kiddush*) pricing, contact Ari Gononsky, (201) 836-4644, [kiddush@bethaaron.org](mailto:kiddush@bethaaron.org).

The week's summer *kiddush* is sponsored by:

**Sherry and David Chasan**, to commemorate the *yahrtzeit* of David's brother, Aaron Chasan, on *Tisha B'Av*.

**Ellen and George Friedman**, in honor of Mishel Greenberg's 90th birthday.

**Sharon and Yuddi Gopin**, in honor of their daughter, Chaya Gopin, receiving her Doctorate in Neuropsychology.

**Bernice and Mishel Greenberg**, to commemorate the *shloshim* of Mishel's brother, Elliot Greenberg.

**Shelley and Phil Stein**, in honor of their son, Sruli Stein, completing basic training in the IDF.

**Gitl and Meylekh Viswanath**, in honor of the *milchig Kiddush*.

All **middle school and high school boys and girls** are invited to attend a **special Tisha B'Av program at Congregation Keter Torah**, sponsored by Shores/NCSY. *Shacharit* will be at 9:15 A.M., followed by *Kinot*, with engaging introductions prepared specifically for students by Rabbis Shalom Baum, Kenneth Brander, Yehuda Chanales, Josh Kahn, Tavi Koslowe, Aaron Srolovitz, Aryeh Stechler and Michael Zauderer. Parents are also welcome to attend. For more information, contact [shores@ncsy.org](mailto:shores@ncsy.org).

**Beth Aaron Youth:**

- As *Rosh Hashana* and *Yom Kippur* are approaching, we are looking to continue the amazing program we had last year. There will be babysitting for children in Nursery-Fifth Grade on all days, as there was last year. In order to continue the religious aspect of the program, we will need local educators to help out. The religious program runs for approximately one hour on each day of *Rosh Hashana*, and on *Yom Kippur* during shul. This is a great opportunity for those who would like to help out the shul. There will be compensation for these services. If you are interested, please email [bethaaronyouth@yahoo.com](mailto:bethaaronyouth@yahoo.com).

- **Tefillah and Shoko** will meet this *Shabbat* morning at 9:15 A.M. (before the start of youth groups). Learn about *tefillah* while enjoying chocolate milk and cookies!

- For more information on youth activities, contact Erica and Jason David, [bethaaronyouth@yahoo.com](mailto:bethaaronyouth@yahoo.com), (732) 618-9473.

- The **learning group for 4th grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, July 17th, at 5:00 P.M., at the Meisels home, 125 East Cedar Lane. Please bring your own *Mishnah (Masechet Shabbat)*. For more information, contact Rebecca Kurz, [rkurz1@yahoo.com](mailto:rkurz1@yahoo.com), or Esther Klavan, [eskslp@aol.com](mailto:eskslp@aol.com).

Baruch Goldberg will be leading a **learning group for boys going into the 6th and 7th grades**. They will be learning *Mishnayot Makkot* several times a week (Monday, Wednesday and *Shabbat*) for 4-5 weeks. For more information, please contact Baruch Goldberg, [baruchsemail@gmail.com](mailto:baruchsemail@gmail.com)

## Community Announcements

**CareOne**, the kosher rehabilitation and nursing center located at 544 Teaneck Road, needs volunteers to help make a *minyán*. This Friday, *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat* will begin at 7:15 P.M. *Shacharit* will be at 9:00 A.M., followed by a hot *Kiddush*. Youth groups begin at 9:30 A.M. *Mincha* will be at 7:55 P.M., followed by a *shiur* on *Masechet Ketubot* at 8:10 P.M. *Maariv* will be at 9:10 P.M.

Yeshiva University Teaneck Summer Kollel presents **Learning Programs for Kids** this summer, from June 28th to August 5th. On Tuesdays, at 5:30 P.M., it will offer **Dinner (BBQ) and a Din**, and on Thursdays, at 5:30 P.M., it will offer **Parsha and Pizza**. The programs are for children ages 7 to 11 (there will be separate classes for each grade). The cost is \$5 per class, or \$30 for the summer (\$50 both courses). There will also be the opportunity for one-on-one learning with members of the YU Kollel. Prices for *chavruta* learning are significantly reduced for 2010. The YU Summer Kollel is hosted at Congregation Keter Torah, 600 Roemer Avenue. For more information, or to register, please contact Rabbi Aryeh Stechler, (908) 456-0506, [aryehstechler@yahoo.com](mailto:aryehstechler@yahoo.com)

