

*Shiur L'Yom Sh'lishi*¹

[Tuesday's Study]

READINGS: ***Torah Miketz:*** **Genesis 41:37-52**
 Haftarah: **I Kings 3:16-28**
 B'rit Chadasha: **I Corinthians 2:2**

“Can we find anyone like this man . . . ?”
[Genesis 41:38]

Today's Meditation is Psalm 75:4-5;
This Week's Amidah Prayer Focus is Petition #7, *Kabat* [Ingathering]

It is a new day - and there is something absolutely world-shaking going on. The balance of power is shifting. Tables are turning. Chains are falling off. Prison doors are opening. Shafts of Divine Light are suddenly shining brightly through the deep, deep darkness that usually engulfs the earth.

The eyes of the entire world are suddenly focused intently on a disgraced Hebrew slave. Still smelling somewhat of the dark dungeon in which he has been locked away for years, *Yosef ben Ya'akov* – the ‘different’ one his brothers disparagingly long ago labeled ‘that dreamer’ - now stands before the most powerful man on earth. The young Hebrew is not one whit intimidated. He is not groveling at the monarch's feet. He is not shaking – either inside or out. He is not the least bit afraid - because he knows without a doubt that he is *not standing before Pharaoh alone*. He knows that the Creator of Heaven and Earth is with him. He knows the One and Only True God of the Universe has always been – and will always be – with him. The truth of the Holy One's ‘with-ness’ is indeed written in indelible ink all over the resume of his life –and the resumes of all of his family members back to Avram.

And so when the time came for Yosef to speak, suddenly everyone stopped to listen. His voice carried the weight of the Creator of the Universe. His words cut through the darkness like the Holy One's ‘*Yehi Ohr*’ [Light, BE!] declaration cut through the primordial *tohu v'vohu v'choseh* on the first day of Creation². Even Pharaoh stood in awe – while his advisors fairly trembled.

A week ago – indeed a few hours ago - no one on earth would have ever predicted

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² See Genesis 1:2-3.

anything like this would happen. This is the day the Holy One of Israel has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Of course, Yosef has, prior to this day, seen many sorrows, many heartbreaks, many humiliations. Thirteen years ago he was mocked, stripped naked, beaten, and sold into slavery by his brothers. More recently he was falsely accused of attempted rape by his master's wife and thrown into prison. Every time it has looked like the long season of deprivation and humiliation is drawing to a close, something worse has happened that prolonged Yosef's agony. But he has never succumbed to either the dark energy pool of offense or the dark energy stream of depression.

And now the Holy One's covenant promise to Avraham has come to fruition in his life. Yosef's long season of suffering is at an end. Just as the Holy One planned before Yosef was ever born, the son of Yisrael is about to be elevated 'overnight' from falsely accused sex offender to second-in-command in the most powerful nation on earth. At 30 years of age Yosef ben Ya'akov, the firstborn of Rachel bat Lavan, will be miraculously transformed from a man who cannot even provide scraps for himself to the one entrusted by the Holy One with the responsibility to preserve and dispense food enough to sustain the entire world in the darkest season of famine the earth has ever known.

This reinforces the theme of this week's Torah parsha, which is that *the people of the Holy One must look beyond their past failures, beyond wrongs done to them or by them, past those injustices they have experienced as well as those they witnessed afflicting others, past their present circumstances* (be they pleasurable, prosperous, or painful and oppressive), *to the time "at the end"* [Hebrew, *Miketz*]. Sometime, when it fits best in His Glorious Plan for the Redemption of mankind and Creation, the Holy One Will turn the tables. His righteous judgments, and His grand redemptive plan will all be made manifest, and those who have remained faithful to the Covenant He made with Avraham, with Yitzchak, and with Ya'akov, and their descendants forever, will be vindicated in a way that will stun the principalities and powers of the world.

