

AT THE ARTSCROLL  
SHABBOS TABLE

A PROJECT OF THE  
Mesorah  
Heritage  
Foundation

פרשת שלח  
כ"ח סיון תשפ"ו

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EDITOR

DESIGN & LAYOUT:  
MRS. CHANIE LANDAU

WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

PROJECT DEDICATED BY THE JAFFA FAMILY

PARASHAH

PROPPED UP WITH TRUTH

Rav Wolbe on Chumash by Rabbi Yitzchok Caplan

...בָּאוּנוּ אֶל-הָאָרֶץ... וְגַם זָבַת חֶלֶב וְדִבֶּשׁ הוּא... אָפֶס כִּי-עָזוּ הָעָם הַיֵּשֵׁב בְּאֶרֶץ וְהָעָרִים בְּצֻרוֹת  
אֶרֶץ אֲכָלֶת יוֹשְׁבֶיהָ הוּא וְכָל-הָעָם אֲשֶׁר-רָאִינוּ בְּתוֹכָהּ אַנְשֵׁי מְדוֹת

*We arrived in the land... and indeed it flows with milk and honey...*

*However, the natives are mighty, the cities are fortified... the land devours its inhabitants  
and all those who reside there are giants (Bamidbar 13:27-32).*

When the spies returned from Eretz Canaan, they described the land in less than glowing terms. “We arrived in the land... and indeed it flows with milk and honey... However, the natives are mighty, the cities are fortified... the land devours its inhabitants and all those who reside there are giants.” But if they wanted to paint a dismal picture, why did they preface their tirade with, “indeed it flows with milk and honey”? Rashi explains that a falsehood that does not contain at least a minimal amount of truth cannot endure. The spies purposely mentioned something true about the Promised Land, so that the lies would be believed.

Chazal (Shabbos 104a) say that *sheker*, falsehoods, does not have the ability to endure. Because *sheker* is not a reality, it cannot become a reality. It might take 10, 20, or even 30 years before the lie is proven false, but eventually the truth will become clear. *Sheker*’s only chance of survival is if it props itself up with truth.

Many misguided ideologies that have surfaced over the course of history are based upon some aspect of truth. For example, communism was established to ensure social justice, which is a truthful concept. However, we are all witness to the terrible oppressiveness and deceit that were the hallmark of communism in Russia and other countries. The *sheker* feeds off the truth on which it was founded.

Chazal (Sanhedrin 98a) tell us that Mashiach will arrive in a generation that is either completely righteous or completely wicked. We can understand why a completely righteous generation should merit Mashi-

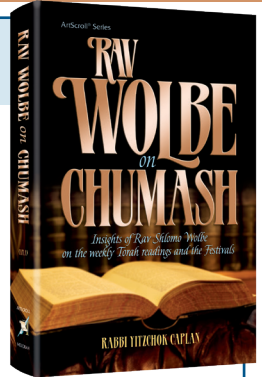


R' Shlomo Wolbe

**THE FALSENESS  
THAT ABOUNDS  
TODAY IS ALMOST  
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AT A CERTAIN  
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EXPOSES ITSELF.**

ach, but why would Mashiach reveal himself to a generation that is full of deceit? Rav Yerucham Levovitz explains that in a generation in which there is not even an iota of truth, the *sheker* will automatically be proven false and eradicated, thereby facilitating Mashiach’s arrival.

To a certain extent, this concept has become a reality in our days. Over the past few generations, there has been a marked increase in the number of Jews who have found their way back to their roots — a veritable “*teshuvah* movement.” The falseness that abounds today is almost palpable, and at a certain point it simply exposes itself. Then, people can discover the truth of Hashem’s Torah shining in all its brilliance. 📖



MESORAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Story of Reb Dovid Feinstein by Libby Lazewnik

On the morning of September 11, 2001, when America was attacked by terrorists who hijacked airplanes, the center of the attack was in lower Manhattan, less than two miles from the yeshivah. As the world watched, something horrifying and utterly unimaginable happened. The Twin Towers, then the tallest buildings in the United States, were attacked. In seconds, they crumbled to the ground, leaving thousands dead.

