

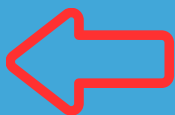


OHR REUVEN אור ראובן
YESHIVA KETANA

UPCOMING EVENTS

Motzei Shabbos
January 17, 2026

NSHEI TEA



Monday
January 19, 2026
Legal Holiday
No Transportation
Dismissal N-8 3:00 PM
General Studies Teacher-In-Service

Wednesday
January 28, 2026
Dismissal: Grades N-K: 12:00,
P-8: 12:30

Thursday-Monday
January 29-February 2, 2026
Mid Winter
No session



IMPORTANT NOTES

Our condolences to
Rabbi Rawicki on
the passing of his
beloved sister,
Mrs. Lifsha Bracha
ה"ה bas Yitzchak
Aryeh חי"ו



REUVEN REVIEW

YOUR WINDOW INTO THE WORLD OF YESHIVA KETANA OHR REUVEN

Vol. 14 Issue 17

January 16, 2026

4:35 PM

פרשת וארא



Mazel Tov to our Mishna Yomi Siyum Lomdim



Kedusha Warriors trip





Rabbi Kohn's 6th grade class celebrates surpassing 1,000 chazaros on their Gemara Chazara chart- now aiming for an incredible new goal of 1,500 עמודים of חזרה!



Rabbi Kohn's 6th grade learning in Ohr Reuven's Bais Medrash for their Gemara Chazara program

Our condolences to Alexander Czertok on the passing of his beloved father, Arie Ben Dovid A"H

PLEASE SHARE WITH US! Email any mazel tov information to reuvenreview@ohrreuven.com.

MAZEL TOV!

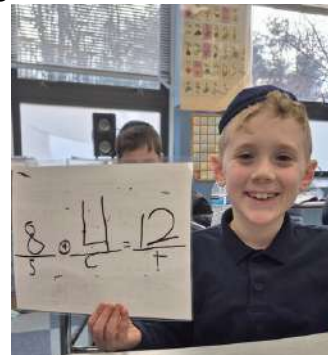
Eliyahu and Moshe Dovid Rothman on their brother's Upsherin!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Rafi Weinraub 6th
Moshe Dovid Rothman 4th
Eli Wassner 3rd
JJ Zlotnick 3rd
Tzvi Margaretten 1st
Benny Peker Pre-1A



Mordechai Nadoff celebrating his Hanochas Teffilin



Morah Bracha's and Morah Hadassa's 2nd grade math



Rabbi Peikes' 8th Grade Siyum on Maseches Beitza and Hilchos Krias Hatorah



ELA game in 1st grade with Mrs. Radzik



Rabbi Biller's 2nd grade learned that unkind words can quickly ruin a happy mood, like a balloon popping when it's hit by something sharp.



Morah Jenny's K1 davening from Siddurim



Morah Bracha's Pre-1A playing the decoding kriah game



Morah Tzippy's Nursery reading time



We are excited to see you at our upcoming Nshei Tea. As a fun incentive, the boys are able to guess how many gumballs are in a gumball machine. The family with the closest guess submitted at the tea will win the entire machine. (Boys don't forget to give your mother your guess)

וארא

Winning the Losing Streak

וְאֵלָּא אֶל־אַבְרָהָם אֶל־יִצְחָק וְאֶל־יַעֲקֹב בְּאֵל שְׁכֵי וְשְׁמִי ה' לֹא נִדְעָתִי לָהֶם:

I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as Kel Shakkai, but I did not make Myself known to them by My name, Hashem.

היה בידי להובילכם בדרך העולה מעלה מעלה. במקום לתת בן לאברהם בשנתו המאה, יכולתי להקים לו משפחה קודם שהיה בן שבעים, ולהניח לזרעו לפרוח ולהיות לעם בתנאי אושר והצלחה, על אדמת מולדתו. אולם באופן זה לא היה העם נעשה ליעם ה', אותו עם אשר דרכו יתגלה האלקים כ'הויה'; ... משום כך, חייב עם זה להתחיל מהמקום בו נעצרו שאר העמים. היה עליו להתיימש מעצמו "בגועל נפשו", להיות מוטל ארצה כמעט וגווע "מתבוסס בדמו" (עיין יחזקאל טז, ה-ו), ולקום להיות לאומה נפרדת ועצמאית רק בקריאת הבורא, כדי שבעצם קיומו, יכריז לכל העמים: "אני ה'!"