Looking Forward to the Final Redemption

Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan [i.e. *the Chofetz Chaim*] points out that when the time came for Yosef's liberation he was not let out of prison *slowly*. Rather, he was rushed out of his captivity *with the greatest of speed*.

This is the way the Holy One brings about redemption. The moment it is the proper time not even one second is lost. *"This is how it will be with the final*

redemption," said the Chofetz Chaim: "As soon as the right time comes, we will immediately be delivered from our exile." May it occur speedily, in our day.

And the Government Shall Be Upon His Shoulders

As yesterday's aliyah of Torah concluded Yosef had just suggested for Egypt a 'big government' plan consisting of increased taxes and creation of a new level of bureaucracy. Specifically, Yosef's proposal was for a whopping 20% gross crop 'tax' to be imposed upon all Egyptian agricultural operations for the next seven years, and that a 'food czar' be appointed to oversee the harvesting, collecting, hoarding and rationing of Egypt's grain during that period.

Pharaoh decided he knew just the man to run the new program:

Vayomer Par'oh el-avadav

Pharaoh said to his advisors,

Ha-nimtza kazez ish asher ruach Elohim bo

'Can there be another person who has God's spirit in him as this man does?'

Thus Pharaoh did the unheard of and unthinkable – he actually turned over the reins of government – and control over all the assets and resources of Egypt - to not only a *foreigner*, but to a *man he had never prior to this day even heard of, much yet met*, and who up until this very moment was a *slave and a condemned criminal*. Pharaoh said to Yosef:

Acharei hodia Elohim otcha et-kol-zot

'Since Elohim has informed you about all this,

eyn-navon v'chacham kamocho

there can be no one with as much insight and wisdom as you.

Atah tihyeh al-beyti

You will be in charge of my government

v'al-picha yishak kol-ami

and food will be distributed to my people by your orders.

rak ha-kise eg'dal mimeka

I will outrank you Only by the throne. '

[Genesis 41:38-40]

This passage is chock full of fascinating things. First of all, we have Pharaoh of Egypt - a pagan if there ever was one - recognizing in Yosef *ha-ruach Elohim – the spirit of God*. How is it that this pagan ruler is able to recognize, discern, and esteem the spirit of God?³

³ In fairness, the phrase that Pharaoh used can also be translated '*the spirit of the gods*'

Secondly, we have Pharaoh immediately recognizing in Yosef, a Hebrew slave, two spiritual empowerments our English Bibles refer to as *insight* and *wisdom*.

What ‘Insight’ and ‘Wisdom’ Did Yosef Possess?

The Hebrew word our English Bibles translate as *insight* in this passage is ***navon***, *nun, veit, vav, nun sofit*. This is a noun form of the Hebrew verb root ***biyn***⁴. This verb pictures *intuition, foresight, intellectual comprehension, discernment, and understanding*.

The Hebrew word our English Bibles translate as *wisdom*, on the other hand, is ***chacham***⁵. This word is alternately translated as *skilled, crafty, cunning, shrewd, learned, and prudent*. It refers to practical, applied wisdom, the kind that *gets things done* where the rubber meets the road.

Biyn carries a connotation of separating one thing from another – recognizing, categorizing, prioritizing, characterizing, and organizing things, and thus involves application of intellectual understanding. ***Chacham***, on the other hand, involves application of creative energy and physical skill to bring about a result deemed, by ***biyn***, to be desirable or beneficial.

There is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding. Job 32:8.

The Hebrew word ***navon*** refers to insight gained by *judgment/discernment, counsel, or study*. ***Chacham***, on the other hand, refers to insight gained by *experience*. These two aspects of skill in living will play a large role in both the haftarah and the Brit Chadasha readings for this week. In the haftarah, we read about the ‘wisdom’ of Sh’lomo. Was it ***biyn***, or was it ***chacham***? It was both. What the Holy One gave Sh’lomo in response to his famous prayer requesting ‘***an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil***’ was something our English Bibles call a ‘*wise and understanding heart*’. ***I Kings 3:12***. The word translated ‘wise’ in the passage is ***chacham***. And the word translated as *understanding* in the passage is ***biyn***.

