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Shalom one and all!

Can you believe 2015 is over?! This last year was a wild and crazy ride. I believe 2016 will be filled with prophetic implications! Being the first year of the new seven year Shemitah cycle it will set the pace for the next seven years. You add the elections coming this fall, with the economic turmoil the world is in this will truly be a pivotal year in human history!

Our tour to Israel this year was absolutely incredible. I want people to know this Spring/Summer tour the end of May and first of June will be limited to one bus or at the most two but probably just one. We already have around 30 people signed up so if you want to join us do so soon! It will be beautiful to see Israel this time of year. We will be there for the Jerusalem day celebrations when Israel recaptured Jerusalem in 1967. We will also be there on the Mt of Olives the same day Messiah ascended from it! Just go to our website and sign up with Yosher tours!

I would also like to take this time to thank all of you from all over the world who have participated in taking God's Torah to the nations through your tithes and offerings to El Shaddai Ministries! The end of the year is here and I want you to personally know that all of your donations have been so appreciated! God has blessed all of us so much that by Him giving us the ability to bless Him back in sharing His word to the ends of earth is truly an incredible opportunity! You can actually bless Him by your faithfulness to share His Word in helping us in taking it to the nations. Thank you so much for all you do in helping us!

Next week we begin the journey through the Book of Exodus also known as Shemot or Names. It's amazing to me how God focuses on names. Even though He knows the count of all the stars in heaven He calls them by their names. Even though there are close to 6 billion people on this planet He knows everyone by name. He knows your name! He even wants to place His name on you! We have such a personal God! My prayer for all of you this next year is that each of you would draw so close to God as never before. That you would feel is ever abiding presence. But also that He would grant you your prayer in drawing close to Him all of the people you love that do not know Him.

The Bible says in these last days everything that can be shaken will be shaken and I'm believing that when it is all said and done you will be standing there with all your loved ones!!

Blessings for 2016! Pastor Mark Biltz



Recipes

Penne with Chicken and Asparagus

Recipe By: LAUREL B

Prep 15 m Cook 20 m Ready In 35 m

Ingredients:

- 1 (16 ounce) package dried penne pasta
- 5 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves cut into cubes
- · salt and pepper to taste
- garlic powder to taste
- 1/2 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 bunch slender asparagus spears, trimmed, cut on diagonal into 1-inch pieces
- 1 clove garlic, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese



Directions:

- 1. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to boil. Add pasta, and cook until al dente, about 8 to 10 minutes. Drain, and set aside.
- 2. Warm 3 tablespoons olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Stir in chicken, and season with salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Cook until chicken is cooked through and browned, about 5 minutes. Remove chicken to paper towels.
- 3. Pour chicken broth into the skillet. Then stir in asparagus, garlic, and a pinch more garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Cover, and steam until the asparagus is just tender, about 5 to 10 minutes. Return chicken to the skillet, and warm through.
- 4. Stir chicken mixture into pasta, and mix well. Let sit about 5 minutes. Drizzle with 2 tablespoons olive oil, stir again, then sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

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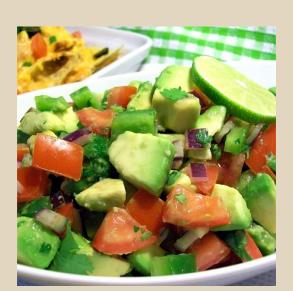
Avocado Salad

Recipe By: JOHNLYNN

Prep 10 m Ready In 10 m

Ingredients:

- 2 avocados peeled, pitted and diced
- 1 sweet onion, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 large ripe tomato, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/2 lime, juiced
- salt and pepper to taste



Directions:

1. In a medium bowl, combine avocados, onion, bell pepper, tomato, cilantro and lime juice. Gently toss until evenly coated. Season with salt and pepper.

