

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Ki Savo
September 12, 2025 / 19 Elul 5785
Volume 30, Issue 45
Candlelighting: 7:23 pm

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

Friday, September 12

7:23pm Candlelighting

7:25pm Mincha

Shabbos, September 13

8:45am Shacharis

Kiddush is available for sponsorship

6:15pm Pirach Avos

7:15pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos

Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Mendel & Chaya Newman

8:29pm Maariv

Sunday, September 14

6:30am Selichos / Shacharis

9:15am *Parsha Class*
(R. Nisenbaum)

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

Monday, September 15

8:00pm *Mainonides Laws of Repentance*
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, September 16

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

Wednesday, September 17

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

Thursday, September 18

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: Ki Savo

The people were instructed in the mitzvah of *bikkurim*, to bring the new fruits of the season to the *kohen* in the *Beis HaMikdash*, the Temple. When the first fruits of Israel's seven species (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, dates, olives and pomegranates) began to blossom, the farmer would mark them by tying a ribbon around them. Later, when the fruits ripened, they were decorated in beautiful baskets and brought to Jerusalem amidst great fanfare and joy. The Talmud

describes how the people traveled together in large groups accompanied by musicians, and how all the inhabitants of Jerusalem greeted them.

The owner gave the fruits to the *kohen* who placed them next to the altar. The person then recited a paragraph expressing appreciation to G-d for His involvement with the Jewish people from the very beginning of their nationhood. From early on, He had saved Jacob from the evil plans of Laban, had delivered the nation from the oppression of Egypt, and had brought them finally to the Land of Israel. As a token of appreciation for all of G-d's kindness, the person brings the first fruits of his labor, that which is closest to his heart, as a gift to G-d.

The first fruits arouse a sense of appreciation within a person. This, in turn, allows a person to reflect upon all the good that he has received, and offer thanksgiving for that too. When a person suffers a setback, it is very difficult to even imagine the positive things in his life, because he is so consumed with his present difficulties. When one is enjoying the good things in life, though, he can begin to appreciate earlier things that, at the time,

seemed to have been totally negative experiences.

Later in the portion, the opposite attitude is portrayed quite clearly. Moshe warned the people of the dire consequences they would face if they

failed to follow the Torah properly. The Torah graphically describes the terrible punishments that would fall upon them. At the culmination of the curses mentioned, the Torah predicts that, "In the morning you will say 'If only it were last evening,' and in the evening you will say, 'If only it were morning again.'" If a person is not able to appreciate all of G-d's kindness, he will find himself in such difficult straits that he will only be able to look longingly at the earlier times that had gone unappreciated.

High Holiday Seats

Make your seat reservations now!

"But I Thought"

R. Nisenbaum's updated and expanded book is now available for purchase.

Insights: Ki Savo

You shall rejoice with all the good Hashem has given you ... (Deut 26:12) A wealthy man complained to the Hafla'ah, Rav Pinchos Horowitz, that as wealthy as he was, he could not enjoy life. His wealth caused him anxiety, and he would often lose his temper. The Hafla'ah told the man, "In the mitzvah of *bikkurim* we find that if a person works the land faithfully, and brings the fruits to the *kohein*, he is promised that he will rejoice with all Hashem's kindnesses. This means that if a person does his work in accordance with Torah law, he will be able to rejoice. Perhaps some of your money was earned improperly, or at least outside of the spirit of the Torah. If you give all that ill-gained money to *tzedakah* and are then careful to only conduct your business honestly, I promise you will not suffer from anxiety, depression or anger."

Did You Know?

It is customary to recite the *Tefillah Zaka* before the *Kol Nidrei* prayer. Aside from accepting the prohibitions of the day, in the *Tefillah Zaka* we also express our forgiveness to anyone who hurt us in the past year (unless they hurt us maliciously, with the intent that we would forgive them). It is important for us to forgive others if we expect G-d to forgive us for our misdeeds. Nonetheless, the recital of this prayer does not exonerate the perpetrator from asking for forgiveness. It is a requirement to ask for forgiveness, even if one knows that he will be forgiven. Once a person has asked for forgiveness three different times, he need not ask any more. If the victim was a Torah scholar, however, he must ask until he gains forgiveness. If the victim has died, one should visit the grave and ask for forgiveness there.

Thought for the Week: It is not enough to be true to ourselves; we must be true to our true selves
(A Candle By Day)