AT THE ARTSCROLL SHABBOS TABLE

A PROJECT OF THE Mesorah Heritage Foundation

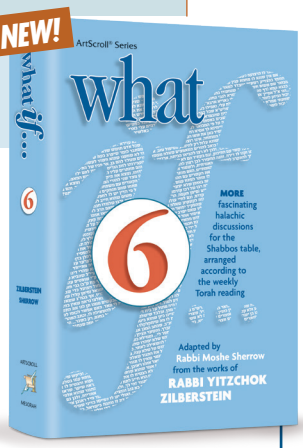
WEEKLY INSPIRATION AND INSIGHT ADAPTED FROM CLASSIC ARTSCROLL TITLES

פרשת חיי שרה
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RABBI YEHUDA MUNK
EDITOR
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MRS. AVIVA KOHN

PARASHAH Q&A

'CAUSE IT'S *MIN HASHAMAYIM*

What If... Volume 6 *adapted by Rabbi Moshe Sherrow from the works of Rabbi Yitzchok Zilberstein*



וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֵה' יָצָא הַדָּבָר, ***[They] said, "The matter stemmed from Hashem!"*** *(Bereishis 24:50)*

Q: Mendy owned a 2010 car with a book value of $11,500. Yudi was interested in buying a used car, so he asked Mendy how much he wanted for the vehicle. Mendy said that he was willing to sell it for $6,000. Yudi wondered aloud why he would sell it at close to half its value, and Mendy revealed that there was a defect in the fuel injection system.

When Yudi asked his mechanic how much it would cost to repair the fuel injection problem, the mechanic quoted a price of $4,500. (Mendy knew that it could be fixed for that price, but was not interested in dealing with the repair.) Yudi decided that he would buy the car for $6,000 and invest in the repair, as it was still a good deal. Yudi gave Mendy a check, and Mendy signed over the registration and gave Yudi the additional paperwork for the car.

Two weeks passed, and Yudi still had not had the car repaired. The next morning, Yudi received a notice by registered mail from the car manufacturer. The letter detailed a recall on the model of Yudi's car due to a defect in the production of the fuel injection system. After a few words of apology, they invited Yudi to have his car repaired free of charge at his local authorized service center.

(It should be noted that according to the warranty on the car, the company had no obligation to repair the defect, due to the length of time that had elapsed. Nevertheless, the company offered to repair the defect as a gesture of goodwill in order to protect its reputation.)

Had Mendy known that to be the case, he never would have sold his car for such a low price. Now that the company offered to fix the car for free, Yudi wants to know if this would be grounds to invalidate the sale.

Does Yudi have to inform Mendy about the fact that the company offered to fix the car for free, or can Yudi remain silent and accept this gift from Heaven, that he was able to buy a used car at an excellent price with the right to have it repaired gratis?

A: Yudi paid a fair price for the car at the time of the sale (in light of its defect), and only subsequent to the sale did the company decide to issue the recall. It is as if the company decided to bequeath a gift to everyone who owned this car, and at this point, since the car belongs to Yudi, Mendy would have no claim on the gift.

Had the company already issued the recall at the time of the sale — i.e., the letters had already been mailed and the letter was already en route to Mendy — then there would be grounds to say that the sale had been made under false pretenses. Since, however, the letters had not yet been sent out and the right to have the repair done for free did not yet exist, as the company could have still changed its plan, the letters are considered to have come into effect after the sale was already made. In that case, the benefit belongs to Yudi. (Perhaps this case can be compared to one in the Gemara of two donkeys swept away in a river, see Bava Kamma 116a.)

Moreover, the company in all likelihood was motivated to offer the free repair in order to protect its reputation and avoid any lawsuits that may have resulted from damages or accidents that could be linked to the car's faulty fuel injection system. Therefore, the company is not actually interested in who bought their car in order to offer them compensation, but simply to repair the defect for the people who are actually driving their cars.

In short, the sale of the car is valid, and Yudi does not have to inform Mendy about the company's offer to repair the car.

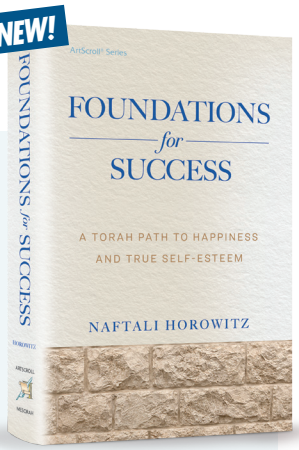
THIS WEEK'S ISSUE IS DEDICATED IN HONOR OF MY MOTHER, RACHEL LEAH BAT SHMUEL

MESORAH HERITAGE FOUNDATION

CHIZUK

DON'T GIVE UP!