Hebrew Torah Commentator Nachamanides, often referred to as the ***Ramban***, in his comments on the Torah discusses the traits of ***navon*** and ***chacham*** as they apply to Yosef’s situation. To insure that Egypt flourished during the upcoming famine, the man who would oversee the food supply needed to have expertise in

⁴ *Biyn* is *beit, yod, nun sofit*, Strong’s Hebrew word #995.

⁵ *Chacham* is *chet, kaf, mem sofit*, Strong’s Hebrew word #2450, pronounced *khaw-khawm*’.

two areas. First, he needed *navon* – which might more properly be translated as *discernment*; and second he definitely needed *chacham*.

As Nachamanides reasoned it, during the years of famine the administrator needed *navon*, because he had to be able not only to foresee how much grain the Egyptians would require to survive, but also had to effectively communicate his vision to others, to choose honest and efficient assistants, to delegate authority wisely and effectively, to organize and motivate the agricultural community, and to administrate and supervise the collection and storage of the excess grain produced.

But he would also need *chacham*. He would not only have to be discerning enough to know how to plan to grow and collect enough grain to last through 7 years of famine, *he also would need to have the knowledge, skill, and toughness necessary to physically preserve the grain from contamination, spoilage and theft, and to fairly and effectively distribute the grain to those in need, once the hard times set in.*

What Qualified Yosef for this Promotion?

Yosef's spiritual gifts – particularly his ability to interpret prophetic dreams have served him fairly well in life thus far. But those gifts do not begin to qualify him for the position to which Pharaoh is about to appoint him. After all, in his new position Yosef is not going to be interpreting dreams, but is going to be *coordinating and administering a series of harvests*. For this task what will turn out to serve Yosef best was the experience he gained through two very unpleasant life experiences – namely the years he spent upon his arrival in this foreign land as a slave/steward of Potifar's house and the more recent years he spent as prisoner/deputy administrator in the dungeon of the very Pharaoh who is about to appoint him viceroy.

Isn't it amazing how the Holy One somehow manages to turn even the worst life experiences we suffer into good?

But Why a Hebrew, of All People?

Pharaoh's motives in appointing Yosef to this extremely important position – upon the shoulders of which rested his nation's well-being and future - are not specifically mentioned.

Did he understand *the gravity of the situation*? Did he grasp the importance of the position to which he was appointing this foreign-born slave and accused criminal? Was Pharaoh perhaps just *playing mind-games with his advisors* – insulting them

by elevating a slave boy – and a foreigner to boot - to be their superior? Or was he really that impressed by Yosef? Or by the tangible presence on Yosef of the ‘spirit of *Elohim*’? We don’t know. It really doesn’t matter. What matters is that *the Holy One’s will was done*.

Pharaoh, of course, thinks he made the decision. He thinks the authority to appoint a viceroy is in his hands. But he is wrong. The Holy One just *pulled rank on him*. And no one even noticed.

Yosef’s Prophetic Coronation Day

Pharaoh then held a public coronation/inauguration ceremony for Yosef, declaring to all the people of Egypt that Yosef was now their leader – second only to Pharaoh himself.

V’yasar Par’oh et-tabato me’al yado v’yiten otah al-yad Yosef
Pharaoh took his ring off his own hand and placed it on the hand of Yosef.

V’yalbesh oto big’dei-shesh
He had him dressed in the finest linen garments,

V’yasem revid ha-zahav al-tzavaro
and placed a gold chain around his neck.

V’yarkev oto b’mirkevet ha-mishneh
He had [Yosef] ride in his second royal chariot,

asher-lo vayikre’u l’fanav avrech
and [those going] ahead of him announced, 'The Viceroy!'

v’naton oto al kol-eretz Mitzrayim
[Yosef] was thus given authority over all Egypt.