I was able to lead you on the path that goes up and up. Instead of giving a son to Abraham in his hundredth year, I could have started a family for him before he was seventy, and let his seed flourish and be a people under conditions of happiness and success, on the land of his homeland. In this way, however, the people would not have become "the people of G-d," the people through whom G-d will be revealed as "G-d"; ... therefore, this nation must begin from the place where the rest of the peoples would stop. It had to despair of itself "in the disgust of his soul," to be laid on the ground almost dying, "based on his blood" (see Ezekiel 16: 6), and to rise to be a separate and independent nation only by the Creator's call, so that by its very existence, it declares to all nations: "I am Hashem!"

- Rav Shamson Raphael Hirsch

Without the wilderness, there is no paradise

- Rich Cohen

The story that unfolds over the opening three parshios of sefer Shemos is one of false starts and dashed hopes. Hashem sends Moshe and Aharon to announce to the people that their redemption has come, only for Pharaoh to turn the screws of their servitude even tighter. Each passing plague comes with the false hope and promise the people will be set free, only for Pharaoh to renege on that promise and maintain the horrid status quo. G-d could have freed His people in an instant and brought them "on eagles' wings" to The Promised Land. Why didn't he?

The standard narrative is that the slow, fitful pace of redemption was meant to instill in the

Egyptians a recognition of G-d and His power. It is true that there is evidence that may have occurred, with scattered historical sources indicating a short-lived shift toward monotheism in ancient Egypt that may have been the result of the Exodus. However, the key phrase here is short-lived. It seems an awful lot of effort and a lot of unnecessary disappointment for the Jewish People just to have the Egyptians, who would soon exit the world stage, adopt monotheism for a brief interlude.

Perhaps the fitful stops and starts, false hopes, and bitter disappointments that marked the exodus from Egypt were not for the benefit of the Egyptians, but for the bnei Yisroel. As Rav

Shamshon Raphael Hirsch so eloquently explains, the entire Egypt experience was the crucible that would forge the Bnei Yisroel into a noble nation that would declare the name of G-d for all the world to hear. Nobility of character, greatness, and the fortitude to fight against the world are not born of comfort, complacency and a life free of disappointment. Quite the contrary, greatness is the product of disappointment, loss, and of learning to push forward beyond shattered hopes and dreams.

A fabulous book excerpt that appeared a number of years ago in The Wall Street Journal is instructive in this regard. New York Times bestselling author, Ben Cohen, penned a memoir of his experiences with his son's pee-wee-league ice hockey team, a team of 11 and 12 year-olds that managed to lose 40 of their first 50 games.

That season was a sharp contrast to his son's 9 and 10-year-old season, where his team never lost more than three straight games as they made a deep run in the state championships. That year, as Mr. Cohen relates, was a season of "happiness, buffoonery, boasting, celebration, and pizza." But, as Mr. Cohen reports about his son, "he improved as a player but did not change much as a person. For that, you need to lose."

Losing, as Cohen explains, taught his son humility, that for everyone good there is always someone better, for everything big, there is something bigger. Losing also allowed him to reclaim his love of the game for the beauty of the game itself rather than for trophies or ribbons, and it allowed all the kids to learn the game in a way that only losing can teach.

Cohen lays out the argument that in sports and in sports fandom defeat is of far greater value than victory. In losing, one bonds with teammates far more than in winning, learning to express and accept empathy. Losing streaks, in Mr. Cohen's eloquent description, are "a time of testing, a crucible from which the team and its nation of supporters emerges smaller but stronger."

We know Mr. Cohen to be right. Knowing that to be true, if you are G-d and you are trying to forge a great, noble nation what do you hand them, an easy victory or a frustrating losing streak? The answer, though counterintuitive, is obvious.

Moshe and Aharon deliver to the Jewish People loss after disappointing loss, frustration after vexing frustration on the way to their ultimate redemption and victory. But through those losses, they improve as people, they learn what is truly important and what is not, they bond to one another in a way that only losing can do, and they emerge stronger and greater.

The parenting lesson is clear. The goal is not to fill our children's dressers with trophies and their walls with certificates and ribbons. It is to forge them as people, to teach them to navigate life, and to raise them to greatness. A losing streak every once in a while would go a long way to making that happen.

*Good Shabbos,
Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Principal*



פרשת וארא



This week's program שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום

is

not

yet

sponsored

**THE REST of the פרשיות of this year
are still available for sponsorship!**

Please help support this wonderful program.

Monthly (4 weeks) sponsorship: \$220

One week full sponsorship: \$60

One week partial sponsorship: \$35

To sponsor a פרשה
please contact Rabbi Plotzker.

First

Last

Name of תלמיד (Please Print Clearly)

!!WEEKLY PRIZES!!

