



Jewish Literacy Programme

Year 4 ~ Week 19

English Translation

Write each Hebrew word into script

חומש Words

with you (masc., sing.) _____

אַתָּךְ

blessed _____

בָּרוּךְ

from him, from it _____

מִמֶּנּוּ

all of us _____

כְּלָנוּ

his father _____

אָבִיו

strong _____

חֲזָקָה

English Translation / Explanation

G.K. Words

Jewish Life (1)

It is a mitzvah to make a Se'udat Mitzvah (a meal connected with the performance of a mitzvah) **on the Shabbat evening after the birth of a baby boy.** We have a "שלום זכר" to welcome (שָׁלוֹם) the newborn boy (זָכָר = male). A deeper meaning is given by the Rabbis. We are taught that before a child is born he is taught the entire Torah. However, as soon as he enters the air of this world, an angel comes and strikes him on his mouth, causing him to *forget* the entire Torah. **We come together at the שלום זכר in order to remember the Torah learning that the child was given before he was born and encourage him to spend his life involved in Torah.**

שָׁלוֹם זָכָר

adapted from:
www.torah.org/
learning/lifecycles/
milah/shalomz.html

Why nothing similar to a Shalom Zachor for girls?
see: www.torah.org/
learning/lifecycles/
milah/milah2.html

The ברית מילה is performed on a Jewish boy when he is eight days old, even if the eighth day is שַׁבָּת or כַּפּוּר. Sometimes the ברית מילה will be postponed, on medical advice, until the baby is healthier and stronger. **The Brit Milah is a sign of the closeness between Hashem and the Jewish People.** The ברית מילה also has the effect of weakening the יִצְרָה הָרַע and preparing the child for serving Hashem.

בְּרִית מִילָה

adapted from:
www.torah.org/
learning/lifecycles/
milah/vol1no3.html

Pidyon Ha'Ben, the "redemption of the first born son," takes place when a baby is at least 31 days old, and involves "buying him back from a Kohen" with five silver coins. Originally, all first born were supposed to be the special servants of Hashem, כֹּהֲנִים, but they lost this special responsibility to the לְוִיִּים at the חַטָּאת הָעֵגֶל (sin of the golden calf). Only the לְוִיִּים did not get involved with the חַטָּאת הָעֵגֶל. Hashem decreed that all כֹּהֲנִים would now come from the tribe of לֵוִי.

פִּדְיוֹן הַבֵּן

see: www.aish.com/
literacy/lifecycle/
Pidyon_Haben.asp

According to הלכה (Jewish law) **a woman becomes obligated to keep the Mitzvot (becomes Bat Mitzvah) at the age of 12 and a man becomes obligated to keep the Mitzvot (becomes Bar Mitzvah) at the age of 13.** We usually have special celebrations to mark these important occasions.

בַּר מִצְוָה \ בַּת מִצְוָה