



אמרי בנימן

דברי תורה, מחשבה וסיפורים מאנצרו של  
הגאון רב בנימן קמנצקי זצ"ל

*A Dvar Torah from the writings of Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l,  
transcribed by his grandson, Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetzky*

## 5779 - Parsha Bo – New Beginnings

This week, Hashem gave the first command addressed to the entire nation: "This month shall be to you the head of the months; to you it shall be the first of the months of the year." **The Almighty gave the mitzvah of sanctifying Rosh Chodesh, the new moon, along with the importance of the first month.**

Referring to Nissan, the Midrash tells us, "There is no greater month than this one, therefore it is called, "The first". This Midrash begs explanation. Why is "the first" a befitting title for the greatest month? If Nissan is indeed the greatest month, let it be called that! **Why is "The first" the befitting title for Nissan?**

*A few months after the passing of my grandfather, my father, Rav Mordechai Kamenetzky, walked into a local shop which my grandfather would frequent. The proprietor, a religious immigrant, looked at my father, and with tears in his eyes, showed him a chair placed in the corner of the small store. "Your father came in here only a few years ago," he began. "While he was sitting in that chair, he saved my son's life!"*

*"Let me tell you what happened. Rav Binyamin came to patronize my shop, and noticed something bothering me. I responded to his concern, and told him that my son, who lived in Israel, was about to marry a gentile girl he had met while playing in the Israeli Philharmonic.*

*Rav Binyamin, reacted immediately. "Get him on the phone!" he declared. With no hope that a phone conversation would make a difference, I dialed his number and gave the phone to your father."*

*The shopkeeper pointed to the corner, and said, "Rav Kamenetzky went to that corner, sat down on that chair, and spent the next two hours talking to my son!"*

*"What happened?" my father asked. "What happened?? I have no idea how, but my son abandoned his plans, and is now married to a fine Jewish woman and has two children! Believe it or not, he is learning in kollel as well!"*

My grandfather, Rav Binyamin Kamenetzky zt"l explains the Midrash. **There is nothing greater than a new beginning.** The Jewish Nation was entrenched in the sinful atmosphere of Egypt, even falling to the 49th level of impurity. Yet with just a few mitzvos, they were able to begin again with a new start. They sanctified themselves and became the Chosen Nation, growing spirituality daily, until they received the Torah only 50 days later. **This new start, the refreshing new beginning, is symbolized in the "first" month of Nissan.**

One the most seminal events in the Exodus began with the power of the Jewish People to create Roshei Chodashim, new months, and thus new beginnings.

### **Good Shabbos!**

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