- ☐ 1st Grade – 5 פסוקים
- ☐ 2nd Grade – 10 פסוקים
- ☐ 3rd Grade – 15 פסוקים
- ☐ 4th Grade – 20 פסוקים
- ☐ 5th Grade – 25 פסוקים
- ☐ 6th Grade – 30 פסוקים
- ☐ 7th Grade – 40 פסוקים
- ☐ 8th Grade – 50 פסוקים

My son completed שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום for
this פרשה in the amount specified for his class.

☐ **Bonus: Did double the grade required amount!**

Parent's signature



Quote from the Parsha

וַיֹּאמְרוּ הַחֲרָטְמִים אֶל־פֶּרְעֹה, אֲצַבֵּעַ אֱלֹקִים הוּא.

And the magicians said to פֶּרְעֹה, it is the finger of ה'.

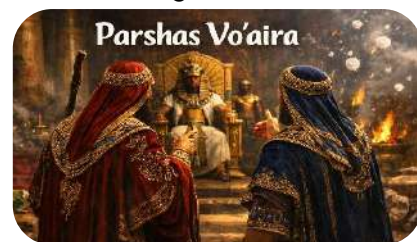
After replicating on some level the first 2 מִכָּה, the magicians were completely unable to replicate the מִכָּה. כְּנִים. They then testified that all that happens, truly has Hashem's 'finger' visible on it.

Additional Parsha Points

הַכֶּרֶת הַטוֹב

Parsha Points

- 1) After מֹשֶׁה and אַהֲרֹן came to tell פֶּרְעֹה to send the בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל out for a three day Yom Tov, פֶּרְעֹה made them work even harder. ה' told מֹשֶׁה to go again to demand that he let the בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל go free.
- 2) פֶּרְעֹה asked for a sign. As per ה'’s command, אַהֲרֹן threw down his staff and it turned into a snake. פֶּרְעֹה laughed as his magicians also did that. However, when אַהֲרֹן’s snake turned back into a staff, it **then** swallowed all of their staffs. Even with this, פֶּרְעֹה refused to let the בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל go.
- 3) ה' told מֹשֶׁה to meet פֶּרְעֹה at the Nile River and warn him all the waters in מִצְרַיִם will turn into blood. פֶּרְעֹה was warned for three weeks, but refused to listen. Hashem told מֹשֶׁה to tell אַהֲרֹן to stretch out his staff, and all the waters in מִצְרַיִם turned into blood. Only the Jewish city of גּוֹשֶׁן had water. As פֶּרְעֹה’s magicians replicated the מִכָּה by creating colored water, פֶּרְעֹה refused to listen to מֹשֶׁה and אַהֲרֹן.
- 4) After being warned again and refusing to let the בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל go, the next מִכָּה began with a frog (frogs) coming out of the Nile. Soon, swarms of frogs were everywhere in מִצְרַיִם. Aside from the actual frogs, part of the מִכָּה was the deafening noise. The day after פֶּרְעֹה agreed to let בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל go, the frogs died and מִצְרַיִם now stank. However, פֶּרְעֹה changed his mind and did not let the בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל go.
- 5) The 3rd מִכָּה, כְּנִים, lice, came without a warning. (Every 3rd מִכָּה had no warning.) אַהֲרֹן stretched out his staff and hit the ground. All of the land of מִצְרַיִם turned into lice. The Egyptian חֲרָטְמִים, magicians, were unable to copy this מִכָּה and admitted that all were from Hashem.
- 6) For the 4th makkah פֶּרְעֹה was warned again, but still refused. Soon, all types of wild animals and flying creatures descended, attacking and killing the מִצְרַיִם. פֶּרְעֹה, again, agreed to let בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל go bring קֶרֶבֶת in the desert, but when the מִכָּה was over and the עֲרֹב left, he changed his mind.
- 7) After more warnings and refusals, the מִכָּה of דָּבָר came. All farm animals that were left in the field and belonged to a מִצְרִי, died.
- 8) By now פֶּרְעֹה refused to heed 5 times. At this stage, ה' hardened פֶּרְעֹה’s heart - it became more difficult for him to do תְּשׁוּבָה.
- 9) For the 6th מִכָּה, ה' told מֹשֶׁה and אַהֲרֹן to each take two handfuls of ashes. אַהֲרֹן then added his into מֹשֶׁה’s already full hands (אֶגֶס). מֹשֶׁה then combined that into one hand (אֶגֶס) and threw it up in the air. The ashes went higher and higher (אֶגֶס) and spread all over מִצְרַיִם (אֶגֶס). It then descended as שֶׁחִין, boils, all over the מִצְרַיִם.
- 10) But פֶּרְעֹה again refused. After warnings, the בָּרָד, hail, which combined fire and ice, began. The מִצְרַיִם also died from the deafening thunder that accompanied the בָּרָד. Yet again, when the בָּרָד stopped, פֶּרְעֹה refused to let the בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל go.



