



PARSHAS HAAZINU – MR JOEY JOSEPH

In Posuk Lamed it says: How could one chase a thousand and two will put ten thousand to flight, except that their Rock had given them over and Hashem had delivered them up. This Posuk warns us of what can happen when Klal Yisrael are in trouble.

This Posuk was foreseen by King Pharaoh in Egypt. Far from being a simpleton, King Pharaoh was in fact an exceedingly clever man. We read in the Sedra of Beshalach (ch 14 v 7) that when Pharaoh chased after Bnei Yisrael, he took with him six hundred chariots. Why specifically six hundred? He could have taken five hundred or seven hundred or indeed any number but the Posuk specifies six hundred. Pharaoh in his wisdom knew that if Bnei Yisrael were running away then according to the Posuk he would only need two chariots to chase ten thousand. Knowing that six hundred thousand left Egypt, he made a calculation and therefore took six hundred thousand people divided by ten thousand and multiplied by two and came out with one hundred and twenty. So, if this calculation gives us one hundred and twenty, why did he take six hundred? The answer is because clever as Pharaoh was, we know that during the plague of Choshech (darkness), four fifths of Bnei Yisrael died unbeknown to Pharaoh and the rest of Egypt as it says in the Posuk (Shemos ch.13 v 18): Vachamushim Olu Bnei Yisrael – and the Children of Israel went up armed... or as the Meforshim say one fifth, the word Vachamushim having the root of Chomesh (five). Pharaoh therefore thought that five fifths went out of Egypt and hence he took five times one hundred and twenty chariots being six hundred.

We also know that King Pharaoh was a Novi (prophet) as he knew that only two people being Joshua and Calev would enter Eretz Yisrael as he says to Moshe (Shemos ch 10 v 8), why do you all need to go up “Me VoMe Haholchim” - Who and who are going? In other words it should only be two people. (The Baal Haturim points out that the numerical value of Me VoMe Haholchim is the same as Calev Ubin Nun – (216)). Moshe brilliantly responded by saying ch 10 v 9, Binoraynu Uvizkaynaynu Naylaych – We will go with our young and with our old, in other words, yes Pharaoh, you are very clever but the decree in the desert applied only to those aged between twenty and sixty of which there were only two survivors but it did not apply to anyone under twenty and over sixty!

From the above you can see that even though Hashem grants wisdom and prophecy to Goyim, there is a limit to their level of understanding. However, Bnei Yisrael are fortunate as the Posuk in Ha'azinu tells us: She'al Avicho Veyugadcho – Ask your father and he will tell you, Zekaynecho – Your elders (Rabbonim, teachers and leaders), Veyomru Loch – And they will be able to guide you on the right path.

We are continuing to produce our own in-house Sedra sheet, a one page D'var Torah to be printed in conjunction with the weekly Newsletter. We encourage as many men and bochorim as possible to participate.

To be a part of this exciting initiative, please speak to Avi Friedwald or Elliott Della so you can discuss an appropriate week. Alternatively please drop an email to sedrasheet@northhendon.co.uk. The Sedra sheet will be posted to the website and emailed to the Shul distribution list along with the newsletter on Wednesday evening of each week. To be a member of the distribution list please speak to Daniel Ehreich. Copies will also be made available in Shul on Friday night. We encourage you to submit your contribution at least a week in advance, as they will all need to be proof read. If you have email facilities, simply send your document to email mentioned below. Keep the content short; a limit of 800 words, (one page of typed A4) will be set for all participants.

If you have a Simchah, or Yahrzeit, or just want to share your contribution, contact Avi or Elliott to avoid disappointment.

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If you would like to write a sedra sheet please contact Elliott Della or Avi Friedwald, or email sedrasheet@northhendon.co.uk