



Rabbi Noah Gradofsky, Temple Israel, Long Beach:

Traditional Jewish thought says that prophecy ended shortly after the destruction of the first Holy Temple in Jerusalem (586 BCE). On the other

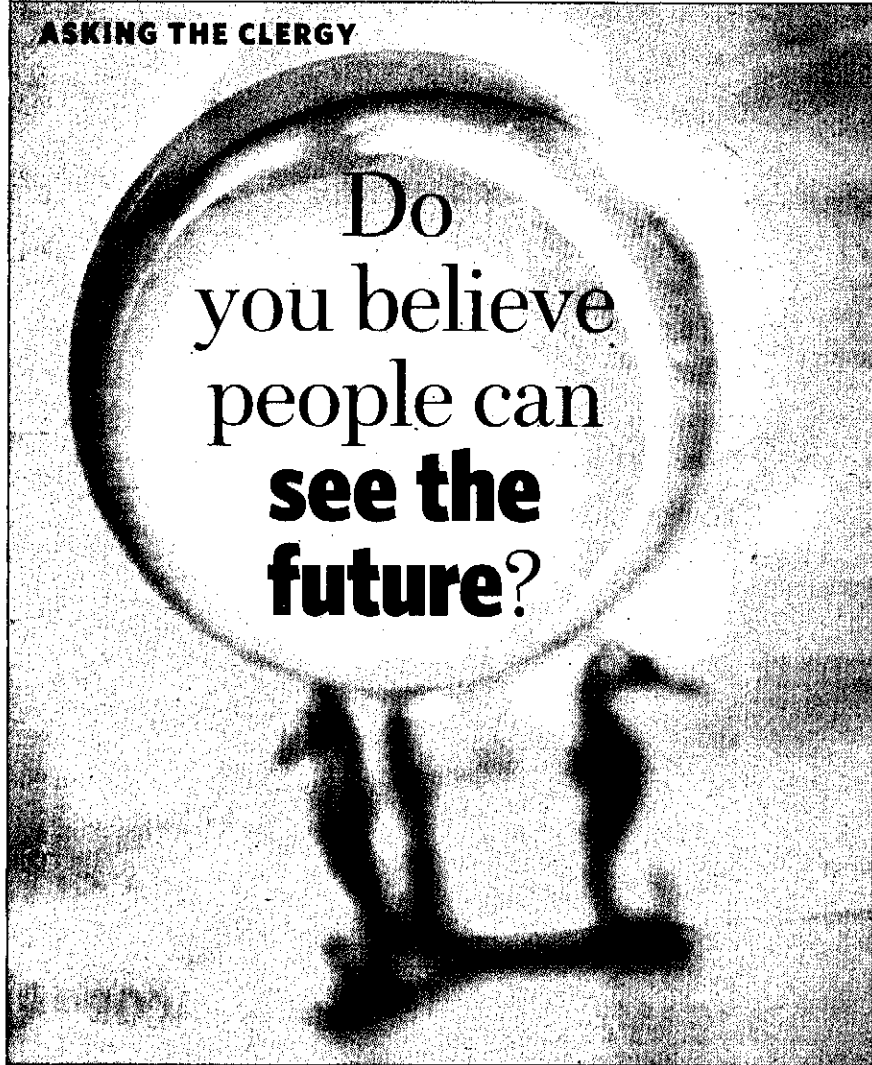
hand, the Talmud says that our dreams are 1/60th prophecy. Some rabbis in the Talmud believed in interpretation of their dreams and in the influence of the constellations (mazals), while still others believed that our fate was not determined by the stars. (Did they wish their friends "mazal tov?") So much for Jewish dogma answering the question — as it is in most cases, Judaism leaves all but the core beliefs (God and Torah) to individuals to decide. As hard as it is to prove something is true, it is even harder to prove something isn't true. Perhaps there are forces that influence our brains and give us special intuition. Is it possible that people can see the future? Absolutely. But I lack any evidence to prove that this is the case.



Brother Christopher Paul, Society of Saint Francis Little Portion Friary, Mount Sinai:

God, in his grace, gave us the gift of being co-creators. The future doesn't exist until we make it. The only one with the

total picture, who knows the next moment, the next day, the next year, is God. I think those people who say they can tell the future are overreaching. It is possible for God to vouchsafe glimpses into the future. God gives us a limitless number of gifts, [and glimpses of the future] can be one of the gifts that God gives to people. As a Franciscan, I believe we have the responsibility and the joy of being a co-creator. And, I don't think you need a psychic to tell you that all actions have consequences. I prefer to think of the prophets from the Bible as prophets of Scripture. The big thing wasn't their foretelling the future — when they did that, they were usually wrong. Their big thing was to call us back into our relationship with God. To remind us that human actions matter. God is infinitely loving,



ASKING THE CLERGY

Do
you believe
people can
see the
future?

infinitely forgiving and understanding of our limitations.



Samantha Tetro, minister of Samantha's Lil' Bit of Heaven, East Northport:

There are more than a thousand different prophecies in the Bible's Old Testament foretelling the future. These prophecies

were given to the prophets of God to proclaim, such as Moses, Daniel, Micah, etc. Hundreds of these prophecies already have been fulfilled. However, keep in mind that God also is clear regarding the evidence of a true prophet. According to God's word in Deuter-

onomy 18: 21-22, there has to be 100 percent accuracy. Knowing God personally takes away the desire to see what's written in the stars because you can now go to the one who created the stars. In Jeremiah 33:3, God says, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." What a joy knowing that the God who created this universe out of nothing loves and cares for each one of us so much that he gave us the Bible, thus empowering us to make right choices, "see" what our future holds and live in all the blessings that He has for us. Most importantly, we have the peace in knowing who holds our future.



