



Parshat Ki Tavo
August 27-28, 2010 18 Elul 5770

- *Mincha* only: 5:30 P.M.
 - *Plag Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 6:00 P.M.
 - Earliest Candles: 6:14 P.M.
 - Early *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 7:00 P.M.
 - Latest Candles: 7:20 P.M.
 - *Zman Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 7:25 P.M.
 - *Shacharit Hashkamah*: 7:30 A.M.
 - *Tefillah shiur* by Rabbi Rothwachs: 8:20 A.M.
 - Main *Shul*: 8:45 A.M.
 - Youth *Minyan*: 9:30 A.M.
- *Sof Zman Kriat Shema*: 9:37 A.M.
 - Early *Mincha*: 1:45 P.M.
 - *Daf Yomi*: 5:55 P.M.
 - Women's Learning Group: 6:05 P.M. We will continue learning *Melachim Aleph*, Chapter 17.
 - *Mincha*: 7:05 P.M., followed by a *seudah shlishit* sponsored by the Morning Mishna Chabura on the occasion of their completion of Seder Mo'ed.
 - *Maariv*: 8:20 P.M.
 - *Havdalah*: 8:29 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, (917) 837-2810.

Schedule for Week of August 29th:	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
	29	30	31	1	2	3
<i>Earliest Tallit</i>	5:19	5:20	5:21	5:22	5:23	5:24
<i>Shacharit</i>	6:30	5:40	5:55	5:55	5:40	5:55
	7:15	6:20	6:30	6:30	6:20	6:30
	8:00	7:10	7:15	7:15	7:10	7:15
	8:45	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
<i>Mincha</i>	1:45					
	7:15	7:15	7:15	7:15	7:15	5:55
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>						7:00
<i>Maariv</i>	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	7:15

There will be an additional 8:45 A.M. *shacharit minyan* through Friday, September 3rd. For more information, contact Alvin Reinstein, alauberreinstein@aol.com, (201) 692-7715.

- Weekly Shiurim:**
- *Daf Yomi Shabbat*: 6:15 P.M. For *Daf Yomi shiurim* and resources in Teaneck, go to www.teaneckshuls.org/daf/.
 - **Chabura on Revadim method of Talmud Study:** Sunday evening at 8:15 P.M.
 - **Rabbi Feldman's shiur:** Tuesday night at 8:45 P.M. -- "How To Do *Teshuva* for the Sin of *Lashon ha-Ra*."
 - **Rabbi Rothwachs' Bava Kama shiur:** Wednesday evening at 8:30 P.M.
 - **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.; Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday - 7:00 A.M.

Mazal Tov:
Mazal Tov to Andrew & Alicia Wexler on the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son Matthew.
Mazal Tov to David and Diane Fogel on the birth of a granddaughter Liat Nessiya, born to their children Avital and Brad Greenbaum. *Mazal Tov* also to Brad's parents, Marc and Cheryl Greenbaum of Flatbush, and to all the great-grandparents, uncles and aunts.

The week's summer kiddush is sponsored by:
Beth Evans, in honor of the birth of her granddaughter Sara Ahuva, born to her children Rivka and Andy Fink.
Esther and David Schnaidman, in honor of the upcoming marriage of their daughter Shoshana.
Tikva and Larry Yudkowitz, in honor of the 40th anniversary of Tikva's safe release after being hijacked to Jordan.

This *Shabbat*, August 28th, at 6:00 P.M., **Mitchell First** will speak at the shul on the topic: "Who Authored the *Aleinu Prayer*?" All are invited to attend.