Foundations for Success by Naftali Horowitz



With all that is transpiring in the world and in our daily lives, there are times when life's challenges can become so draining, so exhausting, so disheartening, that a person may feel tempted to simply give up trying to make things better.

Giving up on hope means giving in to despair and resigning to things not getting better and perhaps getting worse. But why shouldn't someone just give up when every fiber of his being tells him to do so?

I heard a remarkable story that taught me a crucial life lesson and provided a perspective on the idea of giving up. It is about a Holocaust survivor who had lost everything in the war and emigrated alone to Israel. At a certain point, the loss of his wife, children, parents, and siblings — being all alone in the world — became too much to bear. He decided to just give up trying. But first, he went to see the Chazon Ish, who listened empathetically to his story and heartache and then told him this story:



The Chazon Ish

In a small village in Europe lived a family who had begun saving money to make a much-needed purchase. They painstakingly saved kopek after kopek over many years until they had amassed the needed amount. It was decided that the wife would travel to the faraway city and make the purchase. She hired a wagon and set out on the long journey with her satchel of gold coins and enough provisions for the trip. When she arrived at the marketplace, to her great horror, she realized that she had lost the satchel of coins. The word spread throughout the town, and a search was quickly underway. Sadly, several days later, the money had still not been found. The woman gave up hope and began her return trip home, empty-handed and utterly heartbroken.

The next day, a man appeared before the local rabbi and announced, "I am happy to report that I found the satchel of gold coins!" The rabbi was ecstatic and said, "Quick, let us dispatch a wagon to chase after the woman and deliver the good news." The man replied, "For what reason? The coins are mine. All mine. I found them after the woman had given up hope of finding them, which makes me the rightful owner."

Not knowing what to answer the man, the rabbi said, "We must place this matter before the beis din and see how they rule."

The beis din heard the man's claim and said, "Indeed, you are correct. The coins were found after the woman had given up hope, which should make you the rightful owner; however, they weren't her coins to give up on. The coins belong to her husband who, at the time you found them, was unaware that they were even lost. You are obligated to return the coins to him, for he is their rightful owner."

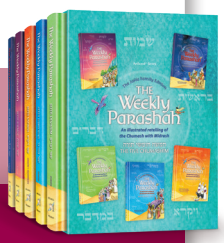
The Chazon Ish took the man's hands in his, looked him in the eyes, and said, "My dear son, I completely understand why you want to give up, but you must understand that it isn't your life to give up on. Your life is not yours; it belongs to Hashem, and to Him, your life is not lost."

If someone chooses to give up that has absolutely no bearing or effect on his responsibility to move forward in life, just as the woman's act of giving up on the gold coins had no legal bearing on their rightful ownership. We are each the woman in the story, while HaKadosh Baruch Hu is the rightful owner of our lives.

WIN A $36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD!

THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Name two places in Tanach where the number 127 is mentioned.

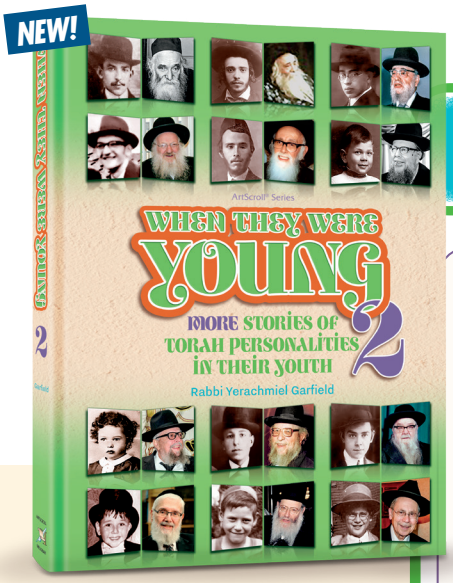


Kids, please ask your parents to email the answer to shabbosquestion@artscroll.com by this Wednesday to be entered into a weekly raffle to win a $36 ARTSCROLL GIFT CARD! Be sure to include your full name, city, and contact info. Names of winners will appear in a future edition. HINT: The answer can be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

The winner of Bereishis is:* ROCHIE DAN, *Rochester, NY

Question for Bereishis was: How old was Hevel when he died?
Answer for Bereishis: Only 40 days old!