The *talmidim* were in the middle of morning *seder* when the *beis midrash* shook from the first blast. Then came a second blast. As both the majestic towers came tumbling down, the street became filled with thick smoke. The *talmidim* stood in front of the yeshivah in shock.

The Rosh Yeshivah came outside, too. The boys waited to see his reaction.

Reb Dovid looked toward the fallen buildings and gazed at the scene for a few moments. Then he turned around and went back inside. He opened his Gemara and said quietly, “*Talmud Torah* is the biggest *zechus* of all.”

With that, he continued morning *seder*, giving his *shiur* as usual while clouds of gray smoke hovered outside the *beis midrash* windows.

Reb Dovid didn't keep many *sefarim* around. All he needed was the Gemara in front of him and a notebook and pen handy to write down his thoughts. But he did keep something important in his *shtender* — candles and matches. In case of a power outage, he wanted to keep on learning without wasting a moment.

And time was something he never wasted: Apart from mastering the *masechta* on which he was saying *shiur*, he also made sure to keep up with the daily *daf yomi*, since people always came over to him with questions about that. In addition, he made a few other

*siyumim* each year to mark certain *yahrzeits*. And he was careful to learn the *parashas hashavua* each week, with *Rashi*, *Targum*, and the *haftarah*.

With his son R' Berel, he learned the *Talmud Yerushalmi*. He also went through the *Mishnah Berurah* on a regular basis. He taught Nach to his high school students and he said *Tehillim* frequently. In Europe, he would say, even the simplest Jew knew how important it is to say *Tehillim*. Here in America, sadly, it has become less common.

The only way he could keep up his busy learning schedule *and* be available to answer the many halachic questions that came his way each day was to protect each moment fiercely. Only those who were closest to him knew where to find him when he slipped out of yeshivah each afternoon.

He would walk over to the Otzar Hasefarim bookstore on Canal Street. The store owners, his close friends Jack and Gloria Goldman, were there to welcome him. In a private room at the back of the store, Reb Dovid could learn unin-

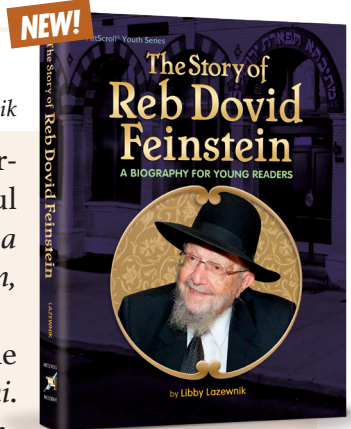
terrupted for a while before it was time to return to the yeshivah. It was like a taste of Gan Eden!

One time, a friend of the yeshivah decided to donate a *Sefer Torah* to an out-of-town shul. There would be a celebration with a lavish *seudah*, and the donor was very eager for Reb Dovid to be there. Besides paying for the plane ticket, he said that he would give the Rosh Yeshivah \$50,000 for coming.

Reb Dovid smiled politely and explained that he couldn't come, as he had a learning *seder* at that time. No amount of money could compete with that! 📖



