

And the Al-mighty blessed the seventh day and sanctified it (Bereishis 2:3)

How foolish are those people who lack faith in Hashem. They delay bringing in the Shabbos and they hasten its departure. The six days of the week draw sustenance from the curse that was given to Odom HaRishon, the first man, "From the sweat of your brow you will earn your livelihood" (Bereishis 3:19). Only Shabbos was excluded from this curse. HaKodosh Boruch Hu, the Holy One Blessed is He, Himself, with His glory, blessed the Shabbos and sanctified it. Those who are intelligent hasten the entrance of Shabbos to receive its blessing and they delay its departure so they don't re-enter the curse of the six days of the week so quickly. The fools reverse the order. They delay entering this state of blessing and are quick to leave it in order to enter the cursed state of the six days of the week! Fortunate is the one who merits to understand this, to hasten the coming of the Shabbos and to delay its departure in order to receive the blessing of Hashem which comes automatically to those who accept the Shabbos.

--The Chofetz Chaim

From the fruit of the ground (Bereishis 4:3)

Kayin should have brought Bikkurim from the fruits of one of the the seven species. The posuk is telling us, however, about his cheapness and miserliness for he was a man with a stingy eye. The posuk doesn't say, "From the **first** of the fruits of the ground". It says, "From the fruits of the ground", from the least desirable. They were flax seeds, like Chazal say. The posukim teach us that this was an action of a miser. The posuk is very brief regarding Kayin's korban, which was not accepted. A more elaborate description is used when referring to Hevel's korban, which was accepted. The posuk regarding Hevel's korban (Bereishis 4:4) says, "From the first-born of his flock and from their fattest". Hevel brought the firstborn from something which is fit to be a korban, sheep. Kayin brought produce. Produce is not fit to be a korban and he didn't even bring from the first fruits, he brought from the least desirable fruits. The Medrash compares Kayin to a servant who eats the choicest fruits and serves the king the leftovers.

--Rabbeinu Bechaye

Zemanim and Halachos

בראשית

	Krias Shema	Tefilla
According to the Vilna Gaon	9:54 AM	10:48 AM
According to the Magen Avrohom	9:18 AM	10:24 AM
Sunset Friday: 6:01 PM	Sunset Saturday: 5:59 PM	

Hilchos Chanukah - Laws of Chanukah

It is forbidden to fast during the eight days of Chanukah which begin on the 25th of Kislev. Even a Chosson (groom) on his wedding day is not allowed to fast. One would also not fast on the yahrzeit of a father or mother if it occurs during Chanukah.

--Shulchan Aruch 573:1, 670:3

One must be very careful with [the Mitzvah of] lighting Chanukah candles. Even someone who is supported by charity must borrow money or sell their clothes to purchase oil for lighting. This requirement is only to obtain enough oil for one candle each night

--Shulchan Aruch 670:1,3

Kids' Korner

PARSHA QUIZ

1. What was different about the Nochosh (snake) after he was cursed by Hashem?
2. How many rivers can you name that are mentioned in the Parsha?
3. From what species did Kayin bring his Korban?
4. What type of fruit grew on the Eitz HaDaas (Tree of knowledge)?
5. What good deed did a sheepdog do in this Parsha?

Answers next week!