[Genesis 41:41-43]

Look at the elements of this coronation ceremony – the *signet ring* from the king’s own hand, the finest *linen garments*, a *gold chain* for the neck, a *royal chariot*, a *herald to go before him* and declare the nearness of his coming. Yosef’s experience is of course prophetic of things to come. As the sages declare: "***Ma’ase Avot Siman L’Banim***" – i.e. the events of the lives of the forefathers foretell future events that will happen to their children. A few hundred years after the events we read about in today’s aliyah we will get a taste of what that means. What will the descendants of Yosef and his brothers eat when they make their exodus from Egypt? ***Matzah*** (unleavened bread). Why? According to Torah, it was because their departure was so sudden and hurried – like Yosef’s departure from prison – that their dough did not have time to rise. Their redemption – like Yosef’s - happened in just a few moments time.

Slavery to freedom, *microwave style*. This is how the future redemption will happen as well. In a moment. In *the twinkling of an eye*.

Yosef's Prophetic Name Change

Pharaoh cannot have a foreigner rule over his people. So he decides to make Yosef an Egyptian. He gives him an Egyptian name and has him marry an Egyptian princess - the daughter of a priest of Egypt's state religion.

Vayikra Far'oh shem-Yosef Tzafnat Paneach

Pharaoh gave Yosef the name Tzafnat Paneach.

[Genesis 41:45(a)]

Yosef joins a growing number of Torah heroes to undergo a name change. *Avram* became *Avraham*. *Sarai* became *Sarah*. *Ya'akov* became *Yisrael*. Later, Hoshea (son of Nun) will become Y'hoshua. But the name of Yosef ben Yisrael changing to . . . ***Tzafanat Paneach***? A fine Hebrew name like Yosef changing to . . . something not just totally foreign, but **blatantly pagan**? Sounds like what will happen centuries later to cloud the identities of Daniel and his friends in their captivity in Babylon, doesn't it? Daniel was assigned the name *Belteshazzar*. His Hebrew friends Hananiah, Misha'el, and Azariah were given the names *Shadrach*, *Meshach*, and *Abednego*.

It even sounds a little bit like what will happen to cloud the identity and Hebraic essence and message of Y'shua of Natzret, and his closest associates, in the 'times of the Gentiles'. Y'shua's name was changed to '*Jesus*' and '*Isus*' and '*Yesu*', depending upon which culture he was being introduced into or discussed in. Sh'mon Kefa's name was similarly changed to '*Simon Peter*'. Ya'akov's name was likewise changed to '*James*' [English] and '*Santiago*' [Spanish]. Yochanan's name was changed as well, to '*John*'.

Note the pattern – each time the Holy One has chosen to open a new fount by which to release the blessing of the Avrahamic covenant over the nations of the world, the world's leaders have looked for ways to cloud the true Hebrew identities and Hebraic essence of that fount. Just *look what Pharaoh started*. So what on earth does the name Pharaoh chose for Yosef - ***Tzafanat Paneach*** - mean, anyway? Strong's says it is an Egyptian phrase meaning "*treasury of the glorious rest*". Other speculative translations I have read [none seem particularly convincing] include:

*Revealer of secrets
savior of the land; and
wise man fleeing from pollution*

Hebrew legend considers the Egyptian name as containing a hidden Hebraic message – teaching that the Hebrew letters corresponding to the individual sounds of Joseph's Egyptian name paint a Hebraic picture. There are 8 Hebrew letters in all used to transliterate Yosef's Egyptian name. The first such letter, **tzade**, pictures a son or heir bowing down reverently in submission under the Hand of God. The second letter, **feh**, pictures a mouth opening in speech, declaring something. The third letter, **nun**, pictures a son or heir standing upright, independently. The fourth letter, **tav**, pictures a *covenant sign* or a mark of redemption and special consecration. The fifth letter, a **peh**, again pictures a mouth open in speech, declaring something. The sixth letter, **ayin**, pictures a man's innermost being or soul. The seventh letter, another **nun**, again pictures a son or heir, standing upright. The eighth and final letter, a **chet**, pictures a *chuppah* [canopy, outdoor shelter], under which a marriage or other covenant-cutting ceremony is transacted.

