



# Family & Friends

## Parshas Lech Lecha

November 7 2024 - Cheshvan 6 5785

### PARSHAS LECH LECHA RABBI MORDCHE GURWITZ

In the middle of our parsha, Avraham is informed that his nephew (and brother-in-law) Lot was taken captive. Immediately following the news, he hurries to mobilize 318 fighters to pursue the captures, Kedarlaomer and his allies. Ultimately, the story culminates in a victory for Avraham.

If we stop for a moment to analyze what transpired, we discover something quite remarkable in Avraham Avinu's actions. In order for Avraham to assist Lot, he was required to travel approximately 140 miles. To facilitate a successful outcome, this trip would need to be accompanied with sufficient provisions and weaponry. Considering that this story takes place before the advent of the SUV, we can assume that the anticipated trip took a considerable number of days. Such an undertaking would have managed to deter the majority of uncles.

If the logistic concerns of the trip were not enough to serve as a deterrent, let's examine the nature of the capturers. Kedarlaomer and his allies were mighty and seasoned armies of four major powers. Attempting to garner a victory with a mere 318 'fighters' were lopsided odds for defeat. Again, this was another

genuine reason for Uncle Avraham to withdraw from the challenge.

Furthermore, Rashi explains the reason behind Lot's capture was rooted in the fact that he chose to live in Sodom. In essence, Lot brought this tragedy on himself by seeking a materialistic lifestyle. Actions have repercussions, you reap what you sow. Avraham could have easily reasoned that he should not be required to invest the necessary time and risk his life to fuel Lot's narcissism.

In lieu of these compelling arguments, Avraham doesn't waste a minute to accept the challenge and assist. The situation presented itself with a mitzvah of pidyon shvuyim. Observance of mitzvos is ratzon Hashem. Even with the overwhelming arguments to back away from the task at hand, Avraham's commitment to fulfilling ratzon Hashem was the driving force responsible for his decisions in life.

We have started out on a five month winter zman journey. Many opportunities of ratzon Hashem exist in limud HaTorah and avodas Hashem. Now is the appropriate time to make commitments and set goals to ensure our success. After the events of Avraham saving Lot, Hashem came to Avraham saying that his "reward is very great". May we also merit great



Mazel Tov

*Heartfelt Mazel Tov wishes to:*

Mr. & Mrs. Mordechai David on their son's Bar Mitzvah.

Rav & Rebbitzen Yisrael Altusky on their grandchild's marriage.

Rav & Mrs. Shalom Scheinberg on their son's engagement.

Ezzi Lehmann on his upcoming marriage.

Rabbi and Mrs. Shlomo Furst on their son's wedding.

reward by committing ourselves to undertake opportunities in line with ratzon Hashem.

### REBBITZEN BASHA SCHEINBERG ה"ע

This past week marked the fifteenth yahrtzeit of Rebbitzen Basha Scheinberg ה"ע. For close to 80 years, both she and Maran Rosh HaYeshiva, זצ"ל, walked side by side and shared their life's endeavors. The gemarah in Shavuos (30:b) teaches us that we are required to honor the wife of a Torah scholar in the very same fashion that we honor the Torah scholar himself – eishes chaver k'chaver. Although the Rishonim dispute among

themselves if this is a Torah or Rabbinic requirement - the obligation exists.

Those who knew the Rebbitzin, will unequivocally agree, that she was a person who lived to help those around her. It didn't matter if it was family member, a bochur in the Yeshiva, or a total stranger, she was there to listen, guide and assist. Throughout her life, she continued to walk in the well-trodden path of her illustrious parents, Rav and Rebbitzin Yaakov Yosef Herman, who were renowned for their strong hashkofos, chashivus for Torah and achievements in gemilus chasadim.

She had a unique ability to make people feel truly heard and valued. Women from all walks of life would come to Rebbetzin Scheinberg, seeking her wisdom

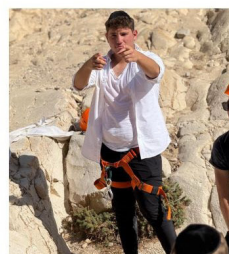
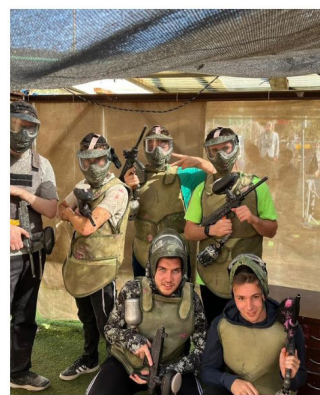
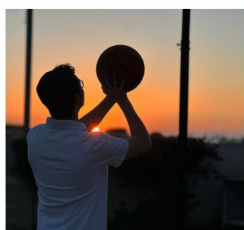
and comfort. Her advice was rooted in kindness and empathy, yet firmly grounded in Torah principles. She had a gift for listening with an open heart and offering advice that was practical, uplifting, and full of faith.

Rebbetzin Scheinberg also demonstrated the power of kindness and sensitivity. She had a remarkable memory for details about the lives of those she met. People would visit her years after first meeting, and she would recall not only their names but their personal situations. She would ask after their families, remembering each detail. This made people feel seen and valued, showing them that they were important to her and to Hashem.

She was also a role model for

young women learning about the role of a Jewish wife and mother. Many young women would come to her for guidance on how to balance their roles as wives, mothers, and community members. She would gently encourage them to recognize the holiness in their daily lives, reminding them that every act, no matter how small, could be a mitzvah if done with the right intentions. She taught that the role of a woman in the home was sacred and powerful and that by nurturing her family, a woman builds the very foundation of the Jewish people.

Rebbetzin Basha Scheinberg left behind a legacy of kindness, faith, and wisdom that continues to inspire. Her legacy continues to inspire many, particularly through the values she embodied and the lives she touched.



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