

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Va'eschanan  
August 8, 2025 / 14 Av 5785  
Volume 30, Issue 40  
Candlelighting: 8:18 pm

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

## Friday, August 8

6:50pm Early mincha  
8:18pm Candlelighting  
8:20pm Mincha

## Shabbos, August 9

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is available for sponsorship*  
7:10pm Pirke Avos  
8:10pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos  
9:23pm Maariv

## Sunday, August 10

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

## Monday, August 11

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

## Tuesday, August 12

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

## Wednesday, August 13

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

## Thursday, August 14

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: Va'eschanan

After his opening remarks, Moshe continued his monologue to the Jewish people. He related how he had hoped after conquering the lands of Sichon and Og that G-d would relent from His decree and allow him to enter the Promised Land. The Midrash mentions that Moshe prayed 515 prayers to be allowed to enter the land, but G-d would not relent. G-d allowed Moshe to climb a mountain to view the land from a distance.

This may have been Moshe's way of warning the people of the importance of keeping the mitzvot properly. Moshe, great as he was, could not realize his lifelong dream of entering the land because of a small deviation from fulfilling G-d's exact words.

Moshe also instructed the people not to add to or detract from the mitzvahs of G-d. The mitzvahs can only exert their Divine influence upon a person when they are observed as the will of G-d. When a person detracts from or adds to a mitzvah, i.e. introduces five or three sections in the tefillin instead of four, they become the product of his own intellect rather than that of the A-lmighty's, and they no longer have the same meaning or carry the same value.

Moshe also reminded them that only by keeping the mitzvahs properly would the Jewish people earn the respect of their non-Jewish neighbors. Even others

recognize the Torah and mitzvahs as the source of the Jews' wisdom.

The people were told that when they enter the Promised Land they would find great abundance. However, they must not succumb to the great dangers presented by prosperity. It is important to remember that all prosperity is a gift from G-d, and that it should not lead them astray.

Moshe also prophesied that the nation would not always follow the Torah properly and would turn to idolatry. They would then be led into exile among the other nations. In exile the people would see for themselves that no other nation has ever laid claim to the assertions of the Jewish people. No other nation has ever been freed

from a country like Egypt amidst all the wonders and miracles like the Jewish people.

The purpose of all these wonders, and of the scattering in exile, is to impress upon the Jewish nation the omniscience of G-d and their responsibility to follow His commandments properly. This message is emphasized by the requirement to repeat the Shema, the Jew's pledge of allegiance to G-d, twice each day. Only when this message is absorbed will the nation enjoy longevity and prosperity in their land.

**Mazel Tov**  
Chaim & Julie Leeson upon the marriage of  
their daughter  
**Sponsorship**  
This issue is sponsored by Muriel Weber  
on the occasion of the yahrzeit of her mother Miriam bas Avraham 18 Av

## Insights: Va'eschanan

**Honor your father and your mother... (Deut 5:16)** Reb Yaakov Halperin, one of the founders of B'nei Brak, was renowned as a great philanthropist. He once met a person who complained that his elderly parents had recently emigrated from Russia to Israel, and he could not afford to support them. Reb Yaakov immediately pounced upon the opportunity and said, "I lost my father when I was very young and never really had the chance to fulfill the mitzvah of honoring one's father. I am willing to support your parents on the condition that I will be your partner in sharing the mitzvah of honoring one's parents. The man hesitated and decided to ask the Chazon Ish if he should take up Reb Yaakov's deal. After presenting his question, the Chazon Ish looked at the man in amazement. "What would a person not do for his parents? You should be willing to give up all the reward, if necessary, in order to provide properly for your parents."

## Did You Know?

The parchment in the tefillin have many halachic details necessary in order for them to be kosher. The letters as well as the sections in the tefillin must be written in the proper order. If the sofer (scribe) inadvertently omitted a letter, or made a mistake in a letter, he may not merely return to correct the mistake. The parchment must be processed with the express intent to be used for tefillin. The writing must also be done for the sake of the mitzvah of tefillin. For all these reasons it is important that one only purchase tefillin from a source who knows the scribe to be a G-d fearing man.

**Thought for the Week:** *When the truth is made palatable, it is not the truth that is accepted, but the palatability (A Candle By Day)*