

**Parashas Toldos 5783 • November 25th • Rosh Chodesh Kislev**

 **Reminders**

The first opportunity for Kiddush Levana (USA) is Motzaei Shabbos, November 26th. The final opportunity is Wednesday night, December 7th.

Daf Yomi: Erev Shabbos is Nedarim 31. Daf Yerushalmi: Berachos 12.

Mishnah Yomis: Erev Shabbos is Shabbos 2:5-6. Seder Moed has just begun!

Make sure to call your parents, in-laws, grandparents and Rabbi to wish them a good Shabbos. If you didn't speak to your kids today, make sure to do the same!

 **Next on the Calendar**

Chanukah begins on Sunday Night, December 18th.

Asara B'Teves is on January 3rd.

 **Parshah in a Paragraph**

Toldos: Yitzchak and Rivkah pray for children • Rivkah is expecting, experiences pain, receives word of twin children • Eisav, then Yaakov, are born • Eisav sells his firstborn rights for lentil soup • Hashem commands Yitzchak not to leave Eretz Yisrael • Yitzchak settles in Gerar • Fearful for his life, Yitzchak claims Rivkah is his sister • Avimelech realizes their relationship and assures their protection • Yitzchak prospers and the envious Avimelech sends him away • Avimelech's men claim Yitzchak's wells • Avimelech comes to make a treaty • Yitzchak's men find water at Be'er Sheva • Eisav marries at the age of forty • Yitzchak wishes to bless his son, Eisav • Rivkah commands Yaakov to seize the blessings • Eisav is bitterly disappointed and vows to kill Yaakov • Rivkah sends Yaakov to stay with her brother Lavan • Yitzchak exhorts him not to marry a Canaanite woman • Eisav marries Yishmael's daughter in addition to his other wives

**Haftarah:** Despite Eisav being the firstborn, it was divinely ordained for Yaakov to be granted the Bechorah and to merit the twelve Shevatim and building the nation. The *nevuah* of Malachi (1:1-2:7) speaks of the love of Hashem for Yaakov and his hatred for Edom, the descendants of Eisav. Yet even with His love for our forefathers, each Jew individually must strive to be deserving of inheriting Hashem's endearment.

**613 Taryag Weekly**

**Toldos:** 106 Pesukim • No Mitzvos listed

 **For the Shabbos Table**

וַיִּעָתֶר יִצְחָק לְנֹכַח אֲשֶׁתוֹ... וַיִּעָתֶר לוֹ ה' וַתֵּהָרֵג רִבְקָה אִשְׁתּוֹ

*"Yitzchak pleaded with Hashem [for a child] opposite his wife... Hashem accepted his Tefillos, and his wife Rivkah conceived" (Bereishis 25:21)*

Rashi quotes the Midrash that notes that although they both davened earnestly for a child, it was primarily Yitzchak's Tefillos, not Rivkah's, that effected salvation, as he was the son of a *Tzaddik* and Rivkah was the daughter of Besuel, a wicked man. One may conclude from this Midrash that their lineage was the only substantial difference between Yitzchak and Rivkah's prayers.

The Brisker Rav points out that in fact Rivkah was merely twenty-two years old at this point, whereas Yitzchak was already sixty and very accomplished, having already passed the test of the Akeida. Yet this is not mentioned as the difference in their spiritual greatness.

The Brisker Rav explains that Rivkah faced many challenges growing up in the home of Besuel and Lavan, yet she did not succumb to the negative influences and grew into

a *tzadeikes*. In the few difficult years spent overcoming challenges and surmounting obstacles, this young woman brought herself to a level of greatness similar to that of Yitzchak Avinu's decades-long Avodas Hashem!

 **30 Yom Kodem Ha'chag**

**Halachos for Chanukah**

**Menorah:** Who lights?

Both men and women are obligated in this mitzvah. There is a mitzvah of *chinuch* to train a minor son in this mitzvah. While only the head of household is obligated, the Ashkenazic *minhag* is to (be zealous and) have all male household members light independently. A woman fulfills her obligation via her husband or with the in-home lighting of an adult male household member, even if she is away from home. Ideally, a husband should wait for his wife to return home before lighting, even if he will miss the preferred *zman*. If a husband is away for the night, he may technically fulfill his obligation with his wife's lighting back at home (if he is in a similar time zone). However it is best that he light in his location on his own and have in mind not to be *yotze* through his household. The wife, in turn, should light at home, having in mind as well not to be *yotze* with her husband's lighting.

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