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Apple Squares

Recipe By: BarbiAnn

Prep 25 m Cook 30 m Ready In 55 m

Ingredients:

- 1 cup sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup chopped apple
- 1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts
- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon



Directions:

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x9 inch pan. Sift together flour, baking powder, salt, and 1/4 teaspoon of cinnamon; set aside.
- 2. In a large bowl, mix together melted butter, brown sugar, and 1/2 cup of white sugar with a wooden spoon until smooth. Stir in the egg and vanilla. Blend in the flour mixture until just combined, then stir in the apples and walnuts. Spread the mixture evenly into the prepared pan. In a cup or small bowl, stir together the remaining cinnamon and sugar; sprinkle over the top of the bars.
- 3. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes in preheated oven; finished bars should spring back when lightly touched. Cool in the pan, and cut into squares.

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This Day in Jewish History

Tevet-Shevat

[20 Tevet]

- 795th yahrzeit of the Rambam (1204). On his 279th yahrzeit in 1483, the first printed edition of Gemara Brachot was published in Soncino, Italy. It contained Rambam's commentary on Mishna.
- The Jewish community of Ancona, Italy miraculously escaped unharmed from

- an earthquake, 1690. They declared a fast day in commemoration.
- The Nazis prohibited Jews from congregating in shuls and private homes for prayer, 1940. So too, did they forbid Jews from changing residences this, a precursor of the ghettos.

[21 Tevet]

- Birthday of Shimon, son of Yaakov Avinu.
- Purim Ancona, followed the fast day mentioned above, for the 20 Tevet.

[22 Tevet]

- Anti-Jewish riots in Ancona, Italy, 1798 (day after the "local" Purim which had been celebrated since 1691).
- Roman mobs attempted to set fire to the ghetto and to sack it, 1798.

[23 Tevet]

- A fire which started in the home of the rabbi of Frankfort-on-the-Main nearly destroyed the whole Jewish ghetto, 1711.
- Yahrzeit of Nathan Straus, for whom the city of Netanya and the Israel Center's street are both named, 1931.

[24 Tevet]

- Purim of Sherif celebrated by the Jews of Tripoli, from 1745.
- Yahrzeit of Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Lyady, the Baal HaTanya, founder of Chabad, 1812.

[25 Tevet]

- Anti-Jewish riots in different parts of Austria, 1312.
- First critical edition of Chovot HaLevavot published in Italy, 1559.

[26 Tevet]

Jews of Sicily required to wear a special badge, 1369.

[27 Tevet]

• Yahrzeit of Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch, 1888.

[28 Tevet]

- R. Shimon b. Shetach ridded the Sanhedrin of its Tzadoki members. The day was subsequently celebrated as a holiday.
- Jews of Switzerland were granted civic equality, 1866, upon pressure exerted by the United States which had interceded on behalf of American Jewish citizens.

[29 Tevet]

- Earliest authorization for the establishment of a university, including medical and law studies, under Jewish auspices granted, Sicily, 1466.
- Recife, Brazil conquered by Portugal, ending the legal existence of the prosperous Jewish community there, 1654.
- Purim of Tripoli, celebrating the downfall of the Burgel Pasha, 1793.

[1 Shevat]

- The Biblical plague of ARBEH (locust).
- Moshe Rabeinu begins his farewell address to the people and review of the Torah, final year of wandering.

[2 Shevat]

- Death of Alexander Yannai, 76 b.c.e. Date was celebrated as a holiday, since his strong Sadducee policies and appointments posed a serious threat to Rabbinic Judaism.
- Yahrzeit of the Tzemach Tzedek, 1661.

[3 Shevat]

- Jewish mourners attacked in Fostat, Egypt, 1012.
- Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany, 1933.
- The same day saw the founding of the Society of Youth Aliya, which brought the Israel over 115,000 children 12-16.

[4 Shevat]

Yahrzeit of Rabbi Moshe Leib of Sasov, 1808. [Eli Wiesel tells the story that Reb Moshe Leib was well-known for always initiated greetings to others. It was his way of showing his love of his fellow Jews. Once, a person decided to sneak up on Reb Moshe and say Shalom Aleichem to him first. Just as Reb Moshe Leib was about to be "pounced upon", a women called out the name Moshe (intending to call her own son) and Reb Moshe Leib turned around. When he saw the man behind him, he immediately greeted him with a warm Shalom Aleichem, thereby preserving his "record".]

