**Class #31- When I should NOT listen to my Rabbi?**

Advanced Fellowship Parsha Class - Sponsored in memory of Alice Toby Barbanel *Z”l*

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Dr. Anthony Fauci versus Donald Trump

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yw0LcrnUbRg>

1. What is the guiding principle of Dr. Fauci’s recommendations?
2. What is the guiding principle of Donald Trump’s recommendations?
3. Why does Donald Trump have a difficulty listening to Dr. Fauci’s recommendations?
4. What do Americans want to happen in regard to the economy and opening up?
5. In what way is the over eager approach to opening the economy similar to idolatry?
6. In what way is Dr Fauci like a “prophet of Hashem” opposing idolatry?
7. What do you think will happen with Corona under President Trump’s leadership?

**Tisha B’av Warm up: Two Haftorot of the Three Weeks**

**Yirmiyahu - Ch. 1**

The words of Yirmiyahu son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anatot in the territory of Benjamin….

**Resistance to the mission**

The word of the LORD came to me:

Before I created you in the womb, I selected you; Before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet concerning the nations.

I replied: Ah, Lord GOD! I don’t know how to speak, For I am still a boy.

And the LORD said to me: Do not say, “I am still a boy,” But go wherever I send you and speak whatever I command you.

Have no fear of them, For I am with you to deliver you —declares the LORD.

The LORD put out His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: Herewith I put My words into your mouth.

See, I appoint you this day Over nations and kingdoms: To uproot and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.

**Yirmiyahu hears of the imminent destruction**

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you see, Yirmiyahu? I replied: I see a branch of an almond tree.

The LORD said to me: You have seen right, For I am watchful to bring My word to pass.

And the word of the LORD came to me a second time: What do you see? I replied: I see a steaming pot, Tipped away from the north.

And the LORD said to me: From the north shall disaster break loose Upon all the inhabitants of the land!

For I am summoning all the peoples of the kingdoms of the north —declares the LORD. They shall come and shall each set up a throne before the gates of Jerusalem, against its walls roundabout, and against all the towns of Judah.

**And I will argue My case against them for all their wickedness: They have forsaken Me And sacrificed to other gods and worshiped the works of their hands.**

**Hashem fortifies Yirmiyahu for the fight of his life**

So you, gird up your loins, Arise and speak to them All that I command you. Do not break down before them, Lest I break you before them.

I make you this day A fortified city, And an iron pillar, And bronze walls Against the whole land— Against Judah’s kings and officers, And against its priests and citizens.

They will attack you, but they shall not overcome you; For I am with you—declares the LORD—to save you.

**Chapter 2 – Yirmiyahu’s first sharing of his prophecy**

**Opens with the greatness of the Jew’s relationship with Hashem – the early years**

The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Go proclaim to Jerusalem: Thus, said the LORD: I accounted to your favor The devotion of your youth, Your love as a bride— How you followed Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown.

Israel was holy to the LORD, The first fruits of His harvest. All who ate of it were held guilty; Disaster befell them —declares the LORD.

**Yirmiyahu shares the powerful indictment**

Hear the word of the LORD, O House of Jacob, Every clan of the House of Israel!

Thus said the LORD: What wrong did your fathers find in Me That they abandoned Me And went after delusion and were deluded?

They never asked themselves, “Where is the LORD, Who brought us up from the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, A land of deserts and pits, A land of drought and darkness, A land no man had traversed, Where no human being had dwelt?”

I brought you to this country of farmland to enjoy its fruit and its bounty; But you came and defiled My land, you made My possession abhorrent.

**The priests never asked themselves, “Where is the LORD?” The guardians of the Torah do not know Me; The rulers rebelled against Me, And the prophets prophesied by Baal and followed what can do no good….**

1. In what way is Yirmiyahu’s role like Dr Fauci opposing the idolatrous rush to open the economy? What happens to people like Dr Fauci and Yirmiyahu who oppose the idolatry of their times? Why do such prophets need Hashem’s help to be like a fortified city?
2. In what way are the Jewish leaders the biggest challenge in Yirmiyahu leading this Teshuva revolution? What is their prime sin?
3. What was the Jewish “groupthink” we see illustrated in the story of Rami Cohen in the Holocaust? What was the Jewish groupthink Rami Cohen faced during the Covid crisis?
4. Did alternative views exist, even in the times of groupthink that Rami faced?
5. What are some current examples of Jewish groupthink in the time of Covid 19? How do you avoid falling into this “groupthink”?
6. When should you NOT listen to your Rabbi regarding Covid 19?
7. In what way can you use Yirmiyahu to make your decision whether to follow a given Rabbi’s approach to Covid 19?