Due to the impending construction, the Expansion Committee has determined that the shul sukkah will not be erected this year. If anyone needs hospitality for meals during Sukkot, or is willing to host guests in their Sukkah, please contact Joshua Zakheim, (201) 836-0341, jhz_is@yahoo.com

This Sunday, August 29th, at 8:00 P.M., at the shul, **Rabbi Josh Kohl** will present the annual **Eitan Shapiro Memorial Lecture**, entitled: "Happy New Year! An Honest Look at Practical Steps for a Very Different Next Year." Rabbi Josh Kohl is Director of Educational Development for The Afikim Foundation, a world renowned Jewish Programming incubator, and Founder and Director of J-Family, the Jewish Family Enrichment Project. He has touched the lives of Jews, from young to old, in cities around the world; from Budapest, Hungary, to Lowell, Massachusetts; from Dallas, Texas, to Los Angeles, California; with many stops in between.

Congregation Beth Aaron

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 Laurence Rothwachs, Rabbi
 Larry Shafier, President

Shabbat Announcements

Miscellaneous Shul Announcements

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 Benji Rosenbluth, bdrosenbluth@yahoo.com, (201) 357-5685, or Yehiel Levy, (201) 357-5495, 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. 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. For more information, please contact Sharon First, 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 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.

The **Beth Aaron Men's Club *kiddushim*** will continue throughout the summer, as construction permits. 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.

Teaneck's first **centerpiece *Gemach*** has been established *le-Zecher nishmat* Shoshana Geula bat Yaakov ha-Kohen (in memory of Shelley Goldberg). We have beautiful centerpieces for your *simchas*. Proceeds will go to the Beth Aaron Sisterhood.

As we continue to grow, we are accepting donations of centerpieces in excellent condition that you longer need. We will be glad to pick them up from you. We are also in need of storage space in homes to house the centerpieces. Please contact us if you have some space in your garage or basement.

For more information, visit bethaaron.org/gmach, or contact Rivka Fink, (201) 833-2527, rivkafink@optonline.net, or Michelle Cooper, (201) 837-1999, benandmi@yahoo.com.

The deadline for the **Men's Club wine sale** is 8:45am, this Sunday August 29th. Please drop your order forms off at 170 Edgemont Place or order online at www.bethaaron.org/winesale.

The Men's Club is pleased to announce that, for a limited time only, **if anyone secures a mortgage through Ken Goffstein of Odyssey Funding, a donation of \$625 will be made to the shul**. So, besides getting a great rate and great service, you will get an additional benefit, which will help the shul as well! For more information, please contact Ken Goffstein, (201) 314-8931, kgoffstein@odysseyfunding.com.

Beth Aaron Youth:

- The oneg that was scheduled for this Shabbat is being postponed until next Shabbat, Sept. 4th. Look forward to seeing everyone there!

- 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.

- ***Tefillah* and *Shoko* will not meet this week and will resume after the *Chagim***

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

- The **learning group for incoming 5th grade boys** will meet this Shabbat, August 21st, at 5:30 P.M., at the Samuel home, 860 Red Road. Please bring your own *Mishnah* (*Masechet Shabbat*). For more information please contact Rebecca Kurz, rkurz1@yahoo.com, or Esther Klavan, eskslp@aol.com.

Beth Aaron Junior NCSY (grades 6-8):

Junior NCSY is back! We hope you had a great summer and are ready to get this year started!

- On Sunday, September 5th, from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M., we will have our opening event --a **BBQ and Sports in Phelps Park**. Dinner will be served, and vegetarian options will be available. Bring your sports equipment. Please RSVP for this event by emailing us at bethaaronjuniors@gmail.com

- On Shabbat, September 25th (Shabbat Chol ha-Mo'ed Sukkot), from 5:00 to 6:25 P.M., we will have our first **Oneg** of the year. The location will be announced.

- On Sunday, September 26th (Chol ha-Mo'ed Sukkot), NCSY will be going to **Six Flags**. Tickets are \$60, which includes bus fare. The bus will leave Bnai Yeshurun at 8:30 A.M. and return at 9:00 P.M. To purchase ticket, go to www.njncsy.com and click on the Six Flags button.

- If you would like to host a Junior NCSY event at your home this year, please contact Danielle.

