



Understanding the Torah's Structure

By Rabbi Melvin Granatstein



Parshat BaHa'alotcha is divided in half with two verses set off and encompassed by an inverted Nun. The verses are used in our liturgy to announce the opening and closing of the ark - "ויהי בנסוע הארץ" and "ובנחה יאמר" respectively. By so dividing the Parsha, these verses divide the entire Sefer BaMidbar into two units: - the laws of the camp of Israel and preparations for the journey from Mt. Sinai to Eretz Yisrael before these two verses, and the actual story of the journey thereafter. Now Sefer Sh'mot is also divided into two units:- the story of slavery, exodus and Ma'amad Har Sinai (the Simaitic revelation) constitutes the first half

and the laws of the Mishkan and her constitution form the latter section. Between Sh'mot and Ba Midbar we have Sefer Va Yikrah in which God's revelation is delivered in the Tent of Meeting of the Mishkan. We can thus organize the central three books of the Torah into the following pattern. A:- Journey to Mt. Sinai, B:- the erection of the Mishkan and her laws. C:- God teaching the holiness laws in the tent of meeting. Here C becomes the centerpiece of the Torah. It is followed by B2:- the erection of Israeli's camp around the Mishkan and A2 the journey away from Mt. Sinai to the border of the promised land. We can structure the pattern as A B C B2 A2. This pattern then tells us that the God-man relationship in Israel reaches her climax when God and Israel can commune - not at a mountain top outside of Eretz Yisrael, but rather at a central shrine at the center point of the camp of Israel. This then, will be the model for the conquest and settlement of Eretz Yisrael. Here, Israel's camp will extend through the land and will find its central point at the Beit Ha Mikdash.

Now the camp of Israel itself forms two concentric circles around a central shrine, The Mishkan stands at the center, and the Kohanim and Levites camp around the Mishkan. Around them, there are three tribes each to the North, East, South, and West of the inner circle of Kohanim and Levites.

There is an unmistakable martial pattern to the camp of Israel. A census is taken in advance in which the males 20 years and up are counted and organized in troop formation - כל יוצא צבא בישראל - all who march to battle in Israel. However, this martial structure can serve in other non-military ways as well. The Ramban suggests that this formation can also serve to form a great assembly for self-governance.

The nineteenth century commentator Rav Ya'acov Mecklenberg suggests a very different purpose. Rav Mecklenberg suggests an etymological connection between צבא - battle formation and the Hebrew term צבי which means beautiful. According to Mecklenberg the formation of the camp was designed to demonstrate the most beautiful feature of the life of Israel at that time. שלא נמצא בהם פסול משפחה - Nothing marred the beauty of the life of the Jewish family. Ultimately, it is the Jewish family built upon marital fidelity and purposeful parenting which was to serve as the organizing principle for Jewish life, and the focus of God's presence in Israel.

MAZEL TOV

To Marla and Joseph Shafran on the birth of twin grandchildren (Natan Leib & Tovit Nitzan) born to Eric & Julie Shafran of Denver.

To Andrew & Allyson Goldstein on the birth of a baby boy (Ilan Zvi), and to grandparents Hy & Heddy Holz.

To Jeremy Sherman on his Bar Mitzvah and to parents Sanford & Aliza Sherman.

To Shmulie & Daryle Spero on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Zach, son Kenny & Robin Spero of Philadelphia.

To Jill and David Gleicher on the engagement of David's daughter, Ilana, to Daniel Bloom of Jerusalem and Melbourne.

To Bob & Marla Stark on the marriage of their son Ezra to Rachel Rothner, daughter of Ricky Rothner and Elaine Rothner of Chicago.

To Elaine & Joel Axelrod on the marriage of their son Dr. Mark Axelrod to Dr. Marissa Miller, daughter of Michelle Miller and Ken Miller of Chicago.

To Mark Axelrod on achieving his PhD from Duke and to his Kalah, Marissa Miller on her Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.) from Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Mazel Tov to all of our Graduates!