[5 Shevat]

- Jews of Sicily and Naples were invited to return by Charles the Bourbon, 1740.
- BILU (for Beit Yaakov L'chu V'neilacha) founded, 1882, early Russian Zionist movement.
- Russian government closed the Volozhin Yeshiva, 1892.
- Yahrzeit of the S'fat Emet, the 2nd Gerer Rebbe, 1905.
- The 35 members of the Hagana (the LAMID-HEI) were ambushed and killed in the Gush Etzion area (Hebron hills), 1948.

[6 Shevat]

• Jews of Majorca were guaranteed protection, 1393. This was "forgotten" about 20 years later, when persecution started up again. 20 years after that, the

Jewish community was destroyed.

[7 Shevat]

- Jews no longer required to attend conversionist services, 1430.
- Fifth Aliya began, 1930.
- KAF-CHET SAMEI'ACH., 1972.

[8 Shevat]

- The period of the Elders (Z'keinim, the contemporaries of Yehoshua) came to an end; marked by an ancient fast day.
- Jews of Colmar (Northern France, I think) arrested for well-poisoning, 1348. (They were burned at the stake several months later.)
- Public execution of 9 Jews in Damascus, 1969.
- ASC b. LIJ, 1980.

[9 Shevat]

- In Toulouse, France, there was a Jew who converted to Christianity. He returned to Judaism, B"H. He was subsequently buried in a Jewish cemetery.
- Rabbi Isaac Males, HY"D, was burned at the stake, 1278, by the Inquisition, for allowing the burial. The severity of his punishment was based on the Church's need to deter those who might feel drawn to Judaism.
- Yahrzeit of Rabbi Eliezer Silver, leader of American Orthodox Jewry, 1968.

[10 Shevat]

- Seven German Jews were tortured and burned at the stake, 1235.
- Yahrzeit of the "Previous" (Chabad) Rebbe, 1950. He was the father-in-law of the last Lubavitcher Rebbe (there does not seem to be a big rush to appoint a new one).

[11 Shevat]

The Jews of Colmar were expelled, 1510.

[12 Shevat]

Nazis provoked the first anti-Jewish riots in Amsterdam, 1941. The Jews successfully fought off their attackers. Two years later, 1943, to the day (12 Shvat), Jews in the Warsaw ghetto put up their fist resistance to the Nazi effort at liquidation. We years later, to the day, the Russian army liberated 2819 survivors of Auschwitz.

[13 Shevat]

 French National Assembly granted full and equal citizenship to the Portuguese and Avignonese Jews, 1790. France was the first European country to pass such liberal legislation.

[14 Shevat]

- Yosef b. Issachar Suesskind Oppenheimer, financial expert, was executed in Vienna, 1738.
- Yahrzeit of the P'nei Yehoshua, 1756.

[15 Shevat]

- Rosh HaShana for trees.
- First round of Daf Yomi celebrated a siyum, 1931.
- Ghetto in Lodz was established by Nazi decree, 1941.
- First session of the Knesset in Jerusalem, 1949.

[16 Shevat]

 Aaron Bernstein and Perez Smolenskin died 1884 and 1885 respectively. The former advocated Reform Jewish life in Germany and the latter advocated secular nationalism in Eretz Yisrael.

[17 Shevat]

Purim of Saragossa celebrated the escape from destruction of the Jews, 1428.

[18 Shevat]

King Alfonzo V ordered Sicily's Jews to attend conversion sermons, 1428.

[19 Shevat]

• Jews of Basle were burned alive, 1349, in wooden houses constructed for that purpose.

[20 Shevat]

- Birth of Asher b. Yaakov. First printed edition of Tzror HaMor, commentary on Chumash by Rabbi Avraham Sebag, 1523.
- Jewish doctors of Galicia were allowed to attend Christian patients, 1782.

[21 Shevat]

- Oliver Cromwell granted the right of residence in England to a Jew (one Luis Carvajal), 1657.
- Jewish homes on the outskirts of Warsaw, in a settlement known as "New Jerusalem", were demolished and the Jews of Warsaw were expelled, 1775.

History found at OU.





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