The **Jewish Learning Experience of Bergen County** will be offering a special **Tish'a B'Av program**. On Monday night, July 19th, at 9:00 P.M., there will be an explanatory reading of *Megillat Eichah* at Congregation Bnai Yeshurun, 641 West Englewood Avenue. On Tuesday evening, July 20th, at 6:15 P.M., at the Jewish Center of Teaneck, 70 Sterling Place, there will be a video presentation from the Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation -- *Emanah* (Faith in G-d): Our One Safe Harbor, featuring HaRav Mattisyahu Salomon, Rabbi Paysach Krohn and Rabbi Fishel Schachter. It will be followed by *mincha* at 7:55 P.M. and *maariv* at 9:05 P.M., after which refreshments to break the fast will be served. For more information, contact Rabbi David Pietruszka, (201) 966-4498, [rabbip@jle.org](mailto:rabbip@jle.org), or go to [www.jle.org](http://www.jle.org).

On *Tisha B'Av*, Tuesday, July 20th, at 2:45 P.M., at Congregation Zichron Mordechai, 268 West Englewood Avenue, **Rabbi Michael Taubes** will give his **annual Tisha B'Av class for women**. The topic is: "**Anti-Semitism in America: The Leo Frank Case.**"

On Monday evening, July 26th, **Emanah of America** presents a Real Runway Pink Tartan **Pre-Fall Fashion Show** at Mocha Bleu, 1399 Queen Anne Road. A light buffet and wine will be served at 7:45 P.M., and the show begins at 8:45 P.M. Raffles may be purchased at the door. All proceeds will benefit *Emanah*.

On *Tu B'Av*, Monday, July 26th, FutureSimchas.com invites young men and women to "Dishes and Dating" --a FEED dating event at the new NoBo Wine & Grill (formerly The Pasta Factory). The evening will feature intimate tables for two and exquisite dishes from the new menu, and each pair will taste one course or wine and discuss it until it's time to move to the next table. For more information, go to [www.futuresimchas.com/event](http://www.futuresimchas.com/event).

On Wednesday, August 25th, from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M., **Areyvut** will be holding its **Second Annual Summer Fundraiser** at Space Odyssey in Englewood. All proceeds will support Areyvut's Mitzvah Clown Training Program. For pricing, raffle and other information, please contact Areyvut, (201) 244-6702, [info@areyvut.org](mailto:info@areyvut.org), or go to [www.aryevut.org](http://www.aryevut.org).

Fall 2010 recruitment is underway for **Bergen Reads volunteers**. Bergen Reads combats illiteracy by matching volunteers who serve one hour per week during the school year as reading buddies to public school children in grades K-3 who need extra help with their reading skills. This past year, 120 volunteers volunteered their time as Reading Buddies. Our volunteers represent the full spectrum of Jewish affiliation and share the common values of *chesed* and *tikkun olam*. No prior experience is necessary, and training is provided. To volunteer, or for more information, go to [www.ujanni.org/bergenreads](http://www.ujanni.org/bergenreads), or contact Sharon Rifkind, (201) 820-3947, [sharonr@ujanni.org](mailto:sharonr@ujanni.org).

**A Women's Summer Study Group**, featuring an **In-Depth Study of "Creation,"** led by **Shuli Taubes**, will meet on Wednesdays, June 29th-July 28th, at 8:00 P.M., at Congregation Zichron Mordechai, 268 West Englewood Avenue. The study group is open to women of all levels and backgrounds. Tuition is \$100. For more information, please contact Shuli Taubes, [staubes@gmail.com](mailto:staubes@gmail.com), (201) 787-1812.

