

SHAILOS L'CHAZARA

Review Questions

Sefer HaSichos 5752

ספר השיחות · תשנ"ב

Parshas Chayei Sarah

פרשת חיי שרה

1 sicha in this booklet

Sicha 1: Now: Greet Moshiach! · 25 Cheshvan 5752, §§1–3

TEACHER'S EDITION

Answers are printed in italics on the answer lines, with the section (§) of the sicha.

★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

Each sicha has questions, a true chassidishe story, and a lesson for you.

Now: Greet Moshiach!

לקבל פני משיח צדקנו

Sefer HaSichos 5752 vol. 1, sicha of Shabbos Parshas Chayei Sarah, Shabbos Mevarchim Kislev, 25 MarCheshvan 5752 (1991), at the opening of the International Kinus HaShluchim. Sections as in the Sichos in English edition (vol. 50).

The point: *Every Jew is Hashem's shliach, and today the shlichus has one focus: to prepare ourselves and everyone around us to greet Moshiach in actual reality. A shliach needs two opposite things, like Eliezer, Avraham's shliach: he is a person with his own mind and strength, yet he is completely given over to the one who sent him, so the two are one. Avraham gave everything for Yitzchak's marriage because the whole future of the Jewish people depended on it, and that marriage is the union of "Mah and Ban," soul and body, Hashem and the world, which will be fully revealed when Moshiach comes.*

QUESTIONS ★ easy ★★ medium ★★★ harder

1. ★ When and where did the Rebbe say this sicha?

On Shabbos Parshas Chayei Sarah, Shabbos Mevarchim Kislev, 25 Cheshvan 5752, at the opening of the International Kinus HaShluchim. (§1)

2. ★ How do we know that every Jew is a shliach?

The Mishnah says, "I was created only to serve my Creator." Every Jew is sent by Hashem to light up the world with Torah. (§1)

3. ★★ What is the special point of shlichus in our time?

To prepare to greet Moshiach (kabbalas pnei Moshiach) in actual reality. Every part of the shlichus must be filled with this point; it is the "gateway" through which all of the shlichus goes up. (§1)

4. ★★ Why does the Rebbe say we are already ready?

Our Sages said all the appointed times have passed; teshuvah has been done; all the avodah is finished, even "polishing the buttons," as the Frierdiker Rebbe put it. What remains is to actually greet Moshiach. (§1)

5. ★★ What did Moshe ask with "Shlach na b'yad tishlach," and was his request granted?

Our Sages explain: send Moshiach. It was granted: Moshe is "the first redeemer and the last redeemer." He connected the redemption from Mitzrayim with the final Geulah. (§1)

6. ★★★ Moshe and Moshiach come from different shevatim. What connects them?

Moshe is Chochmah, the Torah, the one who gives (mashpia). Moshiach is Malchus, the one who receives (mekabel); through his bitul he takes in all the avodah of all the generations. Moshiach unites both qualities, "Mah and Ban." Also: shliach (348) plus ten equals Moshiach (358): he fulfills his shlichus with all ten powers. (§1)

7. ★★ Why must every shliach be both a "sun" and a "moon"?

He must be batel, completely given over to the one who sent him (a receiver, like the moon), and also use his own mind and powers to carry out the shlichus (a giver, like the sun). The two must work together. (§1)

8. ★★ How is Shabbos Mevarchim Kislev connected? What learning does the Rebbe ask for?

Kislev is "the month of Geulah," the third winter month, just as Sivan, the third summer month, is when the revealed Torah was given; Kislev is connected with the giving of pnimiyus haTorah. He asks to learn and finish Torah Ohr and Likkutei Torah this year. (§1)

9. ★★ Was Eliezer a shliach or only a shadchan? What signs point each way?

Shadchan: he hoped Yitzchak would marry his own daughter, and he used his own initiative (davening, choosing the sign). Shliach: he was "the elder of his house who controls all he owns," and he took all his master's best things to use as he saw fit; he was so given over to Avraham that he had no separate identity. So he was Avraham's shliach. (§2)

10. ★★★ Why did Avraham give everything he owned to Yitzchak, and why did it have to be done through a shliach?

This was not a private wedding: it was the first marriage in the Torah, after the bris, and the future of the whole Jewish people depended on it. So the head of the nation invested everything in it, and it needed Avraham himself, through a shliach who counts as the sender himself, not a shadchan doing a favor. (§2)

11. ★★★ What does Yitzchak and Rivkah's marriage stand for, and why does the Torah tell Eliezer's mission at such length?

It is the union of "Mah and Ban": soul and body, Hashem and the Jewish people in this world.

Rivkah came from Charan (Ban), Yitzchak was the olah temimah (Mah). The shlichus itself is also

that union: a separate person (Ban) who makes himself batel to his sender (Mah). (§3)

12. ★★ What is the lesson for each of us, Hashem's shluchim?

Our soul is one with Hashem and is sent into the body to change the world. Make the soul the main

thing and the body secondary, until everything we do is done by body and soul together, and then

spread it to the whole world. Every part of life should be filled with the shlichus, and we must

prepare ourselves, our families and friends to greet Moshiach. (§§1, 3)

A CHASSIDISHE STORY

"Do Not Board This Ship"

During the Second World War, before the Rebbe came to America, he and the Rebbetzin lived as refugees in a tiny apartment in wartime Europe. The government at war ordered everyone to sell their private gold to it. A desperate Jew begged the Rebbe to hide his gold, or his family would be ruined. The Rebbe agreed. When the authorities began searching refugees' homes, the Rebbetzin worried, since hiding gold was punishable by death. The Rebbe was firm: "A fellow Jew entrusted us with his entire fortune. It is our duty to protect it."

Meanwhile, in America, the Frierdiker Rebbe worked day and night to get them out. After endless efforts, papers and boat tickets were obtained, and the couple reached Portugal. Just before boarding, a telegram arrived from the Frierdiker Rebbe: "Do not journey on this ship." Without blinking, the Rebbe canceled and waited for the next boat. That first ship was sunk by German submarines, with no survivors. The Rebbe and the Rebbetzin arrived safely in New York on 28 Sivan 5701 (1941).

A chassid said: the most amazing thing is not the Frierdiker Rebbe's foresight, but that the Rebbe followed the instruction without a second thought, though his life hung in the balance.

Source: *Eli and Malka Touger, "Following the Instructions of a Rebbe," To Know and to Care (Sichos in English; chabad.org)*

Think: How does the Rebbe show both sides of a shliach in this story?

Like Eliezer, he guarded what was entrusted to him completely, and he was totally batel to the one

who sent him: when the Frierdiker Rebbe said "don't go," he didn't calculate, he simply obeyed

(§§1–3).

THE LESSON FOR YOU

You are Hashem's shliach. Use your own head and talents, and at the same time remember you're on a mission for Someone Else. Today the mission has one focus: get yourself and the people around you ready to greet Moshiach.

For example: Your mashpia asks you to run the Friday mitzvot table this week. You decide how to set it up and what to say, that's your "sun." But you do it because you were sent, and you follow his instructions exactly, that's your "moon." And when a kid asks what you're doing, tell him in one simple sentence what Moshiach means to you.