**Questions for Understanding and Reflection**

1. What verse or verses from the readings of the previous Festival of Chanukah were fulfilled in your life during the last week?‎

The Hakham came to my hose and lit my house like a hanukiyah. This was a gift like the gifts of the tribal leaders.

1. From all the readings for this Shabbat which verse or verses impressed your heart and fired your imagination?

45:3 of the Torah , I am Joseph! Is my father yet alive?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 44:18?

**Then…approached him… something into my lord’s ears** – Why did he do this?

**and let your wrath not be kindled** – What do we learn from this?

**for you are like Pharaoh** – What is the midrashic meaning?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 44:20?

**and his brother is dead** - Why did he lie?

**alone of his mother** – How is this to be understood?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 44:32?

**For your servant assumed responsibility for the boy** – Why did Judah say this?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 45:2?

**and the house of Pharaoh heard** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: בֵּית פַּרְעֹה?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 45:5?

**to preserve life** – How is this to be understood?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 45:12?

**And behold, your eyes see** – What did they see?

**as well as the eyes of my brother Benjamin** – Why was Benjamin mentioned?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 45:14?

**And he fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept** – What was he weeping for?

**and Benjamin wept on his neck** – What was he weeping for?

**and afterwards** – What happened afterwards?

**his brothers spoke with him** – Why didn’t they speak previously?

1. What questions were asked of Rashi regarding Gen. 45:18?

**the best of the land of Egypt** – Where is the best of the land?

**the fat of the land** – What is the meaning of the Hebrew phrase: חֵלֶב הָאָרֶץ?

1. The prophet Isaiah says that the end is contained in the beginning and the beginning in the end. What are some of the relationships between B’resheet (Gen.) 44:18 and 45:18?

That as Judah drew near to Yosef, so also did Yaaqob and his family drew near to Yosef.

Yosef accepts Yehuda as an emisary for the brothers, then he accepts his entire family.

In the beginning, Yosef is Mashiach ben Yosef. In the end he is Mashiach ben David.

1. ‎In Psalm 37:5 we read: “Reveal to the LORD your ways, and trust in His ‎Word, and He will act.” What are the Peshat and Remes implications of this statement?

Pshat = pray and discuss this with HaShem.

Remez = Seek counsel from the Hakhamim.

1. What are some of the implications of the statement made by Joseph: “Ani Yosef” (I Joseph) from a Peshat and Remes perspectives?

Yosef = “I add”. This suggests that at the pshat HaShem has added, He is adding, and He will add. (He added life to the Gentiles and the Jews, for example.)

At the remez level we can understand that we are speaking of Mashiach ben Yosef and his revelation.

1. ‎Why in the vision that Hakham Tsefet saw, were the unclean animals were wrapped in a Tallit?

The tallit’s holiness was infused in it’s contents and the Talit was not degraded in it’s holiness.

1. What is the allegorical meaning of the statement in Yehoshua 14:7, where we read: **“Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to ‎spy out the land; ‎and I brought him back word as it was in my heart”**?

Caleb was undergoing a change in his mission. As a result of attaing to 40 years of age, he had completed his prior mission and was undergoing a new mission as a strategic leader of the Jewish people of the tribe of Judah.

1. What exactly did the Master mean when he said: “To you it is given to know the So’od ‎ of the kingdom (Governance) ‎of G-d (through the Hakhamim and Bate Din as opposed to human ‎kings). But, to those outside, all these things are given in ‎comparative analogies”? And what responsibilities or qualities should we expect of the “you” (true Talmidim of the Master)?

The Nazareans are given the proper framework so that they have a chance of apprehending the so’od. Given that they have this framework, they are obligated to share this with others in order for the Gentiles toi draw near to HaShem.

1. What is the secret encapsulated in the Hebrew word “VAYIGASH” (“And came near”)? And how is this secret related to our portion for this week from Mark and from Acts (2 Luqas)?

With the revelation of Yosef, the prototype for Mashiach ben Yosef initiated tikun for the whole world. Therefore, in Mashiach ben Yosef there will be a tikun for the gentiles and Jews alike. However, when we see the revelation of Mashiach ben Yosef to his brothers he will undergo a transformation into Mashiach ben David.

The vocabulary “Four-Cornered” in Greek leaves the translation the opportunity to say Four Agents or “Four Principle/Primary elements (Angels that govern the elements) or even four beginnings. It also alludes to the inside Tallit which in Hebrew is called Arba Kanfot (Lit. “Four Corners). Better still is the notion of the events of the “Fourth Day” where the Primordial light was concealed and the two “great lights” and the *kochavim* (stars) begin their rule. As His Eminence, Rabbi Hillel ben David has well stated four always alludes to the fifth. In the present case, the fifth day gave birth to “every living creature.”[[1]](#footnote-1) Therefore, if the fourth day initiates the Y’mot HaMashiach allegorically the fifth – sixth days are the initiation of the Governance of G-d through the Hakhamim culminating the seventh, which is the full revelation of the Y’mot HaMashiach.

1. What important debts do all the Gentiles owe particularly to the Master as “King of the Jews,” and to the Jewish people in general? And what practical steps dhould the Gentiles take in order to repay these debts before it is too late to do so in their lives?

They are the keepers of the oracles of God (Romans 3:2). They are the teachers of the Gentiles (Hebrews 5:12).

Repayment consists of becoming Jews, then Hakhamim, and finally to teach others the oracles and of submission to the Batae Dinae.

1. Why are “works” following “faithful obedience” so critical to both Jews and followers of the Master? Please explain your answer.

Numerous pesukim in the Nazarean Codicil teach that there is no faithful obedience without works. Workd show our emunah and demonstrate what we trully believe.

1. What is the meaning of the association of the Torah Seder of Vayigash (in the Triennial Cycle) with the fast of the 10th of Tebet? Please explain your answer.

The tenth of Tevet was the beginning of the exile during both first and second Temple times. Our Torah portion concers itself with the first exile of the Jewish people, the Egyptian exile.

1. ‎Taking into consideration all the readings for this Shabbat what is the prophetic statement for this week?‎

Now we should "draw near" to our Jewish community and unite to bring the Gentiles to emunah and the works that follow.

1. Cf. B’eresheet (Gen) 1:21 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)