

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Beraishis / Mev HaChodesh

October 17, 2025 / 25 Tishrei 5786

Volume 31, Issue 1

Candlelighting: 6:23 pm

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

Friday, October 17

6:23pm Candlelighting
6:25pm Mincha

Shabbos, October 18

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
the Gelfand family in
honor of all of the ba'als
tefilah this holiday
season.*

6:15pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
7:30pm Maariv

Sunday, October 19

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

Monday, October 20

*Topics in Mussar begins
NEXT WEEK (Oct 27)*

Tuesday, October 21

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

Wednesday, October 22

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

Thursday, October 23

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: Beraishis

The Torah relates how G-d created the world in six days. After each part of Creation had been completed the Torah confirms that G-d saw it was good. On the sixth day of Creation, after Man and Woman had been created, G-d saw that everything He created was very good. The purpose of all creation is for the sake of Man. G-d created a perfect world that contained everything necessary for its proper maintenance.

The human being was endowed with free will. This allows him to choose to follow the Creator's will and thus be deserving of great reward. However, he is also capable of choosing to behave in a way contrary to G-d's desire, for purposes of self-glorification and pleasure. With the very introduction of the first human beings, the Torah exposes human nature and some its weaknesses.

Adam and Eve were given one mitzvah to observe in the Garden of Eden. They could enjoy the fruits of every tree in the garden except for one, the Tree of Knowledge. Had they kept this one mitzvah, they would have fulfilled their purpose and brought the world and all of its future to eternal bliss.

Yet, they allowed themselves to be enticed by the serpent. The fruit looked delicious and the serpent's arguments that they would become wiser made sense, and they ate from the forbidden fruit. Man fell to temptation, trading eternity for a moment of fleeting pleasure.

Furthermore, when confronted by G-d as to why they had transgressed their commandment, Adam and Eve both "passed the buck", with Adam laying the blame on Eve, and Eve laying the blame on the serpent. Rather than appreciating their G-d given gift of free will, Adam and Eve turned it against G-d and complained that they were coerced. The Rabbis see in this denial of guilt an even worse sin than the original disobedience, for until man understands his failings, he cannot begin to rectify them.

Cain and Abel too, the first brothers in the world, were subject to sibling rivalry that led to tragic consequences. Abel offered a sacrifice to G-d from his choicest flocks, whereas Cain offered one from his inferior produce. Abel's sacrifice was accepted by G-d, whereas Cain's was not. Cain was jealous of his brother and murdered him. Instead of choosing to improve his own behavior, he chose to

destroy his competition.

These events portray the negative character and lowliness to which every human being is capable of falling if he fails to develop and elevate his base nature. The seeds of lust for physical pleasure, lack of appreciation, desire for honor, and jealousy are rooted in every person. It is a lifetime of work to uproot these traits and develop the G-d-like qualities that man is also capable of achieving.

Mazel Tov

Rabbi Ephraim and Chanie
Nisenbaum upon the bar mitzvah
of their grandson

Drs. Michael and Brenda Altose
upon the birth of a granddaughter

Topics in Mussar

Mondays at 8pm beginning
October 27th

Insights: Beraishis

Let us make man in our image... (Gen 1:26) Rav Bentzion Bruk wanted to open a branch of the Novaradok yeshiva in Lutzk. Without any plan for support he invited fifteen young men to start the yeshiva. After all the students came, he approached some community members about supporting the yeshiva. The people were understandably upset, and argued "How can you open a yeshiva without first speaking to the community about the possibility of financial support? That is irresponsible!" Rav Bruk answered, "The Midrash says that Hashem called the angels to confer whether man should be created or not. While the angels were discussing the pros and cons, Hashem created man and then told the angels, 'While you are deliberating, I already created man!' Now if Hashem wanted the angels' opinion why did He create man before they advised it? The answer is that Hashem was telling them that without ever seeing man and his potential they could not begin deliberating about his creation. Similarly, without first seeing the yeshiva it would be impossible for you to understand its importance and the need for its support."

Did You Know?

It is prohibited to eat any form of insect. Certain fruits and vegetables, and especially during certain seasons, are known to have infestation problems. Although in Jewish law non-kosher food generally loses its identity in a mixture containing sixty times the volume of the prohibited food, this will not necessarily apply to insects, since a complete creature never loses its identity. In certain instances of frozen, chopped, vegetables, the law of losing the identity may apply. Some fruits and vegetables may be washed and checked carefully for infestation, while others may be too difficult to check. Rabbinic guidance should be sought for preparing specific foods.

Thought for the Week: Let us run out of time; let us not walk out of time. (A Candle By Day)