



YOUNG ISRAEL OF CHERRY HILL

Kiddish is sponsored by Mindy and Jonathan Roller and Janet Bienenfeld in honor of Aliza Bienenfeld's Bat mitzvah.

Kiddish is sponsored by Duke McCarthy: All glory, honor, blessings, praises, and beauty to the Great Almighty G-d of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob!! May He bless all Israel and Jews throughout the world for all good things to the good!! Especially Young Israel of Cherry Hill and Families!! Please, Amen.

Shabbos

Mincha & Maariv	4:30 pm
Candle Lighting	4:29 pm
Sunset	4:47 pm
Shacharis	8:30 am
Jr Minyan R' Binyamin	9:45 am
Shabbos Groups	9:45 am
Mincha	4:20 pm
Maariv	5:30 pm
Shabbos Ends	5:39 pm

Dvar Torah: Rafi Kurlansik

Title: **Tefila and the Malach in the Desert**

If we look at the laws of Tefila in Rambam's Mishneh Torah, he mentions the following pasuk as the first source for the mitzvah:

וַעֲבַדְתֶּם אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וּבְרַךְ אֶת-יְהוָה וְאָתֵּם מִיַּד מַחֲלֵי מִקְרָב:

You shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will remove sickness from your midst. (Shemot 23:25)

Rambam proceeds to explain that from the oral tradition the term 'avodah' here is a reference to the 'avodah sh'b'leiv' - the service of the heart - which is tefila. This explanation does tie the mitzvah to a pasuk in the Torah, but there doesn't seem to be any direct reference to tefila as we understand it or practice it today. In fact, the entire section that this pasuk comes from seems to have nothing to do with tefila:

Behold I am sending an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have made ready. Pay heed to him and obey him. Do not defy him, for he will not pardon your offenses, since My Name is in him; but if you obey him and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes. When My angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I annihilate them, you shall not bow down to their gods in worship or follow their practices, but shall tear them down and smash their pillars to bits. You shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will remove sickness from your midst. (Shemot 25:20-25)

If Rambam had not told us this was a primary source for the mitzvah of tefila, we could not fault anyone for thinking otherwise. Is there a deeper connection to tefila in this passage of the Torah, and if so, what is it?

To answer this question we must first ask two others. First, what is the angel that Hashem is sending before the Jewish people to guard them? Is this some external guardian that accompanies the Jewish people in the desert, or is it something else? Second, what is the 'place' that the angel is bringing the Jewish people?

The Ibn Ezra offers a profound explanation of the concept of the angel in these pesukim. He suggests that the angel is the sefer Torah that was given to the Jewish people. To listen to the voice of this malach, according to Ibn Ezra, is to hearken to the words of the Torah and follow them. The power of the malach in this case is the transformative power of the Torah itself!

Now for the second question - where will the Torah lead us? To 'the place that I have made ready'. What is that place?

According to Rashi one interpretation is that the 'place' is the Beit Hamikdash. Here the connection to tefila emerges, for as we say during the days of awe, "... My house is a house of tefila for all nations...".

This changes how we read the pesukim above. Hashem is telling the Jewish people that He will provide the guiding angel - the Torah - to show us the way to the house of tefila. If we listen to the voice of Torah and do not serve false gods, we will be able to serve Hashem and obtain His blessings in the place He has prepared for us. How fitting that Rambam should choose this mention of avoda in the pesukim as the source for the mitzvah, as it is directly tied to the ultimate place of prayer for humanity.

May we follow the voice of the Torah throughout our exile to bring us speedily back to the place Hashem has prepared for us! Shabbat Shalom!

Board Meeting

Sunday at 8PM

Newsletter deadline update: Guaranteed deadline Wednesdays at 4 PM. All submissions before this guaranteed to be in newsletter. **Late Deadline** Thursdays 4 PM. Will likely make it to newsletter, but not guaranteed.

10th of Tevet—Tuesday

Fast Starts	5:55 am
Shacharis	6:45 am
Mincha & Maariv	4:15 pm
Fast Ends	5:35 pm

Mazal Tov

To the **Bienenfeld and Roller Families** on the bat mitzvah of **Aliza Bienenfeld!**

Security Update

If anyone would like to join the security committee they can contact Marc Hess at Marcrhess@hotmail.com and those who are already working on the committee should send their email and phone numbers.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

- Kiddush: \$120
- Seudas Shlishi: \$85
- Yartzeit Board: \$250
- Eitz Chaim: \$120
- Weekly Newsletter: \$50

Scrip - Purchase on YI's website or by contacting Joyce at JJoseph5@aol.com

Tribute Cards— Support YI & mark any occasion by purchasing on YI's website.

Dvar Torah - to submit a Dvar Torah for the newsletter, please use the link in the email.

Membership

- \$1,525 Regular Family
- \$775 Single / Retired Family / Young Family (under 30 years)
- \$400 Young Single (under 30)
- \$500 First year at YI—Family
- \$250 First year at YI—Single
- \$500 Associate Membership

For more info, contact Shmuel at Samuel.Gluck@gmail.com

Newsletter submissions deadline 4:00 pm Wednesdays.

Your simcha is our simcha... if anyone has a simcha or news they would like shared in the **newsletter**, please e-mail Martelle at ma5he5sp90@gmail.com. Please remember newsletter deadline is 4pm on Wednesdays.

Next Week

Shacharit (Sun)	8:30 am
Shacharis (Mon-Fri)	6:45 am
Mincha & Maariv (excl. Tues)	4:35 pm
Nightfall/Shma after	5:38 pm
Kollel Maariv (Mon-Thurs)	9:00 pm