

Jewish Literacy Programme

Year 4 ~ Week 6

This week's סדרה:

English Translation

חומש Words

Write each Hebrew word into script

(and) he took

וַיִּקַּח

(and) he sent

וַיִּשְׁלַח

(and) he went

וַיֵּלֶךְ

(and) he went out

וַיֵּצֵא

(and) he gave

וַיִּתֵּן

(and) he came

וַיָּבֹא

English Translation / Explanation

G.K. Words

The Six Fast Days (1)

Fast of Gedalia, on 3rd Tishri, the day after Rosh Hashono.
We remember the murder of Gedalia Ben Achikam,
Governor of Israel after the destruction of the First Beis
HaMikdosh. He was killed by a Jew, Yishmael Ben Nesania,
who was hired by the King of Amon. see more over page

צום גְּדַלְיָה

see over page

Write each Hebrew word into script

Yom Kippur, 10th Tishri, ends with the final Shofar blast at
the end of N'eilah. On Yom Kippur, Hashem forgives sins
we have committed against Him, but not the sins we may
have committed against our fellow man. If we really want to
come out of this holy day completely clean, we need to first
beg forgiveness from anyone we may have wronged.

יום כְּפּוּר

On the 10th of Teves of the year 3336 from Creation
(425 BCE), the armies of the Babylonian emperor
Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem.

עֲשָׂרָה בְּטִבֵּת

Fast of Esther, 13th Adar. This commemorates:
1. Esther's fast before she pleaded for the King to save the
Jewish People;
2. The fast of the Jewish People before going out to battle
with their Persian enemies.

תַּעֲנִית אֶסְתֵּר

א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ך	ל	מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	ף	צ	ץ	ק	ר	ש	ת
א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	כ	ך	ל	מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	ף	צ	ץ	ק	ר	ש	ת

The Tragic Story of Gedalia

Gedalia is mentioned in Yirmiya (Jeremiah) 40 and in Melachim Bais (Kings II) 25. From looking at these two locations, one learns the following about Gedalia: After Nevuchadnezzar (King of Bavel - Babylon) destroyed the Temple and the nation of Israel was exiled to Babylon, a small number of Jews remained in the land of Israel. Nevuchadnezzar appointed Gedalia as a "governor" over them. When the Jews who were in exile heard that a group of Jews was allowed to remain in Israel and that Gedalia was appointed to oversee them, they were happy, and people started returning to the land to live.

The King of the neighboring nation of Amon, Balis, did not want the Jews to stay happy. He convinced Yishmael ben Nesania that he should assassinate Gedalia. According to the Rabbis, Yishmael was of royal blood. Balis, in order to provoke Yishmael into killing Gedalia, would "tease" Yishmael about the fact that a "commoner" was appointed a leader over Israel, and that Yishmael, who was of royalty, was passed over for the job. This caused Yishmael to become envious and jealous of Gedalia, to the extent that Yishmael decided to kill Gedalia.

At the beginning of the month of Tishrei, Yishmael came to Gedalia. Although Gedalia had been told that Yishmael was coming to kill him, he did not believe it because he did not want to believe this "lashon ho'ra," or slander. When Yishmael arrived, Gedalia treated him with respect. Then Yishmael and his henchmen (gang of followers) turned on Gedalia and killed him. The Jews who were then living in Israel feared reprisals (acts of revenge) from Nevuchadnezzar (as "they" killed the leader he had appointed) and fled to Egypt. The land of Israel was then devoid (empty) of Jews. This day, therefore, is a day of great tragedy, and therefore we fast.

(<http://www.torah.org/learning/yomtov/yomkippur/vol1no39.html>)