

Rabbi's Column

Be prepared!

That is not only one of the Scouting mottos, it appears to be the motto of this week's reading from the second scroll. This coming week is Shabbat Parah (cow shabbas), when we read about the weird rules concerning the red heifer. With the help of the red heifer, a person who was ritually impure could become ritually pure again, so that they could, for instance, participate in the Passover meal.

We do not read about it this week, but the text also provides a kind of belt and suspenders bit of safety in terms of Passover participation. If, after all, you are not in a place or condition to participate, you can do so one month later.

When things go well, we can work on all of our life in the same way - first, by attempting to be prepared in case things go a little bit wrong. And then, if things become worse, having a backup plan. Personally, I have very seldom been able to be as prepared as I would like.

In case you could not figure it out already, Passover is coming. If you have any questions, please ask. When I do not know the answer off the tip of my tongue, I will look it up and get back to you.

On March 17, the calendar indicates it is Shabbat HaHodesh Rosh Hodesh - which means that the month of Nisan begins on that very day. Should there be a minyan that morning, 3 Torah Scrolls will be taken out of the Ark to be read from - one for the section from Vayikra, one concerning the very first Passover, and one talking about the kinds of food provided for the homeless on every new month.

There is no Torah Thursday this week, as I will (weather permitting) be in Casper attending part of a Holocaust Symposium.