OHR REUVEN אור ראובן
YESHIVA KETANA

REUVEN REVIEW

YOUR WINDOW INTO THE WORLD OF YESHIVA KETANA OHR REUVEN

Vol. 15 Issue 5 September 18, 2026 6:42 PM פרשת האזינו

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday-Monday
September 20 - 21 , 2026
יום כיפור
No Sessions

Thursday, September 24, 2026- Monday, October 5th, 2026
Sukkos
No Sessions

Tuesday
October 12, 2026
No Transportation
Dismissal N-K at 3:00 PM, P-8 at 4:00 PM

Friday,
November 6, 2026
Torah Umesorah Convention,
N-BM No Sessions

Wednesday,
November 11, 2026
No Transportation
Dismissal N-K at 3:00 PM, P-8 at 4:00 PM




8th Graders practicing their Shofar skills



Our 2nd graders showing off their Lshana Tova Cards




Rabbi Gonter awarding the 8th graders with Ritas for a great first month




The 8th graders demonstrating Newton's First law by performing the tablecloth trick



First graders playing Tic-Tac-Toe as they review the alphabet




Rabbi Vilinsky giving out the new mishnayos to those commited to learning Mishna Yomi of Maseches Ohalos

MAZEL TOV!

Rabbi & Mrs. Batya Freeman upon the birth of a granddaughter!
Rabbi & Mrs. Leibovic upon the birth of a grandson!
Shimon Kirshner upon the birth of a baby brother!
Davey Shiller upon becoming an uncle!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Aryeh Rosenfeld, 5th
Yaakov Yosef Freedland, 5th
Yitzy Rubin, 4th
Chaim Gelb, 4th
Naftali Liff. 1st
Yonah Singer, N-2

SPOTLIGHT ON PRESCHOOL



Pre1A making Alef Bais out of play dough in our Alef Bais books!



Tashlich comes alive in K-1



Learning about Rosh Hashana in K-1



K-1 Learning about Kaparos



N-2 learning about Kaparos

האזינו

Cynicism

וַיַּ֖רְא ה֑' וַיִּנָּ֕אֵץ מִכַּ֥עַס בָּנָ֖יו וּבְנֹתָֽיו׃

The L-RD saw and was vexed, and spurned His sons and His daughters.

וירא ה' וינאץ מכעס בניו ובנותיו דור שאבות מנאצים להקב"ה כועס על בניהם ועל בנותיהם ומתים כשהם קטנים

A generation in which the fathers abhor the Holy One, Blessed be He, He is angered at their sons and their daughters, and they die when they are small.

- Kesuvos, 8b

A cynic is a man who knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing

- Oscar Wilde

The *gemara* in *kesuvos* offers a frightening consequence for parents who provoke the anger of G-d, citing the *possuk* in this week's *parsha* indicating that children will, *chas v'shalom*, die young as a result. The proposed consequence is frightening enough to drive anyone to stay in line, but is curious, especially in light of the principle that children are generally not punished for the sins of the fathers.

Many commentators distinguish between underage children, who may fall victim to the consequences of their parents' misdeeds, vs. children over the age of majority who can no longer suffer the fallout of the sins of their fathers. I might suggest, however, that the *gemara* here is offering a firm lesson in parental attitude and how it affects our children.

The word choice in the *possuk* is instructive. The word יִנָּ֕אֵץ has a connotation that implies more than just provoke. Some render the word as "abhor," a translation that adds color to its meaning. You may recognize the root from the *viduy* we said on Yom Kippur, נאצנו. The word implies more than just the act of sin. It is an attitude that belittles and demeans G-d and religion. We have a word for it in English. That word is cynicism.

Being raised in the milieu of Orthodox Jewish life is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, there is the comfort and ease of the familiar. We are not foreigners in a *shul* or in a *Bais medrash*. One who comes to Torah on his or her own later in life may be somewhat lost and confused.

But, that latecomer to Judaism is likely to enter a *shul* wide-eyed with awe and reverence, while those who have grown up with it will be hard-pressed to be impressed. Too often that comfort and familiarity crosses the line to cynicism.

Cynicism fits the Justice Potter Stewart standard. It is hard to define, but you know it when you see it. The cynic has plenty to say about *rabbanim*, about his children's schools, and about *shuls* and other Jewish institutions, and most of what he says isn't flattering.

The cynic questions the sincerity and motivation of *roshei yeshiva* and *rebbeim*, wondering aloud if they are in it for the money or the *kavod,* but certain that they aren't in it for the sake of Heaven. Likewise, the cynic questions those who work on behalf of the *shul*, and shares his wisdom on the corruption involved in tuition costs, *shul* membership fees and organizations of *tzedakah* and *chessed*.

Yes, every cynic has a kernel of truth on which to base his beliefs and thoughts, but the cynic cannot see any good because he is too focused on the bad. And, when the cynic constantly shares his thoughts with his children, he converts those children to young cynics, and that is deadly for children.

Youthful vigor is built on optimism, hope, and belief in the ability to do good and to effect change in the world. Cynicism is the pinnacle of hopelessness, frustration and doubt. Hope is life. Cynicism is death. The Torah tells us in this week's *parsha* that one who provokes G-d by his cynicism doesn't only provoke G-d. He destroys his children along the way. The best thing the cynic can do for his children is to keep his thoughts to himself.

Making our children cynical deprives them of their youth and of their shot at life. They may end up finding themselves knocked down by life enough times to become cynical themselves, but they may not. Shouldn't we give them the chance to hope, to believe, and to try to change the world?

Good Shabbos,
Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
Principal

בס"ד

שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום

פרשת האזינו

OHR REUVEN אור ראובן
YESHIVA KETANA



This week's program is NOT YET SPONSORED

- ☐ 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

MOST 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.
bplotzker@ohrreuven.com

My son _____ in grade _____completed
שנים מקרא ואחד תרגום for this פרשה
in the amount specified for his class.
____ Bonus: He did double the grade required amount!

Parents sig._____