### Parasha Questions for Parshat Devarim

- (a) How do *Moshe's* prophecies in *Sefer Devarim* differ from his prophecies in the rest of the *Torah*? (b) How long before he died did *Moshe* assemble *Bnei Yisrael* to communicate the contents of *Sefer Devarim*? (c) Why did *Moshe* use this period to rebuke *Bnei Yisrael* for their sins in the *midbar* (4 reasons)? (d) To which event did *Moshe* refer to as the: (1) *Midbar*? (2) *Arava*? (3) *Mol Suif*? (4) between *Paran*, *Tofel* and *Lavan*? (5) *Chatzeirot* (2 explanations)? (6) *Di Zahav*? (*Devarim* 1:1-9)
- (a) Why did *Moshe* interrupt his description of events that angered *Hashem* to discuss the appointment of judges (2 reasons)? (b) When the *Torah* states "*lo takiru panim*" (do not show favoritism), to whom is this directed (2 views)? (*Devarim* 1:13-18)
- (a) Since *Moshe* said that sending the *meraglim* "was good in my eyes," why did he include it in his rebukes of *Bnei Yisrael*? (b) Since the 10 "bad" *meraglim* outnumbered the 2 "good" *meraglim*, why did *Moshe* blame *Bnei Yisrael* for listening to the majority (2 reasons)? (c) To what did *Moshe* refer when he stated that *Bnei Yisrael* had said that *Hashem* had taken them out of *Mitzrayim* "*be-sinat Hashem otanu*" (because of *Hashem's* hatred of [*Bnei Yisrael*]) (4 explanations)? (*Devarim* 1:23,27)
- (a) (1) The land of how many nations did *Hashem* promise to *Avraham*? (2) How many were given to offspring of: (i) *Ya'akov*? (ii) *Eisav*? (iii) *Lot*? (b) Why did *Hashem* prohibit *Bnei Yisrael* from attacking: (1) *Seir* (3 reasons)? (2) *Amon* and *Moav* (4 reasons)? (c) What miracle did *Hashem* do for *Moshe* in *Bnei Yisrael's* battle against *Sichon*? (*Devarim* 2:5,9,19,25)
- (a) Why did *Hashem* tell *Moshe* not to fear the giant *Og* (3 reasons)? (b) How did *Moshe* kill him (2 views)? (*Devarim* 3:2-11)
- Where in *Megillat Eichah* do we learn that on *Tisha B'av* we: (a) do not read the *megilla* during the day? (*Eicha* 1:2) (b) do not say *tachanun*? (1:15) (c) sit on the floor? (2:10) (d) dim the *shul* lights? (3:6) (e) do not say *tikabayl* in *kaddish*? (3:8) (f) do not say *birchat hamazon* with a *zimun* at the final meal before the fast? (3:28) (g) say *Ve-Ata Kadosh* after the *kinot*? (5:21)
- (a) In the *haftara*, how does the prophecy, *Tzion* "*be-mishpat tipadeh*" (shall be redeemed through justice), relate to the laws of judges in *Parashat Devarim*? (b) How does the order of the *berachot* in the *Shemoneh Esrei* reflect this prophecy? (*Yeshayahu* 1:26-27)

## Learning Opportunities

<p>· The <b>Amud Yomi shiur</b> meets week nights at 9:30 P.M. at Rinat Yisrael. For more information, contact Mordechai Ungar, (201) 741-3920.</p> <p><b>Motzaei Shabbat</b></p> <p>Rabbi Reisman's satellite <i>Navi shiur</i>: 10:30 P.M. at Keter Torah.</p> <p><b>Sunday</b></p> <p>· The <b>Yeshiva University Kollel</b> and <b>Midreshet Yom Rishon</b> programs are on summer break. Recordings of previously <i>shiurim</i> may be accessed on the <a href="http://www.yutorah.org">www.yutorah.org</a>, <a href="http://www.kollelyomrishon.com">www.kollelyomrishon.com</a> and</p>	<p><a href="http://www.midreshetyomrishon.com">www.midreshetyomrishon.com</a> websites.</p> <p>· The <b>Chofetz Chaim Women's Learning Group</b> will meet this Sunday, July 18th, at the Schuss home, 110 Cherry Lane</p> <p><b>Wednesday</b></p> <p>· Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky's Wednesday evening <i>shiur</i> takes place at Bnai Yeshurun at 9:15 P.M.</p> <p><b>Thursday</b></p> <p>· <b>Rabbi Yissocher Frand's</b> weekly <i>shiur</i> will be broadcast at 9:00 P.M. at Keter Torah.</p> <p>· Each Thursday evening, at 8:30 P.M., at the Yeshiva Gedolah, 1443 Palisade Avenue,</p>	<p><b>Rabbi Roberts</b> gives a <b>Parasha Shiur</b>, followed by <i>maariv</i> at 9:30 P.M.</p> <p><b>Friday</b></p> <p>· The <b>Bergen County Kollel for Baalei Batim</b> meets on Friday mornings from 8:00 to 9:45 A.M. in the basement of the shul. <i>Shiurim</i> include <i>mussar</i>, <i>gemara</i> and <i>halacha</i>. You can attend one or more of the <i>shiurim</i>. For more information, call Bob Oppenheimer, (201) 280-1780, Hertzal Benji, (201) 261-1453, or David Sivetsky, (201) 836-8291.</p>
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Each Tuesday and Thursday morning, **Keter Torah** presents **Torah in the AM**: 9:00 to 9:40 A.M. - *Navi chavura* on Melachim Aleph; 9:45 to 10:45 A.M. - Rabbi Menachem Meier's *Talmud shiur* on *Bava Metzia*, Chapter 5; 10:50 to 11:40 A.M.-Rabbi Meier's *shiur* on Jeremiah (Thursday only); 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon - Rabbi Baum's *shiur* on *Sefer Ezra* (Tuesday only)

