

## When Hashem Deliberates, lecture by Rabbi Efroni Schlesinger

Shabbos, 9 Tammuz, 5783 (July 8, 2023)

Rabbi Efroni Schlesinger, grandson of Rabbi George Schlesinger, gave a lecture at Baron Hirsch Congregation in Memphis, TN, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz, 5783 (July 8, 2023). The talk was about “Time” and when Hashem deliberates. The lecture was given in honor and memory of his grandfather on the occasion of his 10<sup>th</sup> yahrzeit.

Rabbi Schlesinger spoke about how one of his grandfather’s favorite topics was “time”, and that he was going to speak on this topic. The Rabbi spoke about how “time” to Hashem is different than how we perceive time in the world we live in. First of all, Hashem needed “time” to determine what type of world he wanted to create. The “time” needed for these deliberations could not be measured in any way we understand, because the moon and sun did not exist back during this deliberation.

Hashem has always existed of course, but when did “time” for us begin? The first of Tishrei is the date of creation of man, so it would seem that 5 “days” before this, back in the very first year, was the beginning of time. But there was discussion amongst participants at the lecture how long these 5 days were.

Rabbi Efroni Schlesinger spoke about Hashem’s deliberations on what type of world he wanted. At first there was to be a world of judgement, and then hashem replaced this, or updated this, to a world of mercy. It’s not clear what type of existence the world of judgement was. There was a lot of discussion about this from participants at the lecture. It may have just been created into Hashem’s mind. But we do know it came into some type of existence 5 days before the 1st of Tishrei. The world that included mercy was created on the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nissan.

Rabbi Efroni Schlesinger talked about how Hashem deliberates during the month of Tishrei. He pointed out that most of Tishrei is a month of judgement. Although we believe our fate is sealed on Yom Kippur, there are additional days between Yom Kippur and the 22 of Tishrei before our actual judgement is put into place.

The Rabbi spoke more about what the concept of time means to Hashem, and how this differs from our perception of it. We here on earth have a perception that time is a never-ending line, with a direction of continually moving forward. But to Hashem, “time” is cycling through various intensities of different character traits and characteristics. Whatever the current character trait(s)/characteristics state we are in, determines the season, and the probability of events to occur.

As an example, Rabbi Efroni Schlesinger spoke about the observance of Pesach. The 15<sup>th</sup> of Nissan is not noteworthy because it is Pesach. Pesach happened because it was the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nissan. During this period in Nissan around the 15<sup>th</sup>, the world is in a state of freedom and rebirth of life. The reemergence of plant life, and season of the year, Spring, occurs because of this state. This is why it is so important that we add a leap year to the calendar – so spring is occurring during Nissan.

As another example, the Rabbi spoke about how the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av is a very bad day, day of mourning, in our calendar. Both the first and second temple were destroyed on this date. It is also the date the spies returned with a bad report. There are many other reasons we mourn on these dates. The Rabbi spoke about how all these bad things happening on this single date is not a coincidence. During this time of year the world is in a state of bad fortune.