To have your shul or school receive copies of this newsletter every week for free, please send the name and address info to: newsletter@artscroll.com.



The Treasure You Can't Wear

R' Isser Zalman Meltzer

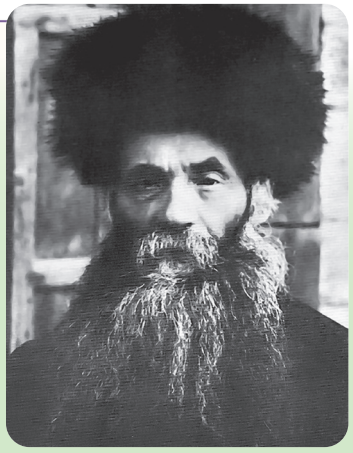
Isser Zalman Meltzer was born in Mir in 1870. His parents were R' Baruch Peretz and Miriam Reizel. As a young boy, he learned under R' Yom Tov Lipman Baslavsky, the rav of the city. R' Yom Tov Lipman, a well-known *talmid chacham,* wrote the *sefer Malbushei Yom Tov.*

In 1884, at the age of fourteen, Isser Zalman went to study in Yeshivas Volozhin. He stayed there for about eight years. In 1892, he went to Radin, to learn under the Chofetz Chaim. He married Baila Hinda Frank. In 1894, he was appointed *maggid shiur* at Yeshivas Knesses Yisrael in Slabodka. In 1897, R' Meltzer went to lead Yeshivas Slutzk. He also became rav of the city, a position he held for twenty years. In 1925, he moved to Eretz Yisrael, where he served as the rosh yeshivah of Yeshivas Etz Chaim in Yerushalayim, until his *petirah* in 1953.

R' Isser Zalman's *sefer, Even HaEzel,* is learned in yeshivos worldwide.

R' ISSER ZALMAN MELTZER
ר׳ איסר זלמן מלצר זצ״ל

Position: Rosh yeshivah of Slutzk and Yeshivas Etz Chaim
Place: Lithuania; Yerushalayim
Publications: *Even HaAzel* (series)
Birth: 1870 **Petirah:** 1953
Known for: His role as rosh yeshivah and his remarkable insights into learning



When Isser Zalman Meltzer first arrived in Yeshivas Volozhin, he was filled with excitement. The *shtenders* shook with the sound of Torah as the *bachurim* spoke excitedly in learning. After his interview with the rosh yeshivah, R' Naftali Tzvi Yehudah Berlin (the Netziv), Isser Zalman was ready to immerse himself in the learning.

But then, a painful thought hit him. He looked around the *beis midrash* and saw all the other *bachurim* dressed in fine, respectable clothing. He, however, wore only old, worn-out garments. He suddenly felt small and embarrassed.

REWIND AND REFLECT

"What will people think of me?" he asked himself. His heart sank, and the *yetzer hara* whispered, "You don't belong here. Better leave before everyone starts talking."

Broken inside, he decided to slip away and never return.

But then another *bachur,* Zelig Reuven, approached him with a smile. "Do you know," the boy said, "that the rosh yeshivah is impressed with your learning? After your *farher* (oral test), he even told some of the boys to go speak with you in learning. He feels you can help them grow!"

Those words were like a lightning bolt of hope. Isser Zalman told himself, "If the rosh yeshivah values my learning, then it doesn't matter what clothing I wear. My Torah is my true honor."

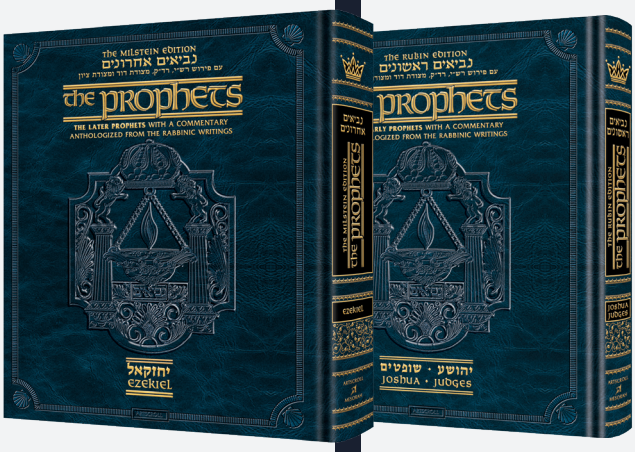
Years later, when he arrived in Eretz Yisrael, R' Isser Zalman visited R' Zelig Reuven Bengis, who was now the leader of the Eidah HaChareidis of Yerushalayim. "You should know," he told R' Bengis, "everything I accomplished in life is because of you. When I was ready to leave Yeshivas Volozhin, you came over to me and made me feel good about myself!"

