

Insights

SON OF GODZILLA

“And it will be that if you hearken to My commandments.” (11:13)

One of the ten commandments of Hollywood is “If it makes money, let there be born unto it a Son. A sequel. Or a prequel. Let it contain all the same stars, and let the plot be so close to its progenitor that you’re not sure if you’re actually watching a different film or the original one.”

Jews recite the three paragraphs of “Shema” twice a day. The second paragraph of “Shema” looks like “Son of Shema.” It has the same *mitzvot* — to love G-d and to serve Him with all your heart, etc.; to speak of the *mitzvot* when you’re sitting in you home and walking along the way, to wear tefillin; to put up a mezuzah on your door. Haven’t we heard all this before?

All over the world there are speed limits on roads. In the States it’s a mind-numbing 55 MPH. In England it’s 70 MPH. A speed limit is to prevent a person from killing himself. Seeing as that’s the reason, why do we need a system of fines and penalties to stop people speeding? Isn’t losing one’s life a far more persuasive reason to slow down than losing \$75 dollars for a speeding ticket?

Haftorah: Isaiah 49:14-51:3

TO THE LIGHTHOUSE

No matter how far the Jewish people fall from favor, they can never lose their status as the Chosen People of Hashem. That is the underlying theme of the Parsha and its Haftorah. This is the second of the seven *Parshiot* of consolation after Tisha B'Av. This Haftorah is the source of the famous phrase "light unto the nations." Isaiah tells the Jewish People that despite the terrible tragedies and hardships of exile, he does not despair — he knows that the end of the exile is coming. And so he pleads with his contemporaries and all of their offspring throughout all the generations to remember that they are the children of Avraham and Sarah, and that Hashem will surely comfort them.