### Answers to Parsha Questions:

- (a) In the first 4 books of the *Torah*, *Hashem* implanted His "Voice" in *Moshe's* mouth; in *Devarim*, *Moshe* used his own words to convey *Hashem's* words with *ruach ha-kodesh*, similar to later *nevi'im* (*Vilna Gaon*). (b) *Hashem* told him to assemble *Bnei Yisrael* on *Rosh Chodesh Shevat*, 37 days before he died (*Ramban*). (c) (1) People take to heart a dying man's admonitions; (2) by hearing their faults described during a single time period, *Bnei Yisrael* became less discouraged than if they continually heard their blunders; (3) since *Moshe* was about to die, *Bnei Yisrael* would not feel repeated shame when they saw him; (4) before *Moshe* defeated *Sichon* and *Og*, *Bnei Yisrael* might have thought that *Moshe* used their sins as a pretext for their dying in the *midbar*; with these victories, *Bnei Yisrael* realized that *Moshe* reproved them only for their own benefit (*Sifri*). (d) (1) *Bnei Yisrael* complained that *Hashem* brought them to the *midbar* to die (*Shemot* 16:3); (2) *Shittim*, where they sinned with *Ba'al Pe'or* (*Bamidbar* 25:1); (3) at the sea, where they showed a lack of faith (*Shemot* 14:11); (4) they complained about the *mon* (*Bamidbar* 21:5). (5) (i) *Korach's* rebellion (*Bamidbar* 16:4); (ii) the sin of the *meraglim* (*Bamidbar* 13:2); (6) *cheit ha-eigel* (*Rashi*).
- (a) (1) He rebuked *Bnei Yisrael* for not asking to learn *Hashem's* wisdom directly from him, rather than from the judges (*Sifri*). (2) He told *Bnei Yisrael* that once a system of judges and officers was established, they were ready to enter *Eretz Yisrael*, but the sin of the *meraglim* prevented it (*Ramban*). (b) (1) Judges, who must be impartial in judging litigants; (2) those appointing judges, who may not show favoritism and must appoint only those with expert *Torah* knowledge (*Sefer ha-Chinuch – Mitzvah* 414).
- (a) He rebuked them for not retracting their request for *meraglim* – his approval should have convinced them that *meraglim* were unnecessary (*Rashi*). (b) Since: (1) *Yehoshua* and *Calev* confirmed what *Hashem* had said about *Eretz Yisrael*, *Bnei Yisrael* should have believed them; (2) all 12 *meraglim* said *Eretz Yisrael* was good, they should have believed that they could conquer it (*Ramban*). (c) (1) *Moshe* indicated that *Bnei Yisrael*, who did not love *Hashem*, wrongly assumed He felt the same about them; (2) *Bnei Yisrael* mistakenly complained that because *Hashem* despised them, He took them out of *Mitzrayim*, a land that the Nile irrigated, to the *midbar* lacking water (*Rashi*). (3) *Bnei Yisrael* wrongly felt that He despised them since they had worshipped idols in *Mitzrayim* (*Sforno*). (4) *Moshe* stated this prophetically as a comfort to *Bnei Yisrael*, when the nations will say that *Hashem* has rejected them during the lengthy exile; *Moshe* indicated that in the *midbar*, *Bnei Yisrael* had a similar erroneous notion about *Hashem's* rejection of them, not realizing that His love for them is constant (*Harchaiv Davar*).
- (a) (1) 10; (2) (i) 7 – *Chiti*, *Girgashi*, *Emori*, *Cana'ani*, *Perisi*, *Chivi*, *Yevusi*, as listed in *Devarim* 7:1; (ii) 1 – *Seir*; (iii) 2 – *Amon*, *Moav* (*Rashi*). (b) (1) (i) *Hashem* rewarded *Eisav's* honoring his father *Yitzchak* by preventing *Bnei Yisrael* from attacking *Eisav's* offspring; (ii) *Hashem* needed the offspring of *Eisav* to survive so *Edom* would later punish *Bnei Yisrael* when they violated His will (*Devarim Raba*). (iii) In *Moshe's* time, *Bnei Eisav* were circumcised; for this merit, *Bnei Yisrael* could