Rabbi Harvey Weil, Congregation Beth Israel, Hempstead:

No, nor do I think that we should be given the power to foretell the future. Life is made up of experiences which are derived from challenges

we face and directions we take when we come to the proverbial "fork in the road." What fun would there be in living if all the end results of the decisions, challenges and choices we have faced were known to us in advance? What excitement would there be to dream dreams and build hope for the future if we knew what was preordained? What we can tell is the past. We can utilize the memories and actions of the past to live today so that in looking back tomorrow, we can evaluate to make adjustments and continue on a proper path so that our beings are on as even a keel as they can be. Living the correct life in the present, then, is building on the future. We have the ability to approach the future, but not to tell it.



The Rev. Dr. Vernon I. Lowe, retired former presiding elder of the Jamaica Long Island District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church:

God gives unusual gifts. Some people can predict future aspects of

life. Don't discount the ability. Some people are given blessed gifts. How far into the future the person can see, we can't dictate that. It is a divine gift, not something that someone is just born with. But if someone came to me and said God had told them something about me, I'd say, "Strange that if he told you about me, He didn't tell me you were coming."

Send faith questions you'd like us to pose to: Sylvia King-Cohen, Newsday, 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY 11747-4250, or sylvia.king-cohen@newsday.com.

CALENDAR

TODAY

DAY OF REFLECTION

MOUNT SINAI: "Crazy Talk! Talking to Yourself, Talking to God," 10 a.m.-4 p.m., The Little Portion Friary, 48 Old Post Rd., \$25 includes lunch, scholarships available, 631-473-0553.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

BAY SHORE: Blessed Hope Mission Church celebrates with worship, vocalists Frank Rendo and Nyleesia Crosby, an on-screen Bible study, "Thy Will Be Done," 1-5 p.m., River of Life Church, 45 Pine Aire Dr., free, includes lunch, 516-343-2359 or 631-951-4155.

FAITH ON TAP

WANTAGH: Adults, 20s-30s — faithful, lapsed and religiously unaffiliated — can hear straight talk on faith and morality in their daily lives, community and society, guest speaker Todd Lemieux, a religion teacher at Kellenberg High School in Uniondale who speaks regularly on the theology of the body, discusses "Men, Women — What's the Difference?" 7-9 p.m. Monday, Wantagh Inn, 3264 Railroad Ave., free, 516-678-5800, ext. 616.



Todd Lemieux

INTERFAITH BLESSING OF THE BEASTS

HICKSVILLE: All pets welcome, 10:30 a.m., Hicksville United Methodist Church, 130 W. Old Country Rd., free, 516-931-2626.

MUSICAL

DIX HILLS: Broadway-style "If I Die Before I Wake," 2 and 7:30 p.m., Upper Room Christian World Center, 722 Deer Park Ave., \$10-\$40, upperroomcwc.org, 631-242-5359.

FALL FESTIVAL OF BIBLE HEROES

FARMINGVILLE: Special guests from the Bible and goody bags, 2-5 p.m., The Village of Faith Church, 1070 Portion Rd., \$15 a family, FaithKids.Kidzap.com, 631-732-7088, ext. 239.

TOMORROW

SERVICE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

EAST NORTHPORT: Praise, worship and prayer service interpreted, 10:45 a.m. Sundays, Fountainhead Congregation, 782 Larkfield Rd., 631-462-5048.

SACRED SYMBOLS PANEL

ROCKVILLE CENTRE: Institute for Christian-Jewish Dialogue presents a panel discussing the elements of nature found in many faiths, 3 p.m., Hays Theatre, Wilbur Arts Center, Molloy College, 1000 Hempstead Ave., free, molloy.edu, 516-678-5000, ext. 6880.

BACH VESPERS AT HOLY TRINITY

MANHATTAN: The Bach Choir, 5 p.m., at Holy Trinity Lutheran

Church, Central Park West at 65th Street, donations welcome, bachvespersnyc.org/cq/sly, free-will offering, 212-877-6815.

CANTORIAL CONCERT

ROSLYN HEIGHTS: Musical celebration of Israel at 60, 7 p.m., Temple Beth Shalom, 401 Roslyn Rd., free, 516-621-2288.

THE WEEK AHEAD

HERMIT DAY

PATCHOGUE: Quiet time to be with the Lord, directed or undirected, Monday through Friday, at St. Joseph's Prayer Center, 317 Maple Ave., call for reservation, 631-207-3751.

THE LAND AND THE SPIRIT

DIX HILLS: Six-week exploration of the role the Holy Land plays for the Jewish people, 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays through Dec. 1. Chai Center, 501 Vanderbilt Pkwy., \$60, \$90 a couple, 631-351-8672.

ALL SAINTS DAY

MANHASSET: Day of prayer with presentation, personal prayer, Eucharistic Liturgy, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., St. Ignatius Retreat House, 251 Seeringtown Rd., \$35, includes light lunch, 516-621-8300, ext. 10.

THE KABBALAH AND HOLLYWOOD

MASSAPEQUA: The Ahava Machar chapter of Hadassah presents a discussion on why the Kabbalah has captured the interest of Hollywood stars, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Marjorie Post Park Community Center, Unqua Road, free, 516-458-7732.