

YESHIVAS TORAH ORE  
YERUSHALAYIM



ישיבת תורה אור  
בע"ה"ק ירושלים

# Family & Friends

## Parshas Re'eh

August 21st 2025 - Av 27 5785



Meeting in Manchester.

### ROSH CHODESH ELUL RABBI MORDCHE GURWITZ

As we enter Chodesh Elul, the days of rachamim and selichah, Klal Yisrael instinctively senses the approach of the Yemei HaDin. The well-known Rishonim teach that Elul is the zman of Ani l'dodi v'dodi li (Shir HaShirim 6:3, Tur O.C. 581) — a period when HaKadosh Baruch Hu draws close to us, awaiting our return. The minhag Yisrael from the times of the Geonim is to blow shofar daily in Elul (see Tur ibid., Rema O.C. 581:1), awakening us from the slumber of routine and reminding us that the King is near. The question is: what is the inner avodah of Elul, and how can we prepare ourselves properly for the Yemei HaDin?

In this week's parsha, Re'eh, the Torah opens with the words: "Re'eh anochi nosein lifneichem hayom bracha uklalah" (Devarim 11:26). The Ba'alei Mussar emphasize that Moshe Rabbeinu was telling Klal Yisrael that Avodas Hashem is not abstract

or theoretical. Every day, and every decision, presents a clear path of bracha or the opposite. Re'eh — "see" — means to look with clarity, to remove the fog of habit and self-deception, and to recognize the consequences of our actions (see Mesillas Yesharim, hakdamah, that the focal point of avodah is not in knowing, but in truly seeing and internalizing).

This message is the essence of Elul. The Rambam (Hilchos Teshuvah 2:2) writes that teshuvah requires a person to recognize his deeds, to confess, and to resolve never to return to them. But the Rambam (Hilchos Teshuvah 7:3) also adds that the essence of teshuvah is for man to "forsake his sin and remove it from his thoughts, and firmly resolve in his heart." The starting point for this, however, is re'iyah — to open our eyes and see with emes where we truly stand. Without that clarity, teshuvah cannot even begin.

The Sifrei (Re'eh, 53) explains that



Mazel Tov

*Heartfelt Mazel Tov wishes to:*

Mr. & Mrs. Eytan Wolff on their recent marriage.

Rabbi & Mrs. Yossi Rosenberg on their son's marriage.

Rabbi & Mrs. Pinny Jacobs on their son's birth.

Mr. & Mrs. Levi Mensch on their son's birth.

Mr. & Mrs. Yossi Weinberg on their son's birth.

Rabbi & Mrs. Chaim Yehudah Halter on their daughter's birth.

Rabbi & Mrs. Yehoshua Chaitovsky on their son's wedding.

Rabbi & Mrs. Sender London and their daughter's engagement.

Mr. & Mrs. Shmuel Firestone in their daughter's birth.

Yaakov Yarmark on his recent engagement.

Mr. & Mrs. Dovid Feuchtwanger on their daughter's engagement.

Rabbi & Mrs. Eliezer Parkoff on the granddaughter's marriage.

Rabbi & Mrs. Ari Blachor on their daughter's marriage.

Rabbi & Mrs. Yosef London on their son's wedding.

Moshe spoke in the singular, Re'eh — see, you as an individual. Even though he was addressing the entire nation, each Yid is called upon to do his own cheshbon hanefesh. It is easy to hide in the crowd, to measure ourselves only against those around us. But in Elul, HaKadosh Baruch Hu calls each one of us personally: Re'eh anochi — “You, see what I am placing before you.”

Chazal further describe Elul as the time when HaMelech basadeh, the King leaves the palace and stands openly in the field, accessible to all. The avodah then is not only to prepare for judgment, but to take advantage of kirvas Elokim while it is available in a unique way. The Vilna Gaon (Even Sheleimah 3:2) explains that every person has moments when the gates of teshuvah are more open to him; Elul is that time for the entire Klal Yisrael.

We may add that the pasuk says “Re'eh anochi nosein lifneichem hayom”. The choice of brachah and klalah is placed hayom — today, anew each day. Elul can seem daunting when we think of the full span of the Yamim Noraim ahead. But the Torah

teaches: the avodah is “today” — one step, one decision, one improvement at a time. As the Chovos HaLevavos (Shaar Cheshbon HaNefesh, cheshbon 3) stresses, a person must view each day as a new opportunity, not be crushed by the weight of the past.

Perhaps this is why the parsha that we read as we enter Elul begins with Re'eh. The Torah is reminding us: the key to Elul is clarity. If we see where we are, and where we can be, then Elul becomes a gift — not a burden, but an opportunity for bracha.

May we merit in this Elul to open our eyes with true re'iyah, to seize the closeness that Hashem offers us, and to enter the Yemei HaDin with confidence in His rachamim, meriting a year of bracha and yeshuos for all of Klal Yisrael.

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## Enjoying the Summer.

### ELUL HAS ARRIVED

As Elul dawns upon us, we extend a heartfelt welcome to both our returning talmidim and those embarking on this journey for the first time—at Yeshivas Torah Ore. The air is filled with anticipation as we usher in the new Elul zman and the promising year ahead. Our Beis Medrash stands ready, echoing with the eternal words of Torah that have illuminated generations before.

New beginnings hold profound power. Just as Elul invites us to grow, so too does this zman offer a fresh canvas for growth. Consider the words of the Rambam: “Every day should be to him as if he were born anew.” In the quiet moments of reflection during these days ahead, we are reminded that renewal is not merely a seasonal event but a daily opportunity. Whether you are stepping into our halls afresh or resuming your seat among familiar faces, embrace this as a chance to ignite your passion for Avodas Hashem and limud Torah.

The year ahead offers its own set of opportunities. Together, we can build a year of unparalleled elevation, where every page turned and every discussion shared draws us closer to our goals.



Celebrating at the Wolff wedding.