not attack them (*Yalkut Shimoni*). (2) (i) Since *Lot* saved *Avraham's* life by guarding from the *Mitzrim* the secret that *Sarai* was his wife, the lives of his offspring were spared (*Bereishit Raba*). (ii) *Hashem* forbade the destruction of *Moav* for the sake of *Rut*, *Moav's* offspring, and He forbade the destruction of *Amon* for the sake of *Na'ama*, King *Rechavam's* mother, who was *Amon's* offspring. (iii) *Lot's* daughters, who immorally conceived *Amon* and *Moav*, had concerned themselves with humanity's survival, when they feared that *Hashem* had destroyed not only *Sodom* but the rest of mankind; therefore, their offspring merited survival (*Bava Kama* 38b). (iv) Since *Moshe* was destined to be buried in *Moav's* land that *Sichon* had captured, it was not fitting for him to wage war against *Moav* (*Yalkut Shimoni*). (c) *Hashem* miraculously delayed the sun from setting until *Bnei Yisrael* had defeated the *Emori* (*Ta'anit* 20a).
- (a) *Moshe* was concerned that *Og* had merits that would prevent *Bnei Yisrael* from defeating him: (1) *Og* had performed a *mitzvah* by informing *Avram* (*Bereishit* 14:15) that his nephew *Lot* had been taken captive (*Nida* 61a). (2) *Avraham* had circumcised *Og*; *Moshe* believed he could not destroy the sign of the *brit* that *Avraham* had imprinted (*Zohar*). (3) *Moshe* said, "I am 120 years old – *Og* is over 500; if he did not have merits, he could not have lived that long" (*Bamidbar Raba*). (b) (1) *Og* uprooted a mountain 3 square *parsot* (2½ square miles) to crush *Bnei Yisrael*; *Hashem* sent ants that bored a hole in the mountain, which fell around *Og's* neck; *Moshe*, who was 10 *amot* tall, took an axe 10 *amot* long and jumped 10 *amot* high, striking *Og's* ankle and killing him (*Berachot* 54b). (2) Allegorically, *Og* tried to destroy *Bnei Yisrael* by "uprooting the mountain" of *Avraham's* merits; *Moshe* prayed to invoke his own merit (signified by his 10 *amot* height), *Bnei Yisrael's* merit (10 *amot* axe) and the *avot's* merit (10 *amot* jump); these combined merits cancelled *Og's* merit for taking steps to help *Avraham* (*Rashba*).
- The verse says: (a) "*bacho tivkeh ba-liyla*" (she weeps bitterly in the night) (*Magen Avraham* 559:2); (b) "*kara alay mo'ed*" (He called a festival against me); we do not say *tachnun* on a *mo'ed* (*Rokeach*); (c) "*yeshvu la-aretz yidmu*" ([elders of *Tzion's* daughter] sit on the ground silently) (*Eshkol*); (d) "*be-machashkim hoshivani*" (He caused me to sit in the dark) (*Shulchan Aruch* 559:2); (e) "*satam tefilat*" ([when I cry out for help], He shut out my prayer) (*Shibolei ha-Leket*); (f) "*yoshev badad ve-yidom*" (one sits alone and keeps silent) (*Hagahot Maymaniot*); (g) "*chadeish yameinu ke-kedem*" (renew our days as of old) – words of consolation at the end of the *megilla*; *Ve-Ata Kadosh* is a prayer of consolation (*Biur ha-Gra* 559:2).
- (a) *Moshe* taught that *Bnei Yisrael* would possess *Eretz Yisrael* only with a just court system (*Devarim* 1:9-18). In *Yeshayahu's* time, the judges did not maintain *tzedaka u-mishpat* (righteousness and justice), rather, they had a corrupt judicial system, making exile inevitable; *Bnei Yisrael* will be redeemed when *Eretz Yisrael's* returnees restore a corruption-free judicial system. (b) The 9<sup>th</sup> *beracha* concerns the gathering of exiles from the 4 corners of the world to *Eretz Yisrael*, and the 10<sup>th</sup> *beracha* concerns the return of a righteous justice system – the gathering of the exiles will be permanent only with justice (*J.B. Soloveitchik*).