

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Eikev
August 15, 2025 / 21 Av 5785
Volume 30, Issue 41
Candlelighting: 8:08 pm

Waxman Torah Center · 2195 S. Green Road · University Heights, OH 44121 · (216) 691-3837 · www.clevelandjlc.com

Friday, August 15

6:40pm Early mincha
8:08pm Candlelighting
8:10pm Mincha

Shabbos, August 16

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship
Pirke Avos
8:00pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
9:14pm Maariv

Sunday, August 17

10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"
(R. Stoll)

Monday, August 18

~~8:00pm~~ class will resume Aug 25

Tuesday, August 19

8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, August 20

8:00pm Nach Still Speaks –
MISHLEI (R. Stoll)

Thursday, August 21

8:00pm Sefer HaChinuch: R. Stoll
10:15pm Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)

Torah Podcast

Listen to Rabbi Nisenbaum's
"Torah Podcast" at Spotify, Apple
Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and more,
or download at
www.maverickpodcasting.com

Weekday Minyanim

7:00am Shacharis (M-F)
8:00am Shacharis (Sun)
10:00pm Maariv (Sun-Th)

Class Connection

R. Nisenbaum:
425-436-6200 #352171

"The Torah Podcast" weekly
at all podcast locations

R. Stoll:
Zoom: 876-619-3551
Audio: 669-900-9128

Parsha: Eikev

Continuing his monologue, Moshe promises the nation that if they would faithfully keep all of the mitzvahs they would receive all the physical and material blessings. Their crops would be plentiful, their flocks and herds would be fertile, and they would be protected from disease and from enemies. These physical rewards are contingent upon the nation's observance. The reward for an individual's observance is not promised in physical terms, as that would offset

the man's free will. Individual reward is reserved for the Afterlife.

Moshe reminds the people how G-d had destroyed the Egyptians and all of the other powerful leaders who had stood up against the Jewish people. He also reminds them how G-d had taken care of their every need in the desert for the past forty years. He promises them that G-d would also assist them in conquering the Promised Land easily, as long as they would keep the mitzvahs properly. Moshe describes the many virtues of the Promised Land. The land of Israel is rich with beautiful fruits and other natural resources. It is a land that merits G-d's personal attention that responds to the behavior of its inhabitants.

Moshe also informs the nation that despite their past sins, G-d's love for them remains strong. Even now, after their sins, all G-d really demands of His

people is that they fear and love Him by keeping His commandments. Once a person has the proper awe and reverence of G-d, mitzvah observance follows naturally. A person who understands that G-d does not show favor to those who are undeserving of it, nor does He accept bribes or offerings from an unrepentant sinner, will keep all of the mitzvahs— not just the ones that he feels are important. The Talmud actually understands Moshe's words as meaning that only the

fear of G-d is in the hands of man, i.e. the free will to do good or evil. Everything else in the world, i.e. circumstances of health, financial situation,

physical characteristics, etc. is in the hands of G-d.

It is important for a person to realize how little control he really has over most things in life. This can be quite a humbling experience for the person who likes to feel that he is pretty much in control of his destiny.

This understanding is also a prerequisite for prayer, which is also alluded to in this portion. The essence of prayer is the recognition of how much man is really dependent upon G-d. This is why the Rabbis refer to prayer as "service of the heart" and not merely of the mouth, because it is not merely request but an admission of man's vulnerability and total dependence upon G-d.

Maimonides Laws of Repentance
Mondays at 8pm beginning August 25th

Insights: Va'eschanan

...and you may say in your heart, "My might and strength of my hand made me all this wealth" (Deut 8:17) A wealthy merchant came to Rav Chaim Volozhiner fearfully. He explained that he sold lumber, and that the government had put a hold on a major shipment of his. The delay could potentially cause him a tremendous loss of money. Rav Chaim calmed the man down and encouraged him not to lose faith in G-d. In the interim the price of lumber rose considerably, and when the government finally released the shipment, the man made a much greater profit than he would have had he sold it earlier. The merchant joyously returned to Rav Chaim and told him that he had clearly seen G-d's Divine Providence in the matter. Rav Chaim smiled and said, "Isn't it ironic that the poor person sees Divine Providence clearly every day, while the wealthy man only sees it once in a great while!"

Did You Know?

The more specific a blessing is, the greater the praise it shows of G-d. Accordingly, one must recite the appropriate blessing before eating any food. Thus, *Borei Pri Ha-eitz* is recited on any fruit which grows on a tree, and *Borei Pri Ha-adama* is recited on vegetables that grow from the ground. The blessing on fruit juices, however, is *Shehakol*. If the fruit or vegetable has been ground so finely that it has lost any solid form, such as a smooth applesauce, *Shehakol* is recited. On chopped nuts, mashed fruits or vegetables, and grated potato kugel, which usually retains some of the original appearance, the original blessing of *Ha-eitz* or *Ha-adama* is recited.

Thought for the Week: *Before you start playing by ear, make sure you are not tone-deaf!*
(A Candle By Day)