My FRIEND

ספר עזרא

מעשה בתלמיד אחד, שהיה מתייחד במקום אחד, והיה למד בו מסכת חגיגה. והיה מהדר ומהפך בה כמה פעמים, עד שלמד אותה היטב והיתה שגורה בפיו, ולא היה יודע מסכתא אחרת מן התלמוד זולתה, והיה שונה בה כל ימיו. כיון שנפטר מן העולם הזה, היה לבדו באותו בית שהיה לומד בו מסכת חגיגה, ולא היה שום אדם יודע פטירתו. מיד באה אשה אחת, ועמדה עליו, והרימה קולה בבכי ובמספד, ותרבה אנחתה וצעקתה, כאשה שהיא סופדת על בעלה, עד אשר נקבצו ההמון, ואמרה להם, ספדו לחסיד זה, וקברוהו בכבוד גדול, וכבדו את ארונו, ותזכו לחיי העולם הבא, שזה כבדני כל ימיו ולא הייתי עזובה ולא שכוחה בימיו. מיד נתקבצו כל הנשים וישבו עמה סביב למטתו ועשו עליו מספד גדול, והאנשים נתעסקו בתכריכיו ובכל צרכי קבורתו, וקברו אותו בכבוד גדול. ואותה אשה בוכה במר נפש וצועקת. אמרו לה, מה שמך. אמרה להם, חגיגה שמי. וכיון שנקבר אותו חסיד נעלמה מן העין אותה אשה. מיד ידעו שמסכת חגיגה היתה, שנראית להם בצורת אשה, ובאה בשעת פטירתו לספוד לו ולבכותו ולקברו בכבוד, מפני שהיה שונה בה ושוקד עליה ללמוד אותה. והלא דברים קל וחומר, ומה חסיד זה שלא למד אלא מסכתא אחת בלבד כך, הלמד תורה הרבה ותלמוד הרבה ומעמיד תלמידים הרבה על אחת כמה וכמה

Menoras haMaor 5:11

Once upon a time, there was a student, who secluded himself in one place, and there learned Tractate Chagiga. He reviewed and delved into it many times, until he had learned the tractate well, and it was fluent in his mouth. He knew no other tractate from the Talmud than this, and he reviewed it all his days.

When he passed away from this world, he was alone in the house where he had learned Tractate Chagiga, and no one knew of his passing.

Immediately, a woman came, and stood over him, and raised her voice in weeping and mourning, and increased her grieving and outcry, like a woman mourning for her husband, until a crowd gathered.

Then she said to them, “Eulogize this pious man, and bury him with great honor, and honor his coffin, and you will merit the life of the world to come; for this man honored me all his days, and I was never abandoned or forgotten in his lifetime.” Immediately all the women gathered, and sat with her around his bed, and made for him a great mourning; and the men busied themselves with his shrouds and with all his other needs for burial; and they buried him with great honor. And the woman wept with a bitter spirit, and cried out.

They asked her, “What is your name?”

She answered them, “My name is Chagiga.”

And when the pious man had been buried, the woman disappeared.

Immediately, the people realized that she had been Tractate Chagiga, which had appeared in the form of a woman; and that she had come at the time of the man’s passing to eulogize him, and to weep for him, and to ensure that he was buried with honor, because he had constantly reviewed Chagiga, and watched over it to learn it.

A word about *parshiyos*...

What's this about *parshiyos*?

In English, books are made up of sentences, groups of sentences called paragraphs, and groups of paragraphs called chapters. A paragraph break signifies a minor break between ideas; a chapter break signifies a major break.

Similarly, Biblical Hebrew (*lashon hakodesh*), features three common text divisions: *pesukim* (verses), which correspond to our sentences; *parshiyos sesumos* (closed paragraphs), which correspond to our paragraphs; and *parshiyos pesuchos* (open paragraphs), which correspond roughly to our chapters. A new *parsha sesuma* signifies a minor break in the ideas; a *parsha pesucha,* a major one.

Parshiyos sesumos look like this:

Parshiyos pesuchos look like this:

What we call the weekly "*parsha*" in Chumash is really made up of multiple *parshiyos* (and is also known as a *sedra*.)

What about *perakim*?

Medieval Christians (and later the printers), not being aware of our tradition of *parshiyos*, recognized the need for some kind of text division, and created "chapters" – which we know, and use, as the *perakim.*

The divisions between *perakim* sometimes correspond to the divisions between *parshiyos,* and sometimes are misleading, separating ideas that the *parshiyos* group together, or vice versa.

Sefer Ezra Scavenger Hunt

Can you find…

-Fish

-Camels

-A fox

-Stars

-Dirt

-Pine needles

-Sweet drinks

-Unlimited salt

-Fear

-Embarrassment

-Trembling in the rain

-Shouting

-Trumpets

-Marble

-Copper

-Someone shaking clothing

-Stairs

-Pharaoh

-Mordechai

-Shushan

-A queen

-A question

-An eye

-Handwriting

-Throwing things out of a room

-Someone tearing his own hair

-Someone tearing someone else's hair

-People saying they don't have enough time to do something

-A *pasuk* (verse) that makes you happy

Who's Who in *Sefer Ezra*

Jews	**Non-Jews**
Jeremiah (Yirmiyahu)	Cyrus (Koresh)
Sheshbatzar	Rechum
Zerubavel ben Shealtiel	Shimshai
Yeshua ben Yotzadak	Achashverosh
Chaggai	Artaxerxes (Artachshasta)
Zecharia ben Ido	Darius (Daryavesh)
Ezra haKohen	Tattenai
Nechemia ben Hachelia	Shesar Boznai
Elyashiv the Kohen	Sanballat
Shemaiah ben Delaia	Tovia
	Geshem

Parsha #1

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #2

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #3

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #4

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #5

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #6

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #7

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #8

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #9

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #10

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #11

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #12

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #13

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #14

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #15

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #16

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Parsha #17

Initial Reaction

What questions do you have about these *pesukim*?

1.

2.

3.

What phrase most stands out to you in these *pesukim*? (Something beautiful, or striking, or mysterious, or that reminds you of something in your life…)

Let's Look Deeper

Question #1:

Question #2:

Question #3:

Stick These on Your Door

Vocabulary word of the *parsha:*

One possible takeaway:

Summarize the main idea(s) of this *parsha* in one sentence:

Sefer Ezra, visually
