

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network
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Two Steps to a Meaningful Purim!



Help needy Jews Celebrate Purim.

www.torahnetwork.org/mitzvah.htm

See details next page.

And this year, celebrate Purim by making a real difference in the life of a fellow Jew.



What: A unique meaningful Purim Service with explanatory reading of the Book of Esther

When: Saturday, March 19, 8:30 pm

Where: The CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy

Info: 773-761-0400
info@torahnetwork.org



Home for the
Wondering Jew.™

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

A WEEKLY PRESENTATION OF JEWISH THOUGHT PUBLISHED IN MEMORY OF RAE DANIEL

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 23 FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011 / 5 ADAR 2 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 5:32 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 6:43 (CHICAGO)P

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 8th anniversary, and with great thanks to the amazing CTN Rabbis for the precious work they do. A special thank you to Rabbi Deutsch for last week's wonderful gathering of "CTN Alumni" in Jerusalem. It was so inspiring to see all the families whose lives have been impacted by CTN!

1. Celebrate a Jewish Holiday – The Jewish Way

Before we get to this week's thoughts, we invite you to join CTN in helping make this Purim a day of real celebration for needy Jewish men and women in Chicago.

As Maimonides writes: "There's no greater or more glorious joy than bringing happiness to the poor. By doing so, a person emulates G-d, because G-d "raises the spirit of the lowly ..."

Please make your generous tax-deductible contribution now. You can either make a secure online gift at www.torahnetwork.org/mitzvah.htm or complete the form and fax it ASAP to 773.761.9262.

The money will be distributed on Purim to the Jewish poor. And you'll not only celebrate a Jewish holiday. You'll do it in a very Jewish way.

Name: Visa /Master Card #

Exp:/..... Amount: \$ Signature:

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

A powerful verse. With a very important lesson. Because Judaism didn't just teach us about G-d. It also taught the world about man.

That every human being is created in the Image of G-d.

And when I do something wrong to my fellow man – I am sinning against G-d.

▪ **Rabbi Yisrael Salanter.** One of last century's leading Torah scholars. He had a special mission in life. To heighten people's awareness of the moral and ethical responsibilities of Judaism.

The town 'shochet' (ritual slaughterer, who provided the town with kosher meat) once came to Rabbi Salanter. He was thinking about leaving his position. Starting a business instead.

It wasn't the money. The chance to earn a better living.

In fact, it was for religious reasons.

He was a very pious man. Meticulous in his observance of Jewish law. And the responsibility of being the shochet was just too much for him.

"There are so many laws. So many details. To make sure that my meat is truly kosher.

What if I make a mistake?"

Rabbi Salanter's response: "I understand your concerns. And you're right. Kosher is so important. So central to Jewish life. In so many ways.

And making sure the meat is kosher, is a tremendous responsibility.

But there's one thing you should never forget.

Your responsibility as a businessman will not be any less.

Because the Torah has so many teachings about business ethics as well.

And it demands such a tremendous level of integrity.

Do you have any idea how careful we have to be, to make sure that our money is truly kosher?"

3. If a person sins unintentionally ... and the sin becomes known to him, he shall bring his offering ... and he will be forgiven. (4:27-31)

Forgiveness for an unintentional sin.

It's an important lesson. Something we can apply to our everyday lives.

Say I hurt someone's feelings. I didn't mean to. But I said something I shouldn't have.

And I feel bad. Wish it never happened.

But I say: What can I do? It was an accident.

The Torah says that's not enough: I have to address it. See what I can do to improve.

... Even if it was unintentional.

Because there was something I could have done. And something I can do in the future.

I can work on caring more about the feelings of others. On being more sensitive.

On making their feelings real to me.

Because if we really care about something – we are much more careful about it.

And accidents are less likely to happen.

THIS MONDAY NIGHT AT CTN



Join Rabbi Moshe Katz and explore a fascinating "Bible legend". The kind Albert Einstein claimed is primitive and childish.

And decide for yourself what the Torah can teach us.

... About G-d. About ourselves. And even about the Big Bang!

'Einstein, Torah and the Big Bang'

This Monday March 14, 7:00 pm at The CTN Center, 2832 W. Touhy

Register: www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm Info: info@torahnetwork.org 773.761.0400 x201



Shabbat Shalom and best wishes for a wonderful week.



Rabbi Moshe Katz



Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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