- If you have any questions about these or any of our future events, please contact Danielle, bethaaronjuniors@gmail.com, (201) 247-7461. We can't wait to see you at our events! Danielle and Daniel

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 7:15 P.M., followed by a *shiur* on *Masechet Ketubot* at 7:30 P.M. *Maariv* will be at 8:30 P.M.

This *Shabbat*, August 28th, at 5:00 P.M., at the home of Lois Blumenthal, 1358 Sussex Road, the **Hindy Weinstock Geula Chapter of AMIT Women** presents a lecture in memory of Anita Scharf. **Aliza Weinberg**, *tanach* instructor at Yeshivat Noam, will speak on "**David: King, Sweet Singer of Israel and Master of Teshuva.**" Donations will benefit the children of Sderot. For more information, please contact Donna Hoenig, (201) 692-3934.

This *Shabbat*, August 28th, at 6:00 P.M., at Congregation Rinat Yisrael, **Miriam Reisler**, Rosh Beit Midrash, Amit Bellows Ulpanat Noga, Beit Shemesh, will speak on: "**Korbanot: How Do They Our Impact Our Modern Lives?**" She will give a text-based *shiur*, drawing on *nevi'im rishonim* and *achronim*, that will show how the ancient practices of ritual sacrifice can be understood as a means for energizing our *tefillot* and core Jewish values, and how the lessons of the *korbanot* can be applied to improve contemporary Jewish religious leadership.

On Sunday, August 29th, the Young Israel of Teaneck, in conjunction with YU Connects, is sponsoring a **Bashert Bash** -- an **evening for modern Orthodox singles**, ages 23-30. It will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 P.M. at the Mocha Bleu Cafe, 1399 Queen Anne Road. The cost is \$18, and pre-registration is required. Meet your *bashert* while dining on a great meal, being enlightened by an inspirational speaker, and enjoying a fun and innovative speed-dating session. You will also have the opportunity to meet several amazing and very dedicated matchmakers. For more information, or to register, please contact bashertbash@gmail.com.

The **Jewish Learning Experience** will be hosting **FREE High Holiday services**, which will take place at the Torah Academy of Bergen County, 1600 Queen Anne Road, Teaneck, and at Congregation Ahavath Torah, 240 Broad Avenue, Englewood. Over the past few years, the Jewish Learning Experience has had over 300 people in attendance. If everyone in the Orthodox community could invite just one person to these services, we could triple the attendance for this event. We need your help to make this happen! *Rosh Hashanah* services will be held on Thursday, September 9th, and Friday, September 10th at 10:00 A.M. (including *Shofar* blowing, and followed by a *Kiddush*). For *Yom Kippur*, *Kol Nidrei* will be held on Friday, September 17th, at 6:30 P.M., and the morning service (including *Yizkor*), will be on *Shabbat*, September 18th, at 10:00 A.M.

Want to improve your Hebrew? UJA Federation of Northern New Jersey, through its Israel Programs Center, is offering **Ulpan classes** beginning October 11th. To get the early-bird registration rate, please contact Galeet Lipke, (201) 820-3908, galeet@ujannj.org.

On Wednesday, September 1st, at 7:30 P.M., at the home of Susan and Jack Alpert, 507 Warwick Avenue, **David Dabscheck**, co-founder of the **Community Security Service** ("CSS"), will speak on "**The Security Threats to the American Jewish Community; and How We Can Help Protect Ourselves and Our Community.**" CSS is a nonprofit organization comprised of volunteers from the community who are specially trained to protect Jewish events and synagogues. It is professional and non-political, and it coordinates its activities with law enforcement agencies and the organized Jewish community.