R' Dovid speaking with his father, R' Moshe



	SHABBOS JUNE 13 בא סיון	SUNDAY JUNE 14 בט סיון	MONDAY JUNE 15 ל סיון	TUESDAY JUNE 16 א תמוז	WEDNESDAY JUNE 17 ב תמוז	THURSDAY JUNE 18 ג תמוז	FRIDAY JUNE 19 ד תמוז
BAVLI	Chullin 44	Chullin 45	Chullin 46	Chullin 47	Chullin 48	Chullin 49	Chullin 50
YERUSHALMI	Megillah 36	Megillah 37	Megillah 38	Megillah 39	Megillah 40	Megillah 41	Chagigah 1
MISHNAH	Keilim 10:5-6	Keilim 10:7-8	Keilim 11:1-2	Keilim 11:3-4	Keilim 11:5-6	Keilim 11:7-8	Keilim 11:9-12:1
KITZUR	157:4-158-End	159:1-6	159:7-160:5	160:6-161:8	161:9-17	161:18-162:5	162:6-11
ORAYSA	Yevamos Chazara 71b-72b	Yevamos 73a Chazara 72b	Yevamos 73b Chazara 73a	Yevamos 74a Chazara 73b	Yevamos 74b Chazara 74a	Yevamos 75a Chazara 74b	Yevamos Chazara 73a-73b

“*Tov li Toras picha mei’alfei zahav vachesev* — The Torah of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of pieces of gold and silver” (Tehillim 119:72). Although we all know this truth, attaining such a level of *ahavas haTorah* can feel out of reach. The reality is that when we look at our *gedolim* and see their total devotion to Torah and *avodah*, it lights a spark in our own hearts. Witnessing those who spend their lives shunning materialistic goals inspires us to strive higher, recognizing that our effort is far more precious than we know.

Simcha Weinman is a professional photographer whose job is to capture special moments at family *simchos*. Years ago, while learning in the Mir Yeshiva in Yerushalayim, he cherished the practice of taking pictures of the *gedolim*. One day, he decided he wanted to capture a unique image: R’ Elyashiv, the *gadol hador*, learning by himself in his home at 3:30 a.m. It was well known that R’ Elyashiv would rise in the early hours of the morning to learn undisturbed, swaying back and forth as he immersed himself in the “sea” of the Talmud.

After receiving permission from R’ Elyashiv’s grandson, Simcha made his way to the house with his camera. In the stillness of the night, he positioned himself at the window. He stood in awe, watching the sage swaying back and forth and singing a gentle sing-song as he learned. Simcha’s heart began to melt. As he aimed his camera, the sheer beauty of the scene overcame him, and he began to cry.

Hearing the sound of crying in the middle of the night, R’ Elyashiv looked up and motioned for the young man to come inside. “Why are you crying?” he asked gently.

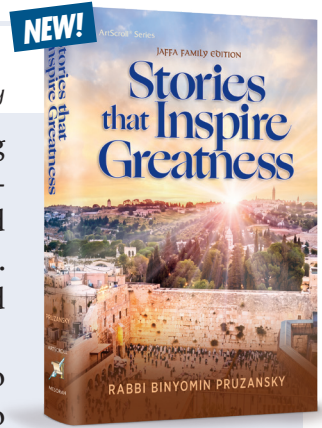
“I’m crying because I want to learn Torah so badly, but it’s so hard for me,” Simcha explained. “I listened to how the Rav was learning, with such love and devotion, and I wish I could do that, too.”

R’ Elyashiv then said something that stayed with Simcha for the rest of his life: “Your tears are greater than my Torah learning.” He handed Simcha a *sefer*, inscribed it with a message of encouragement, and wished him great success.

Many years have passed since that night. Although learning is still not easy for him, Simcha pushes himself to learn every single day. He

does it because he can still hear that sing-song of R’ Elyashiv, reminding him that the *Ribbono shel Olam* treasures his desire to grow.

What amazes me about this story is the pure *ahavas haTorah* experienced by a young man who simply wanted a picture of a *gadol* but instead got so much more. He witnessed a unique window into the world of a *gadol baTorah* immersed in Torah and *avodah*. There were no flashing lights, no fanfare — just pure Torah greatness that continues to light up our world. 📖



The picture taken of R’ Elyashiv learning

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## THE WEEKLY QUESTION

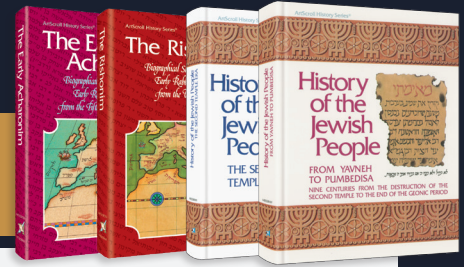
*If Levi didn't send a spy, and there are 12 shevatim, how could there be 12 spies?*

Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to [shabbosquestion@artscroll.com](mailto:shabbosquestion@artscroll.com) by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a \$36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be found in *The Jaffa Family Edition Weekly Parashah*.

