

# TORAH WEEKLY

Denver KOLLEL

CELEBRATING  
**25**  
years  
OF TORAH GROWTH  
TOGETHER

Parshas Matos-Masei | August 2, 2024 | Volume 25 | Issue 40

## Take a Look Back

By: Rabbi Michel Levitansky (Originally Published 2007)

Some people hear stories about great people and say, “that’s nice, but I’ll act that way when I’m on their level.” Let me tell you a story about a regular woman who lived on my block in Yerushalayim several years ago. She wanted to see Hashem’s hand in her life and how much good He had done for her. She kept a notebook listing all of her requests from Hashem. As you all know, when it comes to requests, they really add up over time. So you can imagine how thick her notebook was.

Then, after an extended period of time, she read from it and saw an amazing thing: Hashem took care of that problem, and he answered that request, and many of those that He didn’t, she could now see that it wasn’t in her best interest to get. The more and more she did this, the more her love for Hashem grew.

Her method to come to love Hashem is based on the beginning of Parshas Masei. The Torah tells us that Moshe listed all of the 42 travels that took place over the 40 years in the desert. Why was it so important to review all these journeys?

A possible answer to this is the reason behind this woman’s notebook. The Torah is telling the Jewish nation, look back at all of your journeys and travails. See all the situations you went through and how you reacted. Then see how Hashem reacted. With hindsight, you will be able to see some of Hashem’s greatness. You will be able to see, in many situations with clarity, how everything Hashem did was perfect. This will create a love towards Hashem and besides for fulfilling a positive commandment, will also bring you closer and closer to him.

This story, coming from a regular woman, will hopefully inspire us regular people to start looking back and begin moving forward.

## Alumni Focus

Rabbi Michel Levitansky

PAST



Rabbi Levitansky, teaching in Kollel, 2005

## 2004-2010

Years as a Denver  
Kollel Scholar

PRESENT



Rabbi Levitansky, teaching in 2023

## Rebbe

12th Grade,  
Mesivta Shaarei Adirim of  
Chicago

## Kollel Happenings



Rabbi Yechezkel Feldberger, former Rov of Zera Abraham (1988-2001), author of numerous halachik works, discusses his shiur on the Halachos of crockpots on Shabbos with the Kollel members.