

EREV SHABBOS

8 Elul 5786

Friday · August 21, 2026

CANDLE LIGHTING

7:54 PM

Friday · Vaughan, ON

SHABBOS ENDS

8:56 PM

Motzaei Shabbos

TORAH READING

Ki Teitzei

Haftarah: Yeshayahu 54

PIRKEI AVOS

Chs. 1-2

3 Shabbosos to Rosh Hashanah

The Light of Our Lives



Kasriel Nachman Keinan, and the last sighting. Surveillance footage from a business in Tiveria caught him walking, in the white shirt and black suit and hat the police notice described. He was found ten days later in the Switzerland Forest. Photo: COLlive

He left Beit Shemesh on a Sunday evening in Av to see his Rav in Tzfas. He called at ten. The Rav was at a hospital on a family matter and offered him a bed for the night and a meeting at ten the next morning. Nachman said he would manage on his own. Monday morning he got word to his family that his phone battery was about to die and no one should worry. That was the last anyone heard from him.

What the police could circulate was a description. A white shirt. A black suit and hat. A black backpack. A dark brown tefillin bag. Five foot eight, black hair, a beard, brown eyes.

What came back was drones, search dogs, divers in the Kinneret, surveillance footage from a business in Tiveria, open ground and abandoned buildings combed in two cities, and volunteers who drove up from communities across the country to walk fields they had never seen for a

bochur they had never met. Ten days of it. His father filed the missing-person report and said out loud what he was afraid of: "I'm afraid someone kidnapped my son. It's a dangerous area." His family, in the middle of it: "We are davening and believe Nachman is alive. He is the light of our lives."

On Thursday afternoon ZAKA's hotline took a report of a body in the Switzerland Forest near Tiberias, in difficult terrain close to a cliff, not far from the last place a camera had seen him. Kasriel Nachman Keinan was 24.

Every Lost Thing of Your Brother's

The parsha read this Shabbos gives the law. *"You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray and look away from them."* Rashi: closing the eye as if he does not see it. An ox, a sheep, a donkey, a garment. Then the law widens: *"so shall you do for every lost thing of your brother's that he loses and you find; you may not look away."*

The next verse: *"And if your brother is not near you, and you do not know him, gather it into your house, and it shall be with you until your brother seeks it out, and you shall return it to him."* On those last words the Gemara asks about a loss that is not property at all. A man drowning in a river is losing his own body. From where is the obligation to save him? From *"and you shall return it to him,"* read as: and you shall restore him to himself. A person is himself among the lost things that must be returned.

The Gemara then asks why a second verse, *"you shall not stand idly by the blood of your fellow,"* is needed at all, since the law of the lost object has already obligated a man to rescue. Its answer: from the lost object alone you would think he is obligated only with his own hands, as with a lost object, where he need not hire anyone. The second verse comes to obligate him to take trouble and to hire men. Rashi explains the wording: *"do not stand"* means do not stand where you are; search in every direction, so that your fellow's blood not be lost.

The Rambam writes it as law. One who sees his fellow drowning in the sea, or bandits coming upon him, or a wild animal coming upon him, and is able to save him himself, or to hire others to save him, and did not save him, transgresses *"you shall not stand idly by the blood of your fellow."* The Meiri adds that the men hired include those expert in the particular thing. And if he saves him, it is as though he sustained a world.

The Reward Has Begun

The parsha opens with going out to war. The Rebbe reads that war as one fought calmly, by men in no danger of losing it, since the verse says that Hashem your God has delivered him into your hand, and *"you shall take his captive"* is the gathering in of the sparks scattered through the exile. The gathering is done. What is left is the reward.

On Shabbos Parshas Ki Teitzei, 14 Elul 5751, the Rebbe gave a directive: *"to publicize in every single place that we stand at the conclusion and the completion of our deeds and our service,"* and at the beginning of the period of the paying of the reward, *"the giving of the reward of the righteous."* The work of this era is, first and foremost, learning Torah in the subjects of Moshiach, redemption and the Beis HaMikdash.

His family, while the search was still running, said that Nachman is the light of their lives. On the Jewish news sites that had carried the search, readers left the same two words under the notice that it had ended: *"ad mosai, how much longer must this exile go on!"*

The Rebbe said, in that same sicha: *"And simply: the month of Elul of the year 5751 is the conclusion and the completion of 'our deeds and our service' for the whole duration of the exile, and accordingly we receive, immediately, הַשְׁכָּרָה דְּיָמֵינוּ, the reward of the days of Moshiach and the resurrection of the dead, and further the reward of the seventh millennium, 'the giving of the reward of the righteous in the time to come.' אֲבָל בְּהוֹנָה בְּיוֹם זֶה, but in the present, on this day: 'b'yomo titen s'charo, on his day you shall give his wage.' And particularly close to its end, at the time of Mincha, at this very moment."*

The search returned a body to his family for burial. What is still owed is Nachman himself, and the reward the sicha names is the days of Moshiach and the resurrection of the dead.

What Hashem tells Israel to do, He does Himself. Returning the lost is His mitzvah before it is ours, and He does not look away.

Moshiach now!

SOURCES

Devarim 22:1–3 with Rashi · Vayikra 19:16 · Devarim 24:15 · Sanhedrin 73a with Rashi and Meiri · Rambam, Hilchos Rotzeach 1:14 · Shulchan Aruch, Choshen Mishpat 426:1 · Yerushalmi Rosh Hashanah 1:3 · Sichas of Ki Teitzei, 14 Elul 5751 (Sefer HaSichos 5751 vol. 2), §11, §12, §15 · COLLIVE, Anash and Times of Israel.

THE ROAD TO 5787 · ELUL 5786 THROUGH TISHREI 5787

ELUL

15 Elul · Aug 28 Founding of Tomchei Temimim

18 Elul · Aug 31 Chai Elul

29 Elul · Sep 11 Erev Rosh Hashanah

DAYS OF AWE

1–2 Tishrei · Sep 12–13 Rosh Hashanah

3 Tishrei · Sep 14 Tzom Gedaliah

8 Tishrei · Sep 19 Shabbos Teshuvah

10 Tishrei · Sep 21 Yom Kippur

SUKKOS

15–16 Tishrei · Sep 26–27 Sukkos

17–21 Tishrei · Sep 28–Oct 2 Chol HaMoed

22 Tishrei · Oct 3 Shemini Atzeres

23 Tishrei · Oct 4 Simchas Torah