On Monday, September 6th, at Congregation Beth Abraham, 396 New Bridge Road, Bergenfield, **TorahWeb.org** will be presenting a *Yom Iyun*. At 8:00 PM, **Rav Mayer Twersky** will speak on "**What Do You Mean 'No'? Surrendering to the Will of Hashem,**" and at 8:45 PM, **Rav Michael Rosensweig** will speak on "**What Does Hashem Want from Men? And from Women?**" All are invited and encouraged to attend

Parasha Questions for Parshat Ki Tavo

1. (a) The *mitzvah* of *bikurim* (first fruits): (1) applies to which fruits? (2) began when? (b) Why was the *kohen* required to place the *bikurim* in front of the *mizbeich*? (c) (1) In the *Beit ha-Mikdash*, who recited *Parshat Bikurim* and why? (2) Which *shul* procedure reflects this reason? (d) How did the recitation of *Parshat Bikurim* atone for *cheit ha-meraglim* (sin of the spies)? (e) Why does the *Torah* state that an *arami (Lavan)*, who tried to destroy *Ya'akov*, caused *Ya'akov's* descent to *Mitzrayim*, when, in fact, *Ya'akov* went from *Lavan* to *Yitzchak's* house and descended to *Mitzrayim* many years later? (*Devarim* 26:1-10)
2. (a) When did a Jew perform *viduy* (confession of) *ma'aser*? (b) For which sin did he confess? (c) How did failure to separate *ma'asrot* affect the fruit? (*Devarim* 26:12)
3. (a) (1) In which places did *Bnei Yisrael* erect "great stones"? (2) Why not on *Har Gerizim* (2 reasons)? (b) How could the whole *Torah* be written in 70 languages on 12 stones (3 views)? (c) Why were the stones erected (2 reasons)? (*Devarim* 27:2-3)
4. (a) To pronounce the blessings and curses, why did: (1) *Shimon, Levi, Yehuda, Yisachar, Yosef* and *Binyamin* stand on *Har Gerizim*? (2) *Reuven, Gad, Asher, Zevulun, Dan* and *Naftali* stand on *Har Eival*? (b) What do the sins of the curses have in common (2 views)? (c) To which sin does the curse "*makeh rei'eihu ba-seiter*" (one who strikes someone in secret) refer? (d) What does the curse "*asher lo yakim*" (not upholding) the *Torah's* words mean (3 explanations)? (*Devarim* 27:12-13, 24,26)
5. (a) Since we do not flee from blessings, why does the *Torah* say that blessings "*ve-hisigucha*" (will overtake you) (2 reasons)? (b) In which 2 ways can you fulfill the *mitzvah* of "*ve-halachta bi-derachav*" (walk in [*Hashem's*] ways)? (*Devarim* 28:2,9)
6. (a) Why is the *tochacha* phrased in the plural in *Parshat Bechukotai* but phrased here in the singular (2 reasons)? (b) It is customary, at dinner on *Rosh Hashanah*, to recite *yehi ratzons* ("may it be Your will") for various requests to *Hashem* for the coming year. Which request is mentioned in this *parasha*? (c) Why does the *tochacha* state that *Bnei Yisrael* will grope like a blind man "in the darkness," since a blind man cannot see in the light or dark? (d) The *tochacha* states that *Hashem* will carry a nation against *Bnei Yisrael* from afar; to whom does this refer? (*Devarim* 28:13, 23,29,49-52)
7. In the *haftara*, the *Navi* states, "Lebanon's glory will come to you [*Bnei Yisrael*]." To what does this refer? (*Yeshayahu* 60:13)

Learning Opportunities

· The **Amud Yomi shiur** meets week nights at 9:30 P.M. at Rinat Yisrael. For more information, contact Mordechai Ungar, (201) 741-3920.

Motzaei Shabbat

Rabbi Reisman's satellite *Navi shiur*: 10:30 P.M. at Keter Torah.

Sunday

· On Sunday, August 29th, Yeshiva University invites you to its **Midreshet Yom Rishon**, weekly Sunday morning learning for women. The program, which will be held at the Shenk Shul in the Schottenstein Center (on West 185th Street, between Audubon and St. Nicholas Avenues), is open to participants of all ages, backgrounds and learning levels. Admission is free, and no registration is required. This week, *Midreshet Yom Rishon* will feature **Rabbi Meir Goldwicht** and **Mrs. Shoshana Schechter**. The first *shiur* starts at 9:30 A.M.; second *shiur* starts at 10:30 A.M. For more

information, or to download *mar'ei mekomot*, visit www.midreshetyomrishon.org or call (212) 960-0041.

