

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Chukas-Balak
June 26, 2026 / 11 Tamuz 5786
Volume 31, Issue 35
Candlelighting: 8:46 pm

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

Friday, June 26

7:10pm Early Mincha / Maariv
8:46pm Candlelighting
8:50pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, June 27

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship
7:40pm Pirke Avos
8:40pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
9:55pm Maariv

Sunday, June 28

~~9:15am Parsha Class~~
(R. Nisenbaum)
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"
(R. Stoll)

Monday, June 29

~~8:00pm Monday series will resume next week~~

Tuesday, June 30

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

Wednesday, July 1

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

Thursday, July 2

~~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: Chukas-Balak

The *Parah Adumah*, or Red Heifer, was used in the purification process of the person who had come in contact with a human corpse. When a person would become spiritually defiled in this way, he was not allowed to partake of any sacrifice or even enter the Temple area, until he was purified.

The Red Heifer had very specific requirements. It had to be totally red haired. Even two black hairs would disqualify it from being used. It could not have any blemishes on it, nor could it ever have carried anything on its back.

The cow was slaughtered and its flesh burnt. The ashes were then mixed with cedar wood, a grass, crimson thread, and spring water. This mixture was sprinkled on the impure person on the third and seventh day of the purification. He would then immerse in the mikveh and be purified.

There was something quite unique about the Red Heifer. Although it was used to purify those who were impure, the *kohanim*, or priests, who were involved in its preparation, themselves became defiled. The Torah refers to *Parah Adumah* as the classic example of a *chok*, a law that seems to make no sense. It seems illogical for something to purify one person yet contaminate another. Yet, the Jew must be willing to

accept all G-d's commandments, whether he understands their rationale or not.

In the fortieth year of the Jews' trek through the desert, Miriam and Ahron died. The Jews had drunk from a miraculous well in the desert throughout the forty years. This well had come in the merit of Miriam, and when she died the well dried up. Only after the people complained and Moshe hit the rock did the water return. Likewise, the Cloud of Glory that protected the Jews throughout the forty years came in the merit of Ahron. After he passed away, this too disappeared, and the nation was attacked by other nations.

People often do not appreciate the value of the righteous. They may be accused of being

preoccupied with their own deeds, and not contributing much to society. This is a big mistake, and it is sometimes only realized after the righteous have passed on and their loss is truly felt in many ways.

In a similar vein, we may not always appreciate the danger of the wicked. Balaam, a wicked prophet, tried to do what he could to curse the Jewish people and thus destroy them. It was only the intervention of G-d that protected the Jews from his curse. We must be aware of the hidden dangers that surround us and strengthen our faith in G-d's protection.

Thurs July 2nd – Fast of Tamuz

4:45am Fast Begins
7:00am Shacharis
8:30pm Mincha
9:35pm Maariv
9:54pm Fast Ends (50 min)

Fri July 3rd – Legal Holiday

8:00am Shacharis
followed by breakfast and shiur:
"Al in Halacha"

Insights: Chukas-Balak

The people complained, ...Our souls are disgusted with the rotten bread (manna)... (Num 21:5)

The people complained that the manna was completely absorbed in their bodies without any waste, and they did not feel "normal." G-d became angry and sent a plague of poisonous snakes. He said, "I gave them this wonderful gift, and they complain?" Rav Avrohom Pam would say that this scene often plays itself out, that we have gifts that we complain about. Young children make a mess and we complain, forgetting the blessing of having children. A person complained to his Rav that he tosses and turns throughout the night, unable to sleep. The Rav told him that he had visited a patient in the hospital and two orderlies had to turn him from side to side to avoid bed sores, so how can he complain when he can turn by himself? We must appreciate our blessings.

Did You Know?

Although when the Temple stood in Jerusalem, immersion in a mikveh was required for a variety of impurities, today it is only required for three situations: to permit a woman to her husband after menstruation, for a conversion to Judaism; and for certain new metal or glass utensils that were purchased. Many men follow the custom of immersion weekly before Shabbos, or even daily, for additional purification purposes. Before the required immersion, it is necessary to make sure there is no dirt or other intervening substances anywhere on the body, even under one's finger and toenails, or between one's teeth. One's hair must be carefully combed, as tangled or knotted hair may also be an intervention, thus disqualifying the immersion.

Thought for the Week: It is easier to do what is right than to right what is done.
(A Candle By Day)