



Beth Zion Congregation

ב"ה

1 Place Sidney Shoham Place H4W 0B9 514-489-8411
514-489-3151 (fax) www.bethzion.com bethzion@bethzion.com

May 22—28, 2021

11 - 17 Sivan 5781

Parshat Nasso

Interim Rabbi

Rabbi Yamin Benarroch
(514) 758-0117

Founding Rabbi

Rabbi Sidney Shoham Z"L

President

Shlomo Benarroch

Executive Director

Zev Mestel

Youth Director

Rabbi Avron Swartz

Chazan Emeritus

Tibor Holczer Z"L

Chazan Sheni Emeritus

Yitzchok Rosenberg



**Please note the office will be closed
on Monday, due to Victoria Day**

In Parashat Nasso, Hashem commands Moshe to teach Birkat Kohanim to Aharon and his sons. The third verse of Birkat Kohanim reads, “May Hashem lift His face towards you (yisa Hashem panav eilecha) and give you peace.” (Bamidbar6:26) The Hebrew phrase nesi’ut panim – lifting the face – is interpreted in numerous ways. Chazal explain that it involves G-d granting favor to Israel, or, more specifically, treating them with favoritism. For this reason, the verses of Birkat Kohanim are read but not translated during kariat haTorah in the synagogue (as other verses were, according to the practice at the time of the Gemara); so that the listeners would not be confused by the concept that G-d favors one nation. (Megillah 25b)

The idea that Hashem shows favoritism, however, is more than confusing; it directly contradicts another pasuk in the Torah: “For Hashem your G-d is the G-d of all power, and Master of all masters, the great, mighty, and awesome G-d who shows no favoritism (lo yisa panim) and takes no bribes.” (Devarim10:17) Indeed, the Gemara itself is puzzled by this contradiction: “The ministering angels said before the Holy One, Blessed be He, Master of the Universe! It is written in your Torah, ‘[He] shows no favoritism and takes no bribes,’ yet behold You favor Israel, as it is written, ‘May Hashem lift His face towards you!’ He answered them, Should I not favor Israel, for whom I wrote in the Torah, ‘You shall eat and be satisfied and bless Hashem your G-d,’ yet they are careful about themselves for a kezayit and a kebeitzah [i.e., they bless even after eating less than is necessary to be satiated]?!”

The Gemara’s explanation seems to be that G-d certainly does favor Israel, but they deserve this special treatment because of their willingness to do more than the law demands. But how does that answer the question? Despite Israel’s righteousness which makes G-d want to favor them, the pasuk nonetheless states that Hashem does not show favoritism!

One possible answer is based on the important idea that G-d acts toward us in the way that we act toward Him. In a real sense, we create the framework in which we live. In the words of the Chafetz Chaim, “It is known that according to how a person directs his attributes in this world, he correspondingly arouses G-d’s attributes in the world above. If his way is to ignore slights and to act with kindness and mercy towards people, he correspondingly arouses the attribute of mercy above, and the Holy One, Blessed be He, has mercy on the world because of him. He merits also that the Holy One, Blessed be He, has mercy on him and ignores his sins.” (Shmirat HaLashon, Shaar HaZechira, Perek Sheini)

Thus, G-d’s favoritism – that is, going beyond the demands of strict justice – is a direct result of Israel’s willingness to do more than the law demands. The verse stating that G-d does not show favoritism refers to a normal case that demands justice. Israel does more than G-d’s law demands, however, so G-d acts toward Israel beyond the letter of the law. That is, in its own way, an aspect of justice.

Prepared by Devorah Abenhaim

WEEKLY BULLETIN SPONSOR

**Irene Blitt
in memory of
her husband
Ronnie Blitt Z"L**

~~

**Jewel & Zev Mestel
in observance of yahrzeit
of Jewel's beloved mother
Joan Cohen Z"L**

~~

**Ilana Mordekai,
Sandy, Jack & Jodi,
Ami, Ella, Julia and Max Mordekai
in loving memory of
a husband, father and grandfather
Moshe Mordekai Z"L**

~~

**Margaret & David Ronis
in memory of
his father
David Moshe ben Aaron
Dave Etinson Z"L**

MAZAL TOV TO

**Esther & Steve Csillag
on the marriage
of their granddaughter
Alta Neuer
daughter of
Carmen (Csillag) & Etzion Neuer
to Harris Garber
son of
Sharon & Israel Garber**

SPONSOR A DAY IN THE LIFE

**May 25
Drs. Barbara & Bruce Mazer
Wishing Happy Birthday
to
Ezra Moshe Mazer**

**16 Sivan
Issie Bell
in memory of
his wife
Soryl Bell Z"L
his brother
Phil Bell Z"L
his grandson
Ryan Levine Z"L**

IN APPRECIATION TO

**Dr. Bruce Mazer
for leading services
in the Main Sanctuary**

**Bobby Shaul
for leining
in the Main Sanctuary**

**Jacob Silverman
for leading services
in the Albert Spector**

**Danny Kroo
for leining
in the Albert Spector**

Friday, May 21

Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat
and Maariv 7:00 pm
Candle Lighting 8:07 pm

Shabbat, May 15

Shacharit 9:00 am
Mincha 8:05 pm
Shabbat Ends 9:21 pm

Shacharit

Sunday 8:00 am
Monday, Victoria Day
8:00 am
Tuesday
6:25 am and 8:00 am
Wednesday
6:25 am and 8:00 am
Thursday
6:15 am and 8:00 am
Friday
6:25 am and 8:00 am

Mincha Maariv

Sunday, May
23 to Thursday, May 27
in person and on Zoom
6:45 pm

Zoom:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86077732180?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86077732180?pwd=Y3lIVmxtU2o5ODVMWVRMMUJoYmI2QT09)
[pwd=Y3lIVmxtU2o5ODVM](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86077732180?pwd=Y3lIVmxtU2o5ODVMWVRMMUJoYmI2QT09)
[WVRMMUJoYmI2QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86077732180?pwd=Y3lIVmxtU2o5ODVMWVRMMUJoYmI2QT09)

Meeting ID: 860 7773
2180

Passcode: 444278

Friday, May 28

Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat
and Maariv 7:00 pm
Candle Lighting 8:14 pm