· On Sunday, August 29th, Yeshiva University invites you to its **Kollel Yom Rishon**, weekly Sunday morning learning for men. The program, which will be held in Furst Hall Room 501 (500 West 185th Street, at the corner of Amsterdam Avenue), is open to participants of all ages, backgrounds and learning levels. Admission is free, and no registration is required. This week, *Kollel Yom Rishon* will feature **Rabbi Yona Reiss** and **Rabbi Baruch Simon**. The first *shiur* starts at 9:30 A.M., second *shiur* starts at 10:30 A.M. For more information, or to download *mar'ei mekomot*, please visit www.kollelyomrishon.org

· This Sunday, August 29th, the **Chofetz Chaim Women's Learning Group** will meet at 9:00 A.M. at the home of Varda Hager, 364

Maitland Avenue. .

Wednesday

· Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky's Wednesday evening *shiur* takes place at Bnai Yeshurun at 9:15 P.M.

Thursday

· **Rabbi Yissocher Frand's** weekly *shiur* will be broadcast at 9:00 P.M. at Keter Torah.

· Each Thursday evening, at 8:30 P.M., at the Yeshiva Gedolah, 1443 Palisade Avenue, **Rabbi Roberts** gives a **Parasha Shiur**, followed by *maariv* at 9:30 P.M.

Friday

· The **Bergen County Kollel for Baalei Batim** meets on Friday mornings from 8:00 to 9:45 A.M. in the basement of the shul. *Shiurim* include *mussar*, *gemara* and *halacha*. You can attend one or more of the *shiurim*. For more information, call Bob Oppenheimer, (201) 280-1780, Hertzal Benji, (201) 261-1453, or David Sivetsky, (201) 836-8291.