The reality is that we do not really know what the name ***Tzafanat Paneach*** meant to Pharaoh or to the Egyptians of his day. But we can feel confident that, in this surreal *parsha*, the name change has much more to do with the future – and the things which will happen ***miketz*** [at the end], than it has to do with the events of Yosef's life two millennia BCE.

We can also be confident the name ***Tzafanat Paneach*** means much more than meets the eye, and almost certainly has multiple layers of prophetic meaning attached to it.

So keep this strange name in your memory banks, Beloved. Torah recorded it for a reason. Meditate on it when and to the extent the Holy One brings it up in your thoughts. And at the right moment in your life – or that of your children – perhaps the meaning and prophetic import of that name will suddenly become clear. Just look for someone in your day and time whose life and experiences look a lot like those of Yosef, the son of Ya'akov/Yisrael.

Yosef's Prophetic Inter-Marriage

An Egyptian title and an Egyptian name are not the only Egyptian things Pharaoh gave to Yosef. He also gave him an Egyptian *bride*. As Torah describes it:

V'yiten-lo et-Asenat bat-Poti Fera kohen On l'ishah
He gave him Asenat, daughter of Poti Fera, the priest of On, as a wife.
[Genesis 41:45(b)]

In the Egyptian language the name of the woman given to Yosef – er, I mean *Tzafanat Paneach* - was ***Asenat***, meaning '*belonging to Nat* [an Egyptian goddess]. For the purposes of Torah this Egyptian name is transliterated into Hebrew letters

as *alef, samech, nun, tav*. Who *is* this woman?

Since Torah does not specifically tell us who this woman was Hebrew legend makes some suggestions. One line of Hebrew midrash says that Asenat was *really the daughter of Yosef's former master, Potifar*. She was, according to the midrash, given to Yosef as a wife to prevent Yosef's former master, Potifar, or his wife, from claiming that the Prime Minister of Egypt was really their slave. After all, under ancient law, when a master married off his daughter to his slave, it was proof that he had emancipated the slave.

Another *midrash* goes a step further, actually identifying Asenat as *Yosef's niece!* According to the Midrash, when Yosef's half-sister Dinah was abducted and raped by the Kena'ani prince Shechem she became pregnant with a daughter. Ya'akov, to protect the infant from the sword of Sh'mon and Levi, and the animosity of her other brothers, supposedly put an amulet around the child's neck identifying her as his descendant and sent her down to Egypt. Once there she was adopted by Potifar's family – the same family into which Yosef was initially accepted as a slave. Years later, the midrash says, after Yosef was elevated by Pharaoh, when he traveled around the country of Egypt in his chariot tending to his official duties, the legend has it that all of the young women of the country became infatuated by the young and handsome new leader, and tried to attract his attention by throwing amulets and jewelry at him. Supposedly, when Asenat threw her amulet at him Yosef noticed on it the inscription of his father, so he consented to marry her.

I do not wish to express an opinion, one way or another, as to whether this midrash is or is not historically true. It is clearly *legend, not Torah*. Historically true or not however I believe the legend may very well speak truth *prophetically*. I believe, you see, that is the purpose of most Hebrew *midrash*.

There is *a wedding* yet to come. There is to be a Bridegroom, and there is to be a bride. Both Bridegroom and bride will be of holy seed. But the identity and Hebrew essence of both will be concealed to the outside world. She will be considered as the daughter of uncleanness, the fruit of improper advances made by profane men upon holy things. She will be adopted by those who misunderstand and abuse Him. But she will keep the amulet – the sign or mark – of the *avot* [patriarchs], though she does not grasp or understand a fraction of its meaning. And it will, in time, be that by which He will identify her as *the bride prepared for Him*. His appearance on the stage of world events will be *sudden* and *stunning*. And His coronation and His wedding will occur the same day.

