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PARSHAS BECHUKOSAI TNS - TORAH NEWS SERVICE

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The Parsha Post

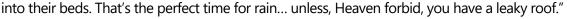


UNUSUAL WEATHER PATTERNS DECLARED A BLESSING



The Land of Israel has recently experienced climate change. Week by week, every Friday night, bucketloads of rain begin to fall. Meteorologists originally dismissed it as a coincidence, but a careful reading of Torah reveals that it is actually a Divine blessing.

"In the beginning of Parshas Bechukosai, HaShem promises that if the Jews follow His will, He will send them rain at the best time," explained meteorologist Gershon Geshem of Matar Matters Think Tank. "This phenomenon occurs every Friday night when everyone is tucked safely





CONFUSION Cong. Shazak IN SYNAGOGUE

Loud arguments were heard at Congregation Anshei Shazak during the Torah reading this week. "What's going on here?!" stormed Mr. Herschel Haughty, senior president of the shul. "Aliyah #3 is reserved for important



people, like... ahem... yours truly. This week, Parshas Bechukosei, however, NOBODY was called up to the Torah... no Ya'amod, no nothing! Instead, our Torah reader, Reb Berel Korei, made the blessing over the Torah. He read the portion speedily and quietly... probably so nobody would even notice that he 'stole' the Aliyah! The chutzpah! The nerve! The audacity!"



In an effort to calm the rattled crowd, Rabbi Shazakowitz explained during his weekly Shazak sermon, that Reb Berel was only following Jewish tradition. "Aliyah #3 is called the Tochachah – HaShem's

big and scary rebuke... the CURSES!" the rabbi said gazing at Mr. Haughty. "Would you, Reb Herschel, want to be called up for the rebuke?" "NO! Absolutely not! Out of the question! You gotta be kidding! Not me...", responded Herschel. "No?! That explains why nobody is called up, rather we give the Tochacha-Aliyah to the one who has to be there anyway, Berel Korei, the Ba'al Korei, reader of the Torah."

MA'ASER RED PAINT AND A GRATEFUL SHEPHERD



In farms across the land, farmers have gathered all livestock born this year into large pens and are letting them out one at a time. Every 10th animal receives a smearing of red paint

on his back, designating it as Ma'aser, to be brought as a sacrifice in the Holy Temple.

"All season long, as my sheep are born, I see how HaShem blesses them with life and health," said Shepherd Shimon Shepperdstein. "I am so grateful, I'm glad to give HaShem one animal out of 10. It's a bargain. I keep 9 and HaShem gets 1. Get the idea?"



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