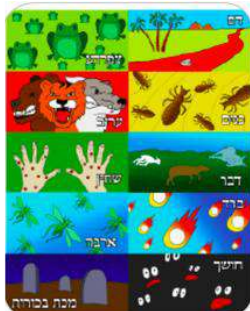


Blood Everywhere	דָם	ד
Swarms of Frogs	צִפְרָדַיִם	צ
Lice all over	כִּנִּים	ך
Attack of Mixture of Animals	עָרוֹב	ע
Death of Domestic Animals	דָּבָר	ד
Boils all over	שָׁחִין	ש
Fire & Ice Hailstones	בָּרָד	ב
Swarms of Locusts	אַרְבֵּה	א
Complete darkness	חוֹשֶׁךְ	ח
Death of First Born	מִכַּת בְּכוֹרוֹת	ב

There are 7 מכות in וְאֵרָא and 3 מכות in בֹּא.

An easy way to remember this is:
the gematria of וְאֵרָא = 7, and בֹּא = 3

6	ו	1	א
7	ז	2	ב
8	ח	3	ג
9	ט	4	ד
10	י	5	ה



Tefillah Talk

אֲשֶׁרִי (חֵלֶק ב')



Dovid Hamelech transitions back and forth as to what the older generation tells over to the younger generation, and what he personally will tell over.

One generation to the next will praise all that You do,	דֹר לְדֹר יִשְׁבַּח מַעֲשֶׁיךָ
And they will tell over about Your acts of 'strength'.	וְגִבּוֹרֹתֶיךָ יִגִּדּוּ.
About the beauty of Your honored Majesty	חֵדֶר כְּבוֹד הוֹדֶךָ
And about Your amazing wonders, I will speak.	וְדִבְרֵי נִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ אֲשִׁיחָה.
And about the might of Your awesome actions they will speak,	וְעִזּוֹז נִזְרָאֲתֶיךָ יֹאמְרוּ
And about Your greatness, I will tell over.	וְגִדּוּלְתֶךָ אֶסְפְּרֶנָּה.
They will tell over the memories of Your goodness,	זֵכֶר רַב טוֹבָךָ יִבְיְעוּ
And they will sing about Your righteousness.	וְצִדְקָתֶךָ יִרְנְנוּ.
(They will say:) ה' is gracious (in reward) and merciful (even to the undeserving)	חֲנוּן וְרַחוּם ה'
(He is) slow to anger and does kindness in great amounts.	אָרֶךְ אַפִּים וְגִדּוֹל חֶסֶד.
Hashem is good to all,	טוֹב ה' לְכָל
And is merciful on all His creations.	וְרַחֲמָיו עַל כָּל מַעֲשָׂיו.



בס"ד



QUESTION OF THE DAY

ONE RAFFLE TICKET PER QUESTION ANSWERED!

Answers should be written on Q.O.D. cards and placed in mailbox outside office.

QUESTIONS ALL ABOUT '4'

All answers are to be in לשון הקודש.

- 1) List the 4 directions.
- 2) What are the 4 categories of watchmen (שומרים)?
- 3) What are the 4 מיתות of בית דין?
- 4) What are the names of the 4 תפילות we say on שבת & יום טוב?
- 5) What special day throughout the year do we have 4 עליות by laining?
- 6) What are the 4 'special' פרשיות we add on and lain as מפטיר once a year?

בס"ד

שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום



Why is פרשת שמות hinted to in שמות
and not in בראשית or a different פרשה?

Some answers:

- 1) We might have started at בראשית and then slipped up.
We are starting a new חומש.
ה' reminds us to not give up, rather try again.
- 2) שמות starts the גלות. We are reminded that by
learning תורה we will make it through גלות.

