

5 Tevet, 5772 (31/12/11) *In The Fullness of Time: Right on Schedule* J. M. Terrett
This World is Not Enough

Vayigash and he drew near Nothing can derail His purposes
 Torah: Gen. 44:18-47:17

- (1) 44:34 – que je ne vois pas l'affliction de mon père (let me not see the affliction of my father)
- (2) 45:5 – Dieu m'a envoyé devant vous (G-d sent me before you)
- (3) 46:4 – moi-même je descendrai avec toi et moi-même je t'en ferai remonter (I myself shall descend with you and I will make you come back up out)
- (4) 47:27 – ils multiplièrent beaucoup (intermarriage and conversion) (and they multiplied greatly)

Haftarah: Ez. 37:15-28

- (5) 37:22 – Je ferai d'eux une seule nation dans le pays (I will make them a single nation in the country)
- (6) 37: 25 eux, leurs enfants et les enfants de leurs enfants à perpétuité et mon serviteur David sera leur prince pour toujours. (them and their children and their children's children forever and my servant David shall be their prince perpetually)

Brit Chadashah: Luke 6:12-16:13 il appela ses disciples et il en choisit douze auxquels il donna le nom d'apôtres. (He called his disciples and from them He chose twelve whom He called the sent ones).

Ps. 48

It is that time of year again when people are making resolutions and are getting ready to bid the old year farewell. Time never slows down and people have to keep moving on or they will just be moved along – will you keep moving in 2012 or will you just be moved along?

I want to do some serious thinking as we enter 2012 and I want to examine why I have done what I have done and I want to look at all the choices which will present themselves, even to an old man who will soon be 59 years young!

I want to see lots of things happen in my life, in the life of my family and friends and especially in the life of our shul and the prospects are exciting and sometimes a little scary because you can never tell.

Eccl. 11:6: "From early morning sow your seed and in the evening, do not give your hand rest, for you do not know what will succeed, this or that, or whether the one and the other will be equally good."

I wish I could tell you which stocks to buy, or what the price of oil will be for the next long weekend or who will win this year's academy awards – and I wish I could tell you who will win the next presidential elections down south and when things will improve in Syria, but all of these things are both dependant on so many factors and are all so unimportant in the grand scheme of things.

When I watch the news and when I consider the careers of the rich and the famous, I am impressed that people give their lives to things which are so inconsequential, I am surprised that so much effort is expended and I want to make sure that I do not also follow suit and expend my energy for that which does not satisfy.

You see, ***this world is not enough***. Oh, it gives us enough to eat and there are enough things to see and places to go and things to do and even people to meet, but it is not enough in at least three areas.

First of all it is not enough to keep our interest without ***boredom*** setting in.

Second of all it is not enough to **explain the meaning of existence** because if the point is just to get as much as you can and do as much as you can and impress as many people as you can, every year it seems to make less and less sense. And not even doing the hokey-pokey is what it is all about for very long.

Third, it is not enough because **nothing that is done is permanent** and everything keeps wearing out and you have to keep starting over and over again from scratch – so there is nothing you can do in this world which will last into the next world unless you make the next world your **objective** and live your life according to the **rules** and **regulations** of the life which is yet to come.

Let's go back to the first one. Someone once told me that the average age of those who frequent the bars is 21 years old and there are several good reasons for this. It is not because older people lose their energy and their figures and get too busy making a living to have any fun anymore. It is because you wake up one day and **realize how boring it is to hang around with a bunch of people who just want to make noise, flirt, strut and get drunk and never do anything or say anything worthwhile.**

The bars are just like high school- people who do not know who they are and who just want people to think that they are be cool – **like a bunch of peacocks and chickens strutting and pecking and it gets really old and boring really quickly** – cause you can't just keep turning the music up and it takes more and more stimulus to get less and less pleasure, until Solomon's words become true: Prov. 27:20 – hell and destruction are never full, so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Now I like to have fun and a good time as much as anyone, but **the loneliness of entertainers and drinker s(and stoners) is not something I want to be stuck with.** Having fun and acquiring things and reaching positions of power and privilege is not enough to keep my attention, unless I have a higher purpose – because **a 40 year old kid who is stuck in a high school bar hoping mode is pretty sad.**

The older you get, the less you are impressed by the childish things you eventually need to grow out of – When I was a child I thought like a child, until I learned to put my childishness behind me. May 2012 be a year where **we all grow through our childishness** (and where we let our kids be kids) until we understand that there is so much more to living than hanging around trying our best to be cool - I mean what does that even mean and who really cares?

