**Learning l’Aliyas HaNeshama**

**Pinchas ben Meir HaLevy**

18 Teves 5783 • January 10, 2023

Topic: “What’s the Mitzvah of Hospitality?”

BACKGROUND TEXTS:

**1. *Bereishis* 18:1-8**

God appeared to him in the plains of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to the tent in the heat of the day. He lifted his eyes and there were three men standing before him. He saw them, and ran to greet them from the entrance to the tent, and bowed toward the ground. He said: “My Lord, if I have found favor in Your eyes, please do not leave your servant.” “Take some water and wash your feet, and rest under the tree. I will fetch some bread and you will satiate yourselves, then go on – in as much as you have passed your servant’s way.” They said, “Do so, just as you have said.” So Avraham hurried to the tent, to his wife Sarah, and said, “Hurry! Three measures of ne our – knead them and make cakes!” Then Avraham ran to the cattle, took a good, tender calf and gave it to the youth who hurried to prepare it. He took cream and milk, as well as the calf which he had prepared, and he placed these before them. He stood before them, under the tree, and they ate.

**2. *Ibid*. 18:17-19**

17  And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Avraham that thing which I do; 18  Seeing that Avraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19  For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Avraham that which he has spoken of him.

**3. *Devarim* 13:5**

The Lord, your God, shall you follow and Him shall you fear. Keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cleave to Him

TALMUD:

**4. *Bava Metzia* 86b**

*And the Lord appeared to him by the Plains of Mamre, as he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day.* What is “the heat of the day”? Rabbi Chama son of Rabbi Chanina says: That day was the third day after Avraham’s circumcision, and the Holy One, Blessed be He, came to inquire of Avraham. The Holy One, Blessed be He, removed the sun from its sheath in order not to bother that righteous one with guests. He sent Eliezer to go outside. He went out but did not find. He said to him: I do not believe you. This is what they say there: Servants do not have any credibility. He himself went out and saw the Holy One, Blessed be He, standing at the entrance. This is as it is written: “do not leave Your servant...”