RAFFLE WINNERS

**EITAN SPILMAN
ARYEH GREENSTEIN**



N'SHEI REBBI PRIZES

THE ROSH HAYESHIVA, RABBI RUDINSKY
15 MINUTE CHAVRUSA WITH THE ROSH YESHIVA

RABBI RAWICKI
2 FREE BLUE NOTE PRIZES (10 WINNERS)
FREE PASS TO THE VENDING MACHINE (2 WINNERS)

RABBI ZIPPER:
SLUSH (12 WINNERS)

MRS. PLOTZKER:
LUNCH AND DESSERT PLUS STORY TIME WITH MORAH
SHANI (ONE WINNER)

MRS. LEIBOVIC
LUNCH WITH MRS. LEIBOVIC FROM HAVA JAVA

RABBI MYSKI - GRADE 1
REBBI'S HELPER FOR THE DAY (5 WINNERS)

RABBI BILLER - GRADE 2
FREE TEST PASS (5 WINNERS)
WIN A PRIZE FROM THE BOX (5 WINNERS)
FREE HOMEWORK PASS (5 WINNERS)
REBBI'S HOMEWORK STAMPER (2 WINNERS)
CHOOSE SONG OF THE WEEK (1 WINNER)

RABBI HOROWITZ - GRADE 3
FREE MILK SHAKE
5 FREE REBBI DOLLARS
FREE HOMEWORK (PASS)
FREE PRIZE FROM PRIZE STORE
REBBI'S SCROLLER FOR ONE DAY

RABBI LOWY - GRADE 4
AN OVERNIGHT KUGEL FOR THE CLASS!

RABBI EISEN - GRADE 5
2 MA'AH (3 WINNERS)
2 EXTRA BINGO SPONS (ONE PERSONAL AND ONE FOR THE CLASS) (2
WINNERS)
SODA CAN FROM VENDING MACHINE(2 WINNERS)

RABBI KOHN - GRADE 6
2 GOLD COINS (3 WINNERS)
SPIN THE WHEEL (3 WINNERS)

RABBI PRUPAS - GRADE 7
GAME OF HORSE WITH REBBI
HOT COCOA IN CLASS (3 WINNERS)
NIGHT OFF HOMEWORK (3 WINNERS)
CHANGE MORNING SONG TO SONG OF BOY'S CHOICE (1 DAY)

RABBI SCHEINBERG
A SPECIAL HOT COCOA (4 WINNERS)

RABBI PEIKES - GRADE 8
A SHABBOS AT REBBI'S HOUE WITH THREE FRIENDS
FROM THE CLASS

RABBI KAHANA - GRADE 8:
SLICE OF PIZZA (WINNERS)
BOWL OF POPCORN (2 WINNERS)

RABBI PLOTZKER - GRADES 1-8
4 MIZMOR L'SODA TOKENS
4 CANS OF SODA WHEN YOU WANT (4 WINNERS)



Nshei YKOR

COME ONE. COME ALL!

NSHEI TEA

An elegant evening of
community and inspiration,

GUEST SPEAKER
MRS. SHANI PLOTZKER

Auction • Dairy Refreshments

ADMIT ONE - TICKET \$18

YKOR DINING ROOM

JANUARY **17** AT 7:30 PM

• MOTZEI SHABBOS •



Nshei YKOR

COME ONE. COME ALL!

GRAND AUCTION

Jan 17 | 7:30 PM | YKOR Dining Room

ADMIT ONE - TICKET \$18

10 TICKETS
\$150

20 TICKETS
\$250

Ten wonderful prizes to be won!

PRIZE 1

Chevra Discount
(\$750 off full summer or \$400 off half summer)

Sponsored by Rabbi Peikis



\$250 to a Rebbe or Morah of your choice

Sponsored by Yoni & Sarah Seiter

PRIZE 6

PRIZE 2

Free Spring Season at RJFL

Sponsored by S.B. & B. Robinson

1 Hour Photoshoot

Sponsored by Ahuva Koenig Photography

Dinner for Two at Montpellier

Sponsored by Montpellier

PRIZE 7

PRIZE 3

Free Pirchei Baseball Season

Sponsored by David & Laurie Newman



3 one hour art lessons with Miriam Green

Sponsored by Miriam Green

Swaddlebee Blanket

Sponsored by Mordy & Chayala Kahana

2 free personalized pajamas

Sponsored by Paisley Design

PRIZE 8

PRIZE 4

4 Tickets to Nickelodeon American Dream

Sponsored by the Norowitz family & American Dream

6 sessions of EM sculpting

Sponsored by Aliza Weinraub

Pedicure at Limage

Sponsored by Agelet Berman

Free Makeover

Sponsored by Heaven Scent

PRIZE 9

PRIZE 5

Sary Fall

Sponsored by Sary Wigs

TAL NY Gift Package

Sponsored by TAL NY



Challah package

Sponsored by The Challah Fairy

Meat board

Sponsored by Bored

\$180 Evergreen gift card

Sponsored by Evergreen

PRIZE 10