

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Vayelech (Shabbos Shuva)
September 26, 2025 / 4 Tishrei 5786
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Candlelighting: 6:58 pm

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

Friday, September 26

6:58pm Candlelighting
7:00pm Mincha

Shabbos, September 27

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is sponsored by Michael Post
5:00pm Shabbos Shuva talk for women (2362 Milton)
5:50pm Shabbos Shuva talk @ JLC (men & women)
6:50pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
Shalosh Seudos is available for sponsorship
8:06pm Maariv

Sunday, September 28

7:30am Selichos / Shacharis
9:15am Parsha Class (R. Nisenbaum)
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos" (R. Stoll)

Monday, September 22 Erev Rosh Hoshana

6:15am Selichos / Shacharis
7:05pm Candle
7:05pm Mincha
8:05pm Maariv

September 23 - 24 Rosh Hoshana

7:45am Shacharis
~11:00am Shofar

6:45pm Mincha

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: Vayelech / Shuva

Moshe presented the nation with his final words of farewell and encouragement on the last day of his life. He told them that although he was not able to lead them into the Promised Land himself, he had appointed a capable successor in Joshua. He promised them that they had nothing to fear, and they would yet enter the Land.

He also instructed the people in the last two of the 613 mitzvos. The purpose of both these mitzvos was to help them maintain their commitment and connection with G-d and His Torah.

The first mitzvah was Hakhel, where the entire nation was required to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem every seven years. The king would read from the Torah on a specially constructed podium. For the men and women this would prove to be a most inspiring experience, both intellectually and emotionally. However, the mere opportunity to see millions of Jews in the Temple at one time, studying Torah, was so great that even the tiny infants had to be brought in order that the image be seared in their subconscious mind. The experience would serve

as a boost for the nation that would last for the next seven years.

The last mitzvah in the Torah was for each individual to write his own Torah scroll, or at least to have one written for him. This Torah scroll would serve as a reminder for each individual of the eternal covenant G-d made with the people. Although the time would come that

the people would forsake the Torah and fall prey to the surrounding cultures, the Torah scroll would provide a constant reminder of an

unchanging standard in a world in flux. The nation's responsibilities to G-d, and the standard to which they are to aspire, remain the same as when they were first given at Sinai. The Torah will never be forgotten, and ultimately the people will yet return to G-d and the Torah.

This message is also alluded to in the special Haftara for Shabbos Shuva, the Shabbos between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. The prophet Hosea encourages the people to repent from their evil ways. Essentially, the sin is not an intrinsic part of one's personality; thus it can be removed and atoned for. The potential for sincere Teshuva always remains, and G-d is always willing to accept it and forgive.

"But I Thought"

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

Insights: Yom Kippur

Behold, I forgive anyone who has harmed me ... (Tefillah Zakkah prayer before Kol Nidrei)

Rav Moshe Feinstein was recognized as one of the greatest halachic authorities of the generation. A rather younger scholar once disagreed with one of Rav Moshe's rulings and he publicly spoke against Rav Moshe in a disrespectful manner. Several months later this scholar asked Rav Moshe for a letter of recommendation. Rav Moshe cheerfully fulfilled the man's request. His family members were stunned by this person's audacity asking for a favor without ever apologizing for his disrespect and they asked Rav Moshe why he had not said anything. Rav Moshe, in turn, expressed in amazement, "What do you mean? Yom Kippur has passed since then and I have totally erased the incident from my mind."

Did You Know?

It is customary to decorate one's sukkah in order to beautify the mitzvah. Preferably, one should not hang large decorations lower than 15-16 inches from the s'chach, as it could sometimes be considered a separation between the s'chach and those sitting in the sukkah, thus disqualifying the mitzvah. The decorations may not be moved at all on Yom Tov or Shabbos, as they are considered muktzah. Similarly, if the s'chach or decorations fell down on Shabbos or Yom Tov, they may not be moved directly, however, they may be pushed to the side with one's foot or elbow. After Sukkos, one should not directly throw decorations in the trash, as that is considered disrespectful. They should first be wrapped before throwing them out.

Thought for the Week: Repentance is a kind of healthy spiritual revenge (A Candle By Day)