

Special CTN Evening
in Lincoln Park

RICHARD
DAWKINS
THE
GOD
DELUSION

“Dawkins, G-d, the Torah ... and You”

Richard Dawkins is not only a famous scientist ... and not only an atheist - he's plain anti religious. In his book, The G-d Delusion, Dawkins sets out to destroy religion and to do away with the need for G-d. And he's quite blunt about it. According to Dawkins, anyone who thinks we need G-d to be good people and to have meaningful lives, is "pathetic".

And teaching children about religion, he says, is "child abuse". Besides, if there was G-d "with creation and eternity on his mind", he couldn't possibly care about what we do.

Join Rabbi Moshe Katz for a fascinating response to Richard Dawkins. Learn how the Torah can enhance every aspect of your life, and go home with a whole new appreciation of your heritage ... and yourself.

Whether or not you heard Dr. Nathan Aviezer's talk a few weeks ago on Dawkins' view of science and creation, you should not miss this eye opening presentation about the Torah, morality and religion.

Monday Evening, January 25

2020 North Lincoln Park West, Party Room

7 pm: Registration and Refreshments

7:30 pm: Presentation by Rabbi Moshe Katz

Register online at www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm

Info: 773.761.0400 x201 or info@torahnetwork.org

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: VO'AYRA (EXODUS 6:2 - 9:35)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored in memory of Samuel Allen Schwartz - Yeshayahu Asher ben Yoel Phishal z"l, on his 21st Yahrzeit on the second of Sh'vat. Your love and teachings live on in your children and grandchildren and beyond. You are remembered, missed and loved.

1. And G-d said to Moshe: Tell Aaron 'take your staff and stretch your hand over the waters of Egypt ... and they will become blood ... Tell Aaron: Hit the ground and there will be a plague of lice ... (7:19 - 8:12)

The story of the exodus. Moshe is given a mission. To take the Jews out of Egypt.

It begins with the ten plagues.

That Moshe brings upon the Egyptians.

... Except that Moshe didn't actually do all of them.

The Torah says that his brother Aaron did the first three.

Aaron hit the water to turn it into blood. And then he hit it again to produce the frogs.

And it was Aaron who hit the ground for the plague of lice.

... Why Aaron? Why not Moshe?

The Talmud says something fascinating.

... Moshe couldn't be the one to hit the water and the ground.

Because Moshe's life had been saved by them.

Back when Pharaoh had decreed that all newborn Jewish boys be killed.

Moshe's mother put him in a basket on the Nile.

Where he was found. And saved.

Later, he kills an Egyptian who was attacking a Jew.

He hides the body by burying it. In the ground.

... So the Talmud says that Moshe couldn't hit them.

Because it would show a lack of gratitude.

... That's the tradition. But what's it supposed to mean?

Gratitude? To the water? The ground?

They have no feelings?

But it's a powerful lesson. About the importance of gratitude.

Because of course it made no difference to the water and the ground.

... But it made a difference to Moshe.

About the type of person he wanted to be.

... And it makes a difference to us.

Showing gratitude helps me be a more sensitive person.

And a better person.

... Gratitude isn't just for the benefit of the one receiving the thank you.

It also does a lot for the one saying thank you.

STORY OF THE WEEK

It was after a funeral, on a cold rainy day in Jerusalem. One of Israel's leading Rabbis, close to ninety years old, is in the procession.

A few blocks from the cemetery, he asks the driver to stop. He wants to walk the rest of the way.

And in the cold and the rain, he does.

He explained: 'Seventy years ago, I was a Yeshiva student in Russia. I was so poor, I couldn't even afford a coat. I nearly froze in the Russian winter.

This man was also there. And he bought me a warm coat.

Now, at his funeral, I wanted to remember what it felt like to be so cold.

So I could say my final thank you, fully appreciating the favor he did for me.'

THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

Rabbi Moshe Katz was in Israel while back. And one day he was in a cab.

The driver wasn't especially religious. But he had a perspective that we could all gain so much from.

They were schmoozing. And Rabbi Katz asked him a question.

A simple question.

But the answer was profound.

His question: 'How long have you been in Israel?'

The driver's immediate and sincere response:

... 'Four thousand years'.



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week!

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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