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) (1) The 7 species for which *Eretz Yisrael* is noted: (i) wheat, (ii) barley, (iii) grape, (iv) fig, (v) pomegranate, (vi) oil-olives, (vii) date-honey; (2) 14 years after *Bnei Yisrael* entered *Eretz Yisrael*, after conquering and dividing up the land (*Rashi*). (b) To signify that the farmer brought the *bikurim* not to the *kohen* but to *Hashem*, Who gave them as a gift to the *kohen* (*Sforno*). (c) (1) Originally, each farmer recited it; when *Chazal* realized that illiterate farmers were embarrassed to bring *bikurim*, they instituted that a *ba'al korei* always would be read the text; (2) Originally, a man called to the *Torah* would *lein* (read the *Torah*); since some did not know how to *lein*, *Chazal* required that a *ba'al korei* always reads the *Torah* (*Sotah* 32a). (d) The *meraglim*, in displaying *Eretz Yisrael's* fruit, sinned with *lashon ha-ra* about the land; the farmer displayed his *bikurim* and acknowledged the good *Hashem* did for him in giving him a portion of the land, negating the *meraglim's* *lashon ha-ra* (*Ari ha-Kadosh*). (e) *Lavan* deceived *Ya'akov* into marrying *Leah*, instead of his beloved *Rachel*, resulting in a rivalry between the two sisters. This rivalry transferred to the next generation, resulting in *Leah's* sons spearheading the sale of *Rachel's* son *Yosef*, causing *Ya'akov* to bring his whole family to *Mitzrayim*. Thus, *Bnei Yisrael's* exile in *Mitzrayim* resulted from *Lavan's* deception (*Sifri*).
- (a) At *mincha* on the 7th day of *Pesach* in the 4th and 7th years of each *shemita* cycle (*Rashi*). (b) The *cheit ha-eigel*, which caused him to give *ma'aser* to the *levi'im*, instead of to each family's firstborn (*Sforno*). (c) As long as *Bnei Yisrael* separated *ma'asrot*, the fruits were succulent, with a delicious flavor and aroma – when they did not, these blessings ceased (*Medrash ha-Gadol*).
- (1) (i) In the *Yardein*; (ii) at *Gilgal*; (iii) on *Har Eival* (*Rashi*). (2) *Hashem* (i) foresaw that the *Shomronim* would dispute *Yerushalayim's* *kedusha* and claim that the *Beit ha-Mikdash* belonged on *Har Gerizim* – He ordered the stones and a *mizbeiach* on *Har Eival* to show that *Har Gerizim* had no special *kedusha*; (ii) appeased the 6 tribes on *Har Eival* where the curses were read – the sacrifices would protect them from the curses (*Oznayim la-Torah*). (b) (1) Only the 613 *mitzvot*, not the whole *Torah*, were listed; (2) the stones' great size had room for the whole *Torah* in 70 languages; (3) it was a miracle (*Ramban*). (c) The stones (1) gave the *Cana'anite* nations a chance to read the *Torah* and accept the 7 laws of *Bnei Noach*; they could not claim later that *Hashem* removed them from *Eretz Yisrael* without first explaining why (*Sotah* 35b). (2) showed *Bnei Yisrael* that they entered *Eretz Yisrael* only by *Hashem's* Will; they could avoid exile only by fulfilling the *Torah's* *mitzvot* (*Alshich*).
- (a) (1) All 6 *shevatim* on *Har Gerizim* were the offspring of *Rachel* [2] and *Leah* [4]; (2) Four of the *shevatim* on *Har Eival* were the offspring of *Bilha* [2] and *Zilpa* [2]; they were joined by offspring of *Leah's* oldest and youngest sons (*Reuvein* and *Zevulun*) to make up the 6 *shevatim* on *Har Eival* (*R. Bechaya*). (b) These are sins performed: (1) in secret – *Bnei Yisrael* proclaimed that *Hashem* will punish secret sins (*Rashbam*). (2) by leaders whom the people are powerless to punish – *Hashem* will see that they, not the people, are punished (*Sforno*). (c) Speaking *lashon ha-ra* (*Rashi*). (d) One who: (1) learns *Torah* but does not enable others to learn; (2) denies the validity of any single *mitzvah*; (3) does not properly lift the *Torah* for *hagbaha* (*Ramban*). (a) *Bnei Yisrael* will be blessed, even (1) without effort (*Sforno*); (2) when the *Sanhedrei Ma'ala* (Heavenly Court) argues that they do not merit blessings (*Ohr ha-Chaim*). (3) when they are righteous on *Rosh Hashana* and are blessed but later sin – *Hashem* will still provide blessings at the right time and place (*Sifri* – *Eikev* 11:12).
- (1) By emulating *Hashem's* ways – just as He is called (i) compassionate, you should be compassionate; (ii) gracious, you should be gracious; (iii) upright, you should be upright; (iv) holy, you should be holy; (2) Choose, in all matters, a balanced, median path – never go to extremes (*Sefer ha-Chinuch* – *Mitzvah* 611).
- (a) (1) *Moshe's* curses here are milder than *Hashem's* in *Bechukotai* – *Hashem* indicates that entire nation will be affected; here, individual sinners, not everyone, will be affected (*Rashi*). (2) *Hashem* will punish *Bnei Yisrael* not only when the whole nation sins, but also when they allow individuals to sin (*Ohr ha-Chaim*). (b) That *Hashem* shall place you *le-rosh ve-lo le-zanav* (as a head and not as a tail) (*Shulchan Aruch Orach Chaim* 583). (c) In the light, others can help a blind man; *Bnei Yisrael* will be in darkness, with no one to help them (*Megillah* 24b). (d) *Vespasian* and *Titus*, who invaded *Eretz Yisrael* with a huge Roman army, captured the fortified cities of *Yehuda*, destroyed *Yerushalayim* and the *Beit ha-Mikdash* and exiled the Jews (*Ramban*).
- The famed trees of Lebanon will be used to rebuild the *Beit ha-Mikdash* (*Radak*).