**The winner of the question for Bamidbar is: SIMCHA CHANA GILB, Lakewood, NJ**

Question for Bamidbar was: Which shevatim had the color of black included in their insignia?  
Bamidbar Answer: Levi, Gad, Ephraim, Menashe and Binyamin





## PART 14: ARTSCROLL PRESENTS JEWISH HISTORY

**A**talmid once asked R' Shraga Feivel Mendlowitz, Menahel of Torah Vodaath and America's greatest Torah pioneer, which happened first, the miracle of Chanukah or the miracle of Purim. R' Shraga Feivel responded, "Which came first, the First Beis HaMikdash or the Second Beis HaMikdash?" We don't know if the bachur knew the answer.

Be that as it may, it is true that few of us have more than a cursory knowledge of our history, especially of events not recorded in Tanach. That sad fact led ArtScroll/Mesorah to undertake a project that was suggested to us by a friend in Israel: to adapt and expand a 2-volume Hebrew work, entitled a History of the Jewish people. Volume 1 covers the turbulent era of the Second Beis HaMikdash. Volume 2, From Yavneh to Pumbedisa tells the story of the nine centuries from the Churban of the Second Beis HaMikdash to the end of the era of the Geonim. These volumes record events that in many ways shaped our current existence. The 420 years of the Second Beis Hamikdash included the glorious period of Chanukah and the start of the era of the Mishnah, but most of that time, our ancestors were under foreign domination, culminating in the rule of the Roman Empire and the *sinas chinam* that led to the Churban. Volume 2 illustrates how the focal point of Torah study migrated to Bavel, and how the Sages of the Talmud and the Geonim courageously maintained yeshivos and Torah life in the face of incredible persecution and hardship.

Baruch Hashem, ArtScroll had a precious human asset who knew virtually everything, including Jewish history. R' Hersh Goldwurm's renditions of those two volumes, the first of which appeared in 1982, opened readers to worlds of Jewish courage and devotion to the Torah under conditions of internal dissension, outside oppression, and strenuous, but un-



successful, attempts at spiritual genocide to exterminate religious observance. Frankly, those volumes should be required reading for young and old, and we hope that these lines will lead to many reprints of those classics.

Also in 1982, we published R' Goldwurm's "*Rishonim*," which was followed several years later with "*The Early Acharonim*." Both books contain short biographies of the *gedolim*, when they lived and their *seforim*, plus histories of the Jewish communities of the various countries. In later years more history books joined the ArtScroll library, including several by R' Berel Wein; more on those in future columns.

Some may wonder why bother with history; we are a nation of Torah and Halachah. As someone once put it, "Historians tell us what Rashi wore, we're interested in what Rashi taught." Nevertheless, we should recognize that knowledge of our history is important. In *Az Yashir*, which Moshe and the Jews sang when the Yam Suf split for them, they said *Elokei avi va'aromenhu*, Hashem is the G-d of my father and I will exalt Him. Rashi explains that they were saying that holiness did not begin with them. They inherited it from their ancestors. This statement applies to us, as well. *Klal Yisrael* did not originate with us. We must learn from the previous generations.

This is our purpose in publishing books about our history. What can we learn from the previous generations that will make us better servants of Hashem? Who were the *rebbeim* of our great leaders and who were their students? How did they lay the foundations for future generations' loyalty to Torah? Not just knowing about the greats before us, but learning from them, is the goal of our books on Jewish history and our many classic biographies.

**UP NEXT: Literature for Children and Young People**