College

Jonathan Berliner - John Carroll University, Master of Arts

Zachery Berliner - University of Michigan, BA in Arts
Edward Gecovich - Cleveland Marshall

School of Law, Juris Doctorate

Michael Hoenig - The Ohio State University, Moritz School of Law

Judy Lefkovitz - Stern College

David Michael Shafran - Tel Aviv University, Sackler School of Medicine

Ezra Stark - NYU, Masters in Real Estate

Ariel Tavor - Queen College

Avi Toltzis - George Washington Law School

Tali Toltzis - Stern College, BA



High School

Rebecca Berliner - Beachwood High School

Rebecca Borison - Fuchs Mizrachi School

Tali Epstein - Fuchs Mizrachi School

Danit Fleischman, Fuchs Mizrachi School

Sydney Kaufman - Fuchs Mizrachi School

Ori Lefkovitz - Fuchs Mizrachi School

Jason Sherman - Fuchs Mizrachi School

Ramie Smith - Fuchs Mizrachi School

Talia Stark - Fuchs Mizrachi School

Sarit Toltzis - Fuchs Mizrachi School

Jessica Weberman - Beachwood High School

8th Grade & Middle School

Adi Goldberg - Fuchs Mizrachi 8th Grade

Leora Jaffe - Fuchs Mizrachi 8th Grade

Bella Katz - Fuchs Mizrachi Lower School

Gila Katz - Fuchs Mizrachi Middle School

Aharon Shevach - Fuchs Mizrachi 8th Grade

Jeremy Shevach - Fuchs Mizrachi Middle School

Nicolle Simonovic - Fuchs Mizrachi 8th Grade

Yoni Sunshine - Fuchs Mizrachi 8th Grade

Jeremy Weberman - Fuchs Mizrachi 8th Grade

Laina Weiss - Fuchs Mizrachi 8th Grade

IN SYMPATHY

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

THE CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

TO BETTY FISHMAN WEISZNER AND FAMILY ON THE PASSING OF HER HUSBAND AND LONG-TIME SHAMAS OF GREEN ROAD SYNAGOGUE, MOSHE WEISZNER, WHO PASSED AWAY ON JUNE 21ST.

Thank You To Our Gardening Volunteers

We thank all of those who came out for our volunteer gardening day on Sunday, June 22nd. We cleaned up bushes, trees, and flower beds around both Green Road Synagogue and Young Israel.



If you would like to volunteer for future gardening, please contact David in the office.

GRS Boy Scouts Summer Calendar

July 5 Meeting at Green Road 3pm

July 7 to July 11 Crooked Creek Day Camp

July 12th meeting at Green Road 3pm

July 20th overnight camp at Beaumont

July 25th AND July 27 WEBELOS Resident camp need \$ 25 deposit ASAP

Our Shomer Shabbat Boy Scouts troop has already had a week-long camping trip! To join please contact David in the office.





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 Beachwood, Ohio 44122
 Phone: 216-381-4757
 Fax: 216-381-5059
 Email:
 Office@GreenRoadSynagogue.org
 Website:
 www.GreenRoadSynagogue.org

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday
 9:30 am – 5:00 pm
 Friday
 9:30 am – 3:00 pm



**Come grow
 with us!**

Spiritual Leader
 Rabbi Melvin Granatstein

President
 Ari H. Jaffe

Vice Presidents
 Sheila Pearl Pickholtz
 Daniel Borison
 Shelly Senders
 Elizabeth Sunshine

Treasurer
 Yaron Goldberg

Recording Secretary
 Eliav Sharvit

Administrative Director
 David M. Seltzer

Synagogue Office
 Jane Konopka

**JULY–AUGUST 2008
 TAMUZ–AV 5768**

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We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to our Synagogue.

IN MEMORY OF:

Ann Frum: Howard & Sherrie Frum;
Norbert Amsterdam: Betty Forman
Phillip Hersh: Adam & Holly Baker; Blanche Segal; Elaine & Ron Sevel
Herman Wieder: Ida Wieder
Chaya Frieda & Isaac Ingber: David & Helena Ingber
Moshe Weiszner: Leah Klein; Louis & Sarah Radzeli

IN HONOR OF:

Andrew Zashin: Morry & Judy Weiss
Ezra Stark's Marriage: Ruth Wieder

KIDDUSH:

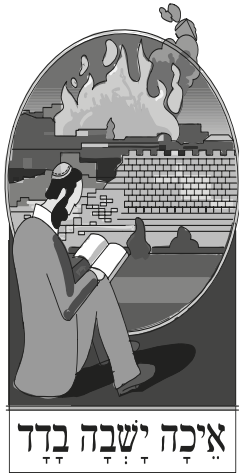
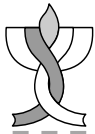
May 31: By Elaine & Joel Axelrod in honor of their son Mark's Auf Ruf.
June 14: By the Families of our Graduates.
June 21: By Sanford & Aliza Sherman in honor of their son Jeremy's Bar Mitzvah.