Think on these things. There is much more to the story we are reading than meets

the eye.

The Prophetic Names Yosef Gives to His Sons

The first test of how Yosef's elevation to Egyptian ruler-status were going to affect the loyalties and worldview learned by Yosef in his youth comes when he becomes a father. What one names his or her children, you see, is a great indicator of how he or she views the world.

As children entered the new Egyptian ruler's world, which of the two people he had become would step forward? Would ***Tzafanat Paneach***, the right-hand man of Pharaoh, with an eye toward acceptance in Egyptian society, give the children Egyptian names? Or would ***Yosef***, staring at another generation descended from Avraham, Yitzchak, and Ya'akov, connect, despite the years, the miles of desert, and the betrayals that lay between him and his heritage, with his Hebrew roots, and give them Hebrew names, declaring the Hebrew worldview?

Od Yosef chai! [Yosef is still alive!] The children born to Egypt's new prime minister will be named not by ***Tzafanat Paneach***, but by Yosef. And the names given will not be Egyptian names, but Hebrew ones.

Vayikra Yosef et-sheim ha-b'chor Menashe

Yosef named the first-born Menashe (Manassah),

ki-nashani Elohim et-kol-amali v'et kol-beit avi

For Elohim has displaced me from all my hardships and my parental home.

[Genesis 41:51]

The name chosen by Yosef for his firstborn was a Hebrew name. While most English Bibles associate this name with *forgetting* [i.e. *The Elohim has caused me to forget*], let me suggest another possibility. The name Ya'akov chose for his firstborn, ***Menashe*** [*mem, nun, shin, hey*] is a form of the Hebrew verb root ***nasha***⁶. While Strong's posits that this word means to *forget* or to *deprive*, Rashi - the premier Hebrew Torah Commentator of all - defines the verb instead to mean, in its purest form, *to displace* – to move something or someone from its proper place.

The picture drawn by Rashi's interpretation is of something or someone being *disconnected and dislocated*. The first usage in Torah is found in Genesis 32:33 to describe what the Divine Wrestler did to Ya'akov's hip socket. Of course, the effect of displacement or disconnection in the brain is forgetting – but that is just one manifestation of the displacement, disconnection, and dislocation described by the verb root ***nashaw***. *Forgetting* is, thus, merely a symptom of a far more

⁶ *Nasha* is *nun, shin, hey*, Strong's Hebrew word #5382.

sweeping and sometimes violent process.

Under this analysis the literal translation of the name Menashe would thus seem to be *disconnection/dislocation/displacement*. Yosef would be declaring not that he has been made to *forget* his heritage – which he obviously hasn't, or he would not be giving his son a Hebrew instead of an Egyptian name – but would be declaring instead that he recognizes that *it is the Holy One who has displaced, disconnected, and dislocated him from his Hebrew roots and his father's household*. This would mean that, with the birth of his firstborn son, at least, Yosef had begun to understand what he would declare to his brothers a few years later: “. . . **do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.** Genesis 45:5.

Yosef's lapse into Hebrew thoughts and language at the birth of his firstborn son was not a fluke. When his second son is born Yosef again turns to the Hebrew language and worldview to find a name for his child.

V'et sheim ha-sheini kara Efrayim

and the second he named Efrayim,

ki-hifrani Elokim b'erezt Mitzrayim ...

for the Holy One has made me bear fruit in the land of Egypt."