May we take stock early in 2012 and make it a year where we begin to drop all the **boring, carnal things** from our lives, because this world is not enough, which brings me to my second point, because all by itself, **this world does not make enough sense to deserve our constant attention.**

I recently have been getting in back contact with people I knew when I first came to the faith – some forty years ago (near critical incidents will do that to you) and I am amazed at where everybody has ended up. Some have done great things and are still leaping tall buildings at a single bound, others have tripped, fallen and are struggling to get back up and **it is not because some are better or even smarter than others.** Smart people do not make more money and strong people do not always win and even rich people have to realize one day that they cannot buy happiness or avoid trouble.

I know lots of people who just give up and keep **going half alive** and **escape into so many ways of avoiding looking at the point and purpose of life.** Hobbies are fine – grandchildren are better, but even the most noble purposes in this life do not explain the purpose of this life and why things happen the way they do. You have to look at the next life to discover real purpose.

I do not want to sound cynical or discouraging as we enter 2012; I just want to tell it like it is. Paul said that if we only have hope in this life, we are of all men the most miserable. He did not say this because we put off satisfaction and lead meaningless lives of deprivation, but because we understand that ***this life is but a rehearsal for the next***. We understand that this life is but a shell, a husk of something way better.

So instead of instead of trying to figure it out and make sense of it by itself, we need to come to place of looking at it as nothing more than a ***brief pilgrimage*** where the only real sense we can make of it is our trust in the providence of G-d and the power of the next life, especially when we look at all is happening around the world and through the generations. Something or someone keeps us from self destructing.

We are all put here to choose and to learn to come to terms with the choices of others and at the risk of misquoting Shakespeare, the actors may change, and stage may be different, but the play is the same – and ***it is all about us and our walk with Him (or our flight from Him)***. May 2012, be a year where all the boredom and confusion of your life and of our world melts away and ceases to distract us from our only true purpose which is ***to know Him and to make Him known***.

Nothing else makes enough sense to give our lives and our best to – and nothing else makes enough sense to hold our attention for very long, which brings me to my third point and to my conclusion – ***everything in life is always changing and wearing out and nothing is permanent – not fame, fortune or even foolishness***.

Once you get settled and build something and do something, it wears out and needs to be repaired and rebuilt and you have to start over again. Don't get me wrong, I am looking forward to the New Year and to the new challenges, but I have to also be aware that ***the same old same old*** is also waiting for all of us in 2012 – and some of the things we have done will have to be repaired, just like our flooded basement.

I remember when so many things that are old now were new and I remember an amazing jingle I heard on the TV: let's make the sixties the best years of your life – ***too bad for those of you who missed 'em!***

All the fanfare and all the progress and all the massive buildings, fancy cars and brilliant discoveries will also grow old and even if I wished that 2012 would be the best year of your life, what about 2013? 2023? This world and its glory is constantly passing away and is perpetually wearing out – ***I do not want to give my life or to live my life for something which is going to return to the dust with me***.

I do not want to live in 2012 for things which will get ***more and more boring*** as the year progresses. I do not want to live in 2012 for things which will make ***less and less sense*** as the year progresses and I certainly do not want to live in 2012 for things which will ***eventually wear out***.

We have to do boring things and we have to live with things which make no sense and we have to replace things which wear out, but ***this world is not enough to keep us happy or to deserve our lives***. Unless we have a firm grip on things of the life which is to come, we may find all that we have done and all that we have built and all the places we have gone, tossed out one day sitting, worn out and broken in a junk yard along with 2011, 2011 and all the other years which have gone before.

This world is not enough – have you got a ***strong enough grip*** of the world to come to make 2012 a year that will not be ***boring***, that will ***make sense*** and that will not just ***wear out***, ready to be tossed out when 2013 comes along and you along with it? Only the world to come is enough.

Let's pray.