SEUDAH SHLISHIT:

May 31: By Sam & Golda Mayers in memory of Sam's Mother and Siblings on the occasion of their Yahrzeit.
June 7: By Art & Kathy Feuer, David & Helena Ingber and Helen Feig in memory of their families who perished in the Holocaust, on the occasion of their Yahrzeit.
June 21: By Allen & Carol Seftel in memory of Carol's uncle, Allen Lewis, in commemoration of Shloshim.

SUMMER SHABBAT GROUPS

- ◆ Our Shabbat morning groups will resume in the fall.
- ◆ The Pre-School–1st Grade group will continue to meet throughout the summer.



איכה ישבה בדד

Bein Ha'm'tsarim

The three weeks between the Fast of Tamuz and Tisha B'Av is the most mournful period of the Jewish calendar. The Talmud tells us of five tragic events which occurred on the 17th day of Tamuz: (1) The first set of Ten Commandments was broken. (2) The sacrifices were discontinued. (3) The walls of Jerusalem were breached by the conquering Romans. (4) Apostomus, the tyrant, burned the Torah in order to uproot Judaism from memory, and (5) set up an idol in the Temple.

The Talmud then records 5 tragic events that occurred on Tisha B'Av: (1) The decree was issued in the desert that Israel would have to wait 40 years before entering the land. (2) The First Temple was destroyed. (3) The Second Temple was destroyed. (4) Betar was captured. (5) Jerusalem was ploughed over by the Romans.

We also mourn the tragedy of exile and all the destruction of Jewish history. This is reflected in Kinot for the massacres of the period of the crusades, and for the period of the Cossack pogroms of 1648-49. In our shul, we also include a Kinah for the Kedoshim of the Shoah.

Observances

The fast of Tamuz will occur on Sunday, July 20 is marked by fasting from dawn until the appearance of the stars, as well as by the recitation of Selichot. Throughout the three weeks, marriages are forbidden and public celebration curbed. Throughout the first nine days of the month of Av we refrain from eating meat and drinking wine (except for Shabbat) and refrain from pleasurable activities such as swimming.

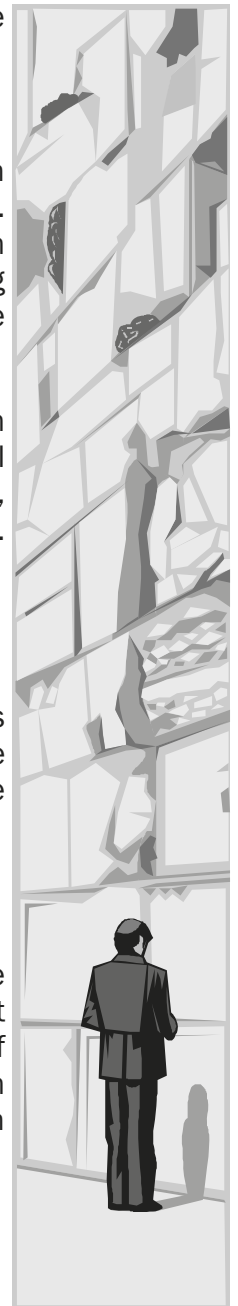
On Tisha B'Av we sit on low benches until noon. We wear our Talit and Tefillin during Mincha service and not during Shacharit when the mourning is still intense. We refrain on Tisha B'Av from eating and drinking, washing for pleasure, anointing with oil and cosmetics, wearing leather shoes, and conjugal relations. Even the study of Torah must be limited to mournful themes.

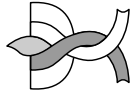
Seudah Mafseket

Because Erev Tisha B'Av occurs on Shabbat, there are no special rules concerning the Seudah Mafseket or last meal before the fast. The Halacha here permits "even meat and wine." Nonetheless, the last meal must end before sundown of that Shabbat day.

Tu B'Av

The fifteenth day of Av is a day of joy coming just six days after the fast. While many reasons are listed in the Talmud for this holiday, perhaps the most compelling is this: on the 15th of Av the Jews were permitted to bury the dead of Betar after its destruction six days earlier. In effect, we rejoice because we can bring closure to the mourning of Tisha B'Av. This year Tu B'Av will occur on Sunday, August 10th.