Efrayim is a Hebrew name written *alef, fey, resh, yod, mem*, and is pronounced *ef-rah'-yeem*. It is a plural noun form of the Hebrew verb root **parah, peh, resh, hey**, Strong's Hebrew word #6509, meaning *to bear fruit*. The Hebraic message of this name is that, in association with displacing and disconnecting the Holy One from his family, the Holy One has caused him to fulfill his purpose in life in the land to which he was displaced.

The Holy One had in fact delivered into Yosef's hand all the fruit of the land of, and that fruit – the fullness of the harvest - was *his to bear*. And so will it be in the end of days.

Questions For Today's Study

1. Let's begin our study with a few questions.

[A] Why did Pharaoh choose Yosef to administer his kingdom?

[B] The word translated “God” in verse 38 is **Elohim** [Strong's Hebrew word #430]. Write the definitions/meanings Strong's gives for that word. In Richards' (or Vines') Expository dictionary, look up “God” and summarize what he says about the meaning of the word **Elohim**.

[C] In Strong's look up the words translated as “discreet” and “wise” [KJV]

in verse 39. Write the Hebrew words and their meanings.

[D] What physical things did Pharaoh bestow on Yosef in order to let everyone know that Yosef was now the lord of Egypt?

[E] What name did Pharaoh give to Yosef, and what does that name mean?

[F] What was the name of the wife given to Yosef by Pharaoh. What did her name mean?

[G] What were the names of the children born to Yosef? What does each of their names mean?

[H] List the things that happened “at the end” [*Miketz*] of the seven years of plenty.

[I] Read verse 55. Then read John 2:1-5 from the B’rit Chadasha. What was Miryam [Mary] saying to the servants of the Bride and Bridegroom?

[J] Consider (and list) the ways in which what happened to Yosef in today’s aliyah is representative of what happened to Messiah Y’shua ‘at the end’ [*Miketz*] of his incarnation among the sons of men. It might help to make two columns on your paper, and list the things that happened to Yosef on the left side, and any corresponding things that happened to Y’shua on the right side.

2. In the Haftarah selected for today Shlomo [Solomon] displays the wisdom for which he asked the Holy One at the beginning of his reign.

[A] In today’s world what do you think would happen if the President of the United States or the Prime Minister of Israel issued the decree that the child in today’s story be cut in half with the sword?

[B] Why does the Scripture record that this seemingly evil and nonsensical decree was a manifestation of the Holy One’s wisdom?

[C] Why did Shlomo decide to give the child to the woman who begged him not to kill the child, but to give it to the other woman?

3. In today’s B’rit Chadasha verse Shaul of Tarsus speaks to the called-out believers in Y’shua from the city of Corinth of the attitude and manner in which he came to them and presented the essential life-changing truths about the Messiah. Shaul says:

*I determined not to know anything among you
except Y’shua Ha-Mashiach - and Him crucified.*

[I Corinthians 2:2]

[A] In Strong’s look up the word translated as “know” in verse 2. Write the Greek word and its meaning. What Hebrew word do you think Shaul was thinking about which we would translate into English as “know”?

[B] What was the one thing Shaul said he resolved to “know” in connection with his dealings with the Corinthians?

[C] What did Shaul have to resolve to “not know” in order to do this?

*May the Lights of Chanukah refresh
your recollection of what He has promised will happen ‘at the end’ [Miketz]!*

The Rabbi’s Son

Meditation for Today’s Study

Psalm 75:4-5, 16-24

*There are no pangs in their [the boastful and wicked’s] death,
But their strength is firm.
They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men.*

** * **

*If I had said, "I will speak thus,"
Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children.
When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me-
Until I went into the sanctuary of the Holy One, then I understood their end.
Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.*

*Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment!
They are utterly consumed with terrors.
As a dream when one awakes, so, HOLY ONE, when You awake,
You will despise their image.*

*Thus my heart was grieved, and I was vexed in my mind.
I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.
Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand.
You will guide me with Your counsel,
And afterward receive me to glory.*

*Whom have I in heaven but You?
And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.
My flesh and my heart fail;
But the Holy One is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.*