



MESIVTA of EATONTOWN

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Shabbos Email Letter Parshas Yitro

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**Look out next week for pictures
from Rabbi Sender Kasziner's
trip to Eretz Yisroel!**

Lakewood

Candle Lighting 4:58
Shabbos Ends
6:00/6:30

Brooklyn

Candle Lighting 4:56
Shabbos Ends
5:58/6:28

Matan Torah! In this week's parsha we read how Hashem revealed Himself on Har Sinai to give Bnei Yisroel the Torah. The *psukim* describe in detail how the Torah was given, through an awesome display of thunder, lightning, fire, smoke and shofar blowing. Chazal explain that until today when one learns Torah he must try to recreate that same environment we experienced at Har Sinai.

The parsha not only emphasizes Matan Torah, the giving of the torah per-se, rather a large emphasis is placed on how Bnei Yisroel prepared for this momentous event. Most specifically by refraining from *tumah* and keeping the mitzvah of "*hagbalah*" setting boundaries, that no one shall try to ascend Har Sinai. So important was this mitzvah, that Hashem had Moshe repeat the warning right before the Aseres Hadibros were given as the torah writes "*reid ha'eid ba'am*" descend and warn the people," *pen yehersu el Hashem liros vnafal mimenu rav*". Lest many people will break through (the boundary) to Hashem and many people will fall.

Why was it important that this warning in particular had to be repeated right before Matan Torah? What is the significance, and what lesson can we learn that this is a prerequisite for Torah?

The answer I believe lies in the words of Rashi. Rashi adds an interesting explanation to the words "*vnafal mimenu rav*" many will fall. "Even if one person shall break through and he will perish, in my eyes it is considered as if many have fallen". This, explains Rashi, must be our outlook to receiving torah. Torah was given to everybody. Hashem's precious gift was not only made for the gifted students, for the highly motivated talmidim, or for *illuyim* and "mitzuyonim"! Hashem said "I want everybody to be there as an equal, and even if one neshama is missing it is as if a big chunk of Klal Yisroel was not present.

This was Hakadosh Baruch Hu's final message right before Matan Torah. Torah is for all, and everyone must have a chance to learn torah and be part of this beautiful mesorah. And this must be our outlook when we teach torah (which is a continuation of the mesorah from Sinai). Yeshivos must be willing to give everybody their fair chance. Rabbeim must not label a student and say it won't work and teachers must realize that each and every child has a chelek in torah which is waiting to be transmitted to him/ her.

May we see nachas from our children and talmidim.

Gut Shabbos,
Rabbi Sender Kasziner
Rosh Yeshiva

Some exciting pictures of the mid winter skiing trip to Killington Vermont!

