

From: The Rabbis at Chicago Torah Network

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To:

Join Rabbi Moshe Katz's popular workshop



CHANUKAH

WHAT IF THE GREEKS WOULD HAVE WON?

Discover how inspiring Chanukah can be and how we can make it meaningful for our children and grandchildren. Teenagers welcome.

OPTION I

OR

OPTION II

Tuesday, November 30 at 7:00 P.M.

At CTN Center, 2832 West Touhy Ave, Chicago

Register ▶

Lunch, Learn & Mitzvah

Wednesday, December 1 at 11:30 A.M.

At Northbrook JCC, 300 Revere Drive

Register ▶



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Home for the Wondering Jew™

Registration: www.torahnetwork.org/register.htm

More information: info@torahnetwork.org or 773 761 0400 x201

THE CHICAGO TORAH NETWORK SHABBAT FAX[©]

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

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 7 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2010 / 12 KISLAIV 5771 CANDLE LIGHTING: 4:07 P.M. SHABBAT ENDS: 5:17 (CHICAGO)

Hang in there - Shabbos is coming!

TORAH PORTION: VAYISHLACH (GENESIS 32:4 - 36:43)

This week's CTN Shabbat Fax is sponsored by Daniel and Kari Gutstein and family, with gratitude to Hashem for the larger Jewish community which stands up so well for those who need help, and are always ready, willing, and able to offer up Tehillim (psalms) and prayers (and meals!) that help so much in times of need.

1. And a man fought with Jacob until the morning ... (32:25)

According to Jewish mystical tradition, this was not an ordinary fight.

Jacob's battle with the stranger is symbolic of an eternal struggle.

It's about the forces that would destroy us. And our battle for survival.

And the story has a powerful lesson.

Because why attack Jacob?

Why not Abraham? The first Jew. Or Isaac?

Why Jacob?

... In Jewish tradition, each of the forefathers represents something.

Abraham represents *Chessed*. Acts of kindness.

Isaac? Spirituality. Prayer.

And Jacob – the one who 'dwelled in the tents' – represents the study of Torah.

... And sometimes our enemies know us better than we know ourselves.

Think about the former Soviet Union.

How Jewish life was almost totally destroyed. In just seventy years.

How?

They closed all Jewish schools.

... Yes, synagogues are important.

But even well attended services can't guarantee Jewish survival.

The younger generation won't understand. Won't be inspired.

And they'll drift away.

Same thing with *cheded*. Caring for the less fortunate.

In Jewish life it's central.

And Jews have always been in the forefront. Which is how it should be.

But as important as *cheded* is, it also can't guarantee that our kids remain Jewish.

No. The enemy attacked Jacob.

Because Jacob represents the secret of Jewish continuity.

Torah study. Jewish education.

... And that's the key to Jewish survival.

▪ *It happened a few years ago at a "shiva" house. A house of mourning.*

One of the visitors mentioned something he'd noticed about the man who passed away.

How every day, at a certain time, he would see him standing on the same street corner. Just standing there.

He wondered why. And the family explained:

"It was something our dad kept to himself. But now we can share it. You know, he was a holocaust survivor. He lost his entire family. Yet somehow, he survived and managed to start all over.

... Well, it was on that street corner that he got his strength to continue. To rebuild.

Because there are a number of Jewish day schools in this neighborhood. And dozens of school buses pass by each day.

... Dad would just stand there and watch.

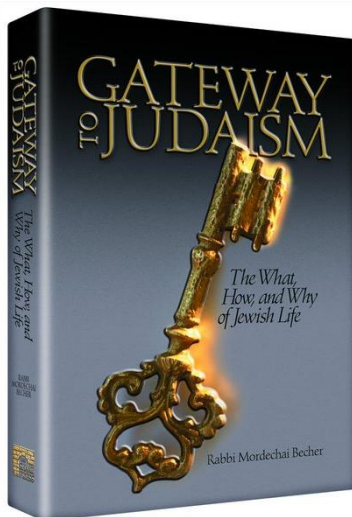
He wanted to see hundreds of Jewish kids going to school. Learning Torah. And becoming proud, knowledgeable Jews.

... It was his biggest pleasure in life.

To him, it meant that there was a future for the Jewish People.

And it gave him the strength to go on."

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Stop imagining. And start doing!

For a limited time, CTN is giving away free copies of Gateway to Judaism: The What, How, and Why of Jewish Life, to participants who will use it as a text at CTN's *Study Buddy* program. This wonderful book is a great overview of traditional Jewish beliefs and practices, and costs over \$20 online – but now you can get it absolutely free!

Supplies are limited so please email info@torahnetwork.org to reserve your copy and arrange for your *Study Buddy*.

To learn more about this great opportunity please contact rabbideutsch@torahnetwork.org or call 773.761.0400 x202.



Shabbat Shalom and have a great week.

Rabbi Moshe Katz

Rabbi Doni Deutsch

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