



This Passover,
Get the Whole
Picture.

Do you feel like you know what Passover is ... you're familiar with some of the rituals ... you're planning on being at a Seder ... but something's missing? That there's got to be more to it.

Well there is.

And this Wednesday, March 24, you can discover what it is.

Join Rabbi Doni Deutsch for another "Deeper Look at the Seder" workshop. Together, we will explore Passover and the Seder and discover new levels of meaning and relevance, through the writings of the Talmud and the Jewish mystics

You'll go home with a new picture of this major Jewish Holiday.

**A Deeper Look at Passover II
Wednesday, March 24, 8:15 pm
At the CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy Ave.**

info@torahnetwork.org



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: VAYIKRA (LEVITICUS 1:1 - 5:26)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Gershon Burd, in honor of my wonderful 'Aishes Chayil' (Woman of Valor), Batya Burd, on the occasion of our 7th anniversary, and with great thanks to the amazing CTN Rabbis for the precious work they do.

1. G-d called to Moshe (Moses) and said ... (35:5)

It's the beginning of the third Book of the Torah.

In Hebrew, the first word is *Vayikra*. *G-d called Moses.*

And if you look at a Torah scroll, you would notice something strange.

The last letter – the Aleph – of the word Vayikra, is written small.

And no, it's not a typo.

It's done on purpose. In every Torah scroll in the world.

And there's a wonderful – and very Jewish – idea that goes along with that little letter.

Because when it says that *G-d spoke to Moshe*, it's saying something unbelievably great about him.

About his uniqueness. His spirituality. His wisdom. And his importance.

But there was something else about Moshe.

His humility.

And there's a beautiful tradition. That Moshe was uncomfortable writing this about himself.

He was too humble to write about himself that 'G-d called him'.

So he wrote it small.

To play it down.

... It's a verse that teaches a Jewish approach to life.

Because we need to know our potential.

How in our own way, each of us can be like Moshe.

Spiritual. Learned. A leader.

And we can have a relationship with G-d.

But at the same time we must know something else.

That as much as we do to bring G-d into our life, arrogance keeps Him out.

2. If a person sins against G-d, dealing falsely with his fellow man. (5:21)

Our dealings with other people. We want to do the right thing.

But sometimes, it's hard to know ...

Like, is it the principle? Or is it the money?

Or is it just my ego?

Did I hurt his feelings? Or is he too sensitive?

Is it *my* money? Or is it *his*?

... *And let's face it. It's so easy to be subjective. To only see it our way.*

The good news? There's a very simple – yet very powerful – tool to help solve this problem.

... *Thinking about G-d.*

No. Not abstract philosophy. Or theology.

Nothing that 'complicated'.

It's something much simpler. Much more basic.

Before we make decisions, we can stop and ask ourselves one simple question:

... *What would G-d say?*

Because we'd be surprised.

How deep down, we usually do know what G-d would say.

... *We just don't stop to ask the question.*

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Rabbi Yisrael Salanter was one of the greatest Talmudic scholars and masters of spiritual growth of the 19th century.

He taught his students so much about Jewish tradition, values, and law.

And so much about life

It's interesting to hear what he considered one of – if not the – most important teaching:

"If I could give only one bit of advice to my students, this is what I would tell them.

Whenever you meet someone new, no matter who it is, you should try to find at least one thing that you like about that person. "

... *It's a pretty simple straightforward lesson.*

And one that can make an unbelievable difference in our lives.



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

Chicago Torah Network <http://torahnetwork.org>

2832 West Touhy Avenue, Chicago, IL 60645

Phone: 773.761.0400 Fax: 773.761.9262 e-mail: info@torahnetwork.org