

DEAR TORAH TIDBITS FAMILY



Rabbi Avi Berman
Executive Director,
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The other night my wife Pnina and I sat and tried to make order of our childrens' different school schedules. Baruch Hashem we are blessed with nine children, and the challenges of going back to school during the coronavirus pandemic is intense. We tried to master being logistical directors and organize schedules that differ each week.

The older boys are either full time in Yeshiva or in Yeshiva one week and at home learning via zoom the next, but (of course) not the same weeks. One child is off Wednesdays, another Tuesdays and another every other Friday. Each child seems to end a different time every day. Add my wife's busy schedule as a nurse and my role at the OU, and we have a balagan. We feel extremely blessed to have a large family and our jobs helping people, but just thinking about managing everyone's schedule's makes your head spin.

Then, I turn on the news and see what's happening in the world. While at home I have been very focused on the new school year for my kids, in my role at the OU, I was also extremely busy with the Kashrut for Dubai and Abu Dhabi. We were proud to once again send OU Israel's

Director of Kashrut, Rabbi Yissachar Dov Krakowski, to kasher and provide high quality supervision and food to the entire delegation of kosher observant delegates from Washington and Israel.

This dichotomy of the nitty gritty of daily schedules paired with a historic world event, in which Israel was front and center, sent me a clear picture that Hashem runs the world. It reminded me of what Chazal tell us in Avot D'Rebbe Natan:

ר'בן יוחנן בן זכאי אומר אם הייתה נטיעה בתוך ירך ויאמרו
לך הרי לך המשיח, בוא ונטע את הנטיעה ואחר כך צא
והקבילו: " (אבדר"ן נו"ב ל"א)

which means that if you are planting a tree when Mashiach comes, you must finish planting the tree before going out to greet the Mashiach.

Hashem orchestrated these events to occur in this particular time of the year when we are reading the sheva d'nechemta (7 prophecies of comfort we read between Tisha B'Av and Rosh Hashana). These nevuot focus on Israel becoming the center of the world and all of mankind - Jews and non-Jews alike - recognizing the Almighty and coming back to Israel.

As we go into Shabbat, I think about how this week has been another week in which we saw Hashem make the State of Israel more central in the world. It is wonderful to see that while Hashem is doing these

incredible things to change the world, and ultimately bring about the final redemption, He tasked us with continuing to do the small, mundane aspects of our daily schedules.

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This week we had a number of meetings discussing additional content and ideas for Torah Tidbits. I'd like to thank each and every one of you who took the time to share your feedback and ideas for Torah Tidbits with myself, Rabbi Goldscheider and the rest of the Torah Tidbits team. You are helping us shape Torah Tidbits and spread Torah around the globe, and your remarks are heartwarming.

בצפיה לגאולה שלימה ומהירה,

Much love,



Avi
Executive Director, OU Israel

Mazal Tov
Erel & Tamar Berman

on the birth of your daughter

*To my brother Moe and Liat
for becoming grandparents
and to my parents
Fyvie and Rachel Leah
on becoming great-grandparents,
again.*

Avi & Pnina Berman

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