

Bais Midrash 715

Shavuos Edition Newsletter

Zmanim

Erev Yom Tov, Sunday June 1	First Day, Monday June 2	Second Day, Tuesday June 3
Mincha 2:30 pm	Mincha 2:30 pm	Mincha 2:30 pm
Candle Lighting 8:05 pm	Sunset 8:24 pm	Sunset 8:24 pm
Sunset 8:23 pm	Maariv (50) 9:14 pm	Maariv (50) 9:14 pm
Maariv (50) 9:13 pm	Candle Lighting (72) ... 9:36 pm	Tzeis (72) 9:36 pm

Davar Torah 1 By ChatGPT

Shavous, our festival of receiving the Torah, brings us to a moment that transcends time. The Ramban (on Shemos 19:9) teaches that at Har Sinai, each and every Jew, regardless of generation, stood to hear the voice of Hashem. Chazal (Shemos Rabbah 28:6) tell us that the souls of all future generations were present at Matan Torah. This means that as we sit together in shul today, we aren't simply commemorating an ancient event—we are re-experiencing it. The Midrash (Shir HaShirim Rabbah 1:12) likens Torah to milk and honey under the tongue, sweet and nourishing, while the Zohar (Vol. 2, 82b) calls the Torah "a tree of life for those who grasp it." Shavous is not only about remembering, but about internalizing the Torah's vitality into our lives today. The Aseres

Hadibros, which we read this morning (Shemos 20:1-14), contain the foundation of all mitzvos, and the Ohr HaChaim (Shemos 20:2) points out that the first commandment, "Anochi Hashem Elokecha," establishes that every subsequent mitzvah flows from our direct relationship with the Divine. When we hear the Torah being read, we should imagine that we ourselves stand at Sinai, trembling with awe, filled with love and acceptance of Hashem's words. And just as the Torah was given in a desert—an ownerless place open to all—so too, we should strive to make ourselves humble and receptive, ready to be a vessel for Torah. May we merit to internalize the sweetness and sanctity of Torah, so that its light illuminates our hearts and our homes, today and every day. Chag Sameach!

Davar Torah 2 By ChatGPT

As we gather this morning on the second day of Yom Tov, immersed in the sweetness of Torah, let us reflect on the deep connection between Matan Torah and the daily lives we lead. Chazal teach us (Shabbos 88a) that when Hashem gave

us the Torah at Har Sinai, He lifted the mountain over us like a barrel and declared, "If you accept the Torah, fine; and if not, here shall be your burial." Why this dramatic gesture, after we had already proclaimed "Na'aseh V'nishma"

(Shemos 24:7)? The Maharal explains (Tiferes Yisrael ch. 32) that this was to teach us that Torah is not just a choice or an inspiration; it is the very air we breathe, the essence of our existence. On Shavuos, we don't merely celebrate an event in history; we stand anew at Har Sinai, reaffirming that Torah is our life, our bond with Hashem. This second day of Yom Tov reminds us that the commitment to Torah is constant, renewed day after day, not confined to one moment. The Kedushas Levi (Shavuos) adds

that just as the Torah is "Torah Temimah" (Tehillim 19:8), complete and perfect, so must our dedication be complete, both in our learning and in how we treat each other. As we listen to the reading of the Aseres Hadibros today, let us open our hearts not only to the commandments but also to the unspoken call of the Divine, inviting us to elevate every aspect of our lives, to live with kindness, integrity, and an unwavering connection to HaKadosh Baruch Hu. Gut Yom Tov.

After delivering the dvar Torah, the Rabbi looks around and continues:

Let me share with you a story that beautifully captures the spirit of this holy day.

It's told about the Chidushei HaRim, the first Gerrer Rebbe. One year, on Shavuos, a simple villager came to him, looking downtrodden and ashamed. The man explained that he was illiterate; he couldn't even read Aleph-Beis. "Rebbe," he said, "I come to shul, and I hear the Aseres Hadibros read, but I cannot understand a word. How can I receive the Torah?"

The Chidushei HaRim looked at him with warmth and said, "You are not far from Sinai. When Hashem gave the Torah, every Jew, from the greatest sage to the simplest soul, heard the

voice of Hashem. Even those who couldn't comprehend the words with their minds felt the presence of the Shechinah in their hearts. When you stand here in shul, with the desire to hear the Aseres Hadibros, that longing itself connects you to the Torah."

The Chidushei HaRim then blessed the man, saying, "On Shavuos, every Jew is standing at Har Sinai, no matter how much he knows or understands. Your pure heart, your yearning, brings you closer to Hashem than you realize."

The man left, uplifted, his soul singing with the knowledge that Torah belongs to each and every one of us.

Gut Yom Tov, and may we all stand together at Sinai, feeling the embrace of the Torah and of each other!

GOOD YOM TOV!



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