YOMI SCHEDULES FOR THIS WEEK:

	SHABBOS NOVEMBER 7 בז חשון	SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8 בח חשון	MONDAY NOVEMBER 9 בט חשון	TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10 ל חשון	WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11 א טבת	THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 ב טבת	FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 ג טבת
BAVLI	Bechoros 50	Bechoros 51	Bechoros 52	Bechoros 53	Bechoros 54	Bechoros 55	Bechoros 56
YERUSHALMI	Kesubos 3	Kesubos 4	Kesubos 5	Kesubos 6	Kesubos 7	Kesubos 8	Kesubos 9
MISHNAH	Oholos 15:10-16:1	Oholos 16:2-3	Oholos 16:4-5	Oholos 17:1-2	Oholos 17:3-4	Oholos 17:5-18:1	Oholos 18:2-3
KITZUR	18:15-End	19:1-7	19:8-10	19:11-13	19:14-20:7	20:8-21:2	21:3-8
ORAYSA	Kesubos Chazara 3a-4a	Kesubos 4b Chazara 4a	Kesubos 5a Chazara 4b	Kesubos 5b Chazara 5a	Kesubos 6a Chazara 5b	Kesubos 6b Chazara 6a	Kesubos Chazara 4b-5a

PART 34: THE EARLY AND LATER PROPHETS

The runaway success of the Stone Edition of the Chumash sparked many requests from the public for a similar treatment of Nach. Although these sacred books are part of the Written Torah itself, they remained largely unstudied by vast numbers of Jews. We knew the names of the prophets, but often little of their prophecies; recognized the great figures of our history, but scarcely understood their lives. The contrast was striking: books we revered as the word of Hashem remained closed on our shelves. Having made the Chumash and other classic Torah works accessible in English, ArtScroll sought to bring the same clarity and understanding to Nach.



The challenge, however, went far beyond translation. Without the guidance of our Sages and classic commentators, the narratives, personalities, and prophecies of Nach can easily be misunderstood. Readers needed more than the meaning of the words; they needed to understand the holiness of the people portrayed, the significance of the events described, and the messages preserved for all generations. Selecting commentaries that would clarify and illuminate the pesukim was therefore central to our mission.

So in 2000, David and Gitel Rubin of Los Angeles dedicated the Rubin Edition of Nevi'im Rishonim. Asher David Milstein then dedicated the Milstein Edition of Nevi'im Acharonim. Asher, who was later joined by his wife Michal, has since dedicated a veritable library of ArtScroll-Mesorah volumes, distributing them and many others worldwide, bringing Torah to thousands of newcomers to the word of Hashem.

As the Preface to the first volume explains, the edition guides readers through complex issues such as Jewish civil war, the exploits of the mighty Shimshon, and the seemingly enigmatic life of King David. Through the teachings of our Sages, narratives that might otherwise perplex readers reveal the greatness and holiness of our people and its leaders.

Many of the Books are introduced with Overviews, a trademark feature of our volumes since R' Meir Zlotowitz's pioneering ArtScroll Megillas Esther. These are especially valuable in the Books of the Later Prophets — Yeshayah, Yirmiyah, Yechezkel, and the Twelve Prophets — whose soaring prophecies call for repentance, warn of destruction and exile, and depict the glories of the future redemption. The Overviews are literary masterpieces that illuminate the deeper meaning of these often cryptic concepts and safeguard against serious misinterpretations.

The volumes also include the Hebrew commentaries of Rashi, Radak, and Metzudos, along with maps and tables, particularly useful for understanding Shlomo HaMelech's Beis HaMikdash and Yechezkel's depiction of the future Beis HaMikdash.

R' Scherman was the natural choice to translate and elucidate the volumes, following his approach in the Stone Edition of the Chumash. He was assisted and critiqued by members of the ArtScroll roster, led by R' Zlotowitz and R' Brander.

Asked what guided his approach, R' Scherman said, "I did not write to impress scholars. I wrote for people whose knowledge was as limited as mine. My goal was to understand the text; if I could understand it, others would, as well."

The Rubin and Milstein editions embody the very mission upon which ArtScroll was founded: to open the treasures of Torah to every Jew, making even the most challenging sacred texts accessible, understandable, and faithful to the teachings of our Sages.