MONTHLY CALENDAR TAMUZ - AV

Thursday, July 3 - **Rosh Chodesh Tamuz**
 Morning Service..... 6:30 a.m.
 Friday, July 4 - **Rosh Chodesh Tamuz - Independence Day**
 Morning Service..... 8:00 a.m.
 Candle Lighting..... 8:45 p.m.
 Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, July 5
Parshat Chukat
 Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.
 Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 7:35 p.m.
 First Grade Parsha Club..... 8:05 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:35 p.m.
 Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:44 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.
 Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.
 Weekday Evening Services..... 8:50 p.m.

Sunday, July 6
 Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text
 At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, July 11
 Candle Lighting..... 8:43 p.m.
 Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, July 12
Parshat Balak
 Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.
 Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 7:30 p.m.
 First Grade Parsha Club..... 8:00 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:30 p.m.
 Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:42 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.
 Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.
 Weekday Evening Services..... 8:50 p.m.

Sunday, July 13
 Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text
 At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, July 18
 Candle Lighting..... 8:39 p.m.
 Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, July 19
Parshat Pinchas
 Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.
 Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 7:30 p.m.
 First Grade Parsha Club..... 8:00 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:30 p.m.
 Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:38 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.
 Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.
 Weekday Evening Services..... 8:45 p.m.

Sunday, July 20
 Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text
 At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, July 20 - Fast of 17th of Tamuz
 Fast Begins..... 4:57 a.m.
 Morning Service..... 8:00 a.m.
 Mincha..... 8:35 p.m.
 Fast Ends..... 9:35 p.m.

Friday, July 25
 Candle Lighting..... 8:33 p.m.
 Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, July 26
Parshat Matot
 Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.
 Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 7:20 p.m.
 First Grade Parsha Club..... 7:50 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:20 p.m.
 Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:32 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.
 Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.
 Weekday Evening Services..... 8:40 p.m.

Sunday, July 27
 Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text
 At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, August 1
 Candle Lighting..... 8:26 p.m.
 Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, August 2
Parshat Mas'ei - Rosh Chodesh
 Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.
 Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 7:15 p.m.
 First Grade Parsha Club..... 7:45 p.m.
 Mincha..... 8:15 p.m.
 Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:25 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.
 Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.
 Weekday Evening Services..... 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 3
 Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text
 At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, August 8
 Candle Lighting..... 8:18 p.m.
 Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, August 9
Parshat Devarim - Chazon
 Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.
 Rabbi's Talmud Class..... **Canceled**
 First Grade Parsha Club..... **Canceled**
 Mincha..... **6:30 p.m.**
 Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:17 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.
 Weekday Evening Services..... 8:20 p.m.

Shabbat Evening, August 9 - Fast of 9th of Av
 Fast Begins (On Shabbat)..... 8:34 p.m.
 Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:17 p.m.
 Ma'ariv - Kinot - Ercha..... 9:45 p.m.

Sunday, August 10
 Morning Service - Kinot..... 8:00 a.m.
 Mincha..... 8:00 p.m.
 Fast Ends..... 9:15 p.m.

Friday, August 15
 Candle Lighting..... 8:08 p.m.
 Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, August 16
Parshat VaEitchanan - Nachamu
 Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.
 Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 6:55 p.m.
 First Grade Parsha Club..... 7:25 p.m.
 Mincha..... 7:55 p.m.
 Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:07 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.
 Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.
 Weekday Evening Services..... 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, August 17
 Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text
 At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, August 22
 Candle Lighting..... 7:58 p.m.
 Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, August 23
Parshat Ekev
 Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.
 Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 6:45 p.m.
 First Grade Parsha Club..... 7:15 p.m.
 Mincha..... 7:45 p.m.
 Motsaei Shabbat..... 8:57 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.
 Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.
 Weekday Evening Services..... 8:05 p.m.

Sunday, August 24
 Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text
 At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, August 29
 Candle Lighting..... 7:47 p.m.
 Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, August 30
Parshat Re'eh - Mevarchim
 Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.
 Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 6:35 p.m.
 First Grade Parsha Club..... 7:05 p.m.
 Mincha..... 7:35 p.m.
 Motsaei Shabbat..... 8:46 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.
 Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.
 Weekday Evening Services..... 7:55 p.m.

Sunday, August 31
 Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text
 At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, August 31 - Monday, September 1
Rosh Chodesh Elul - Labor Day
 Morning Service..... 8:00 a.m.

**** When you Daven at an early Kabbalat Shabbat, you should light candles at that time.**