

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Va'eira / Mev HaChodesh

January 16, 2026 / 27 Teves 5786

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Candlelighting: 5:05 pm

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

Friday, January 16

5:05pm Candlelighting
5:10pm Mincha
8:30pm **Parsha Shiur**
@ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, January 17

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship
5:00pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
6:14pm Maariv

Sunday, January 18

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

Monday, January 19

8:00pm Mitzvos and Meaning
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, January 20

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

Wednesday, January 21

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

Thursday, January 22

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'eira

G-d sent Moshe and Ahron to Pharaoh to order him to free the Jews. The mission appeared to be a failure. Pharaoh first mocked the Al-mighty, and then made the Jewish people work even harder, accusing them of laziness. The Jewish people, too, were angry with Moshe for having made things worse for them. Moshe complained to G-d that he would not accomplish anything by returning to Pharaoh. G-d,

however, assured Moshe that the people would be redeemed amidst great wonders and miracles.

Ten plagues were brought upon the Egyptians. These accomplished two goals. First, they served as a punishment for the Egyptians' mistreatment of the nation. But they also served as a lesson for both the Egyptians and the Jews, showing that G-d was in total control over the world and over nature.

Moshe warned Pharaoh that if he would not let the people go, all the water throughout Egypt would be turned to blood. The Nile River was considered to be a god in Egypt, serving as the sole source for water in the region. By first afflicting the Egyptian god, it proved G-d's superiority over their idols. This was also the significance of the fifth plague, pestilence, which killed the Egyptian cattle, another god of the Egyptians.

Following the first plague, G-d brought a plague of frogs throughout Egypt. The swarming frogs wreaked havoc, inundating the whole country with

their croaking noise. This was followed by a plague of lice, and then by a plague of wild animals that roamed the country. A plague of pestilence killed most of the livestock, followed by a plague of boils that afflicted the Egyptians themselves. The last plague mentioned in this portion was that of a miraculous hail-and-fire mixture, that destroyed almost all the Egyptian vegetation.

Each of the plagues lasted for a week, and then Pharaoh was given three weeks to reconsider letting the people go. Pharaoh refused to be impressed by the miracles that Moshe and Ahron performed. Even when he saw that his own magicians could not duplicate the miracles, he hardened his heart and would not let the people go. After the first few plagues the suffering became so great, that Pharaoh did consider allowing some segments of the people to leave temporarily. This, however, was not acceptable to Moshe.

After five plagues of suffering throughout Egypt, and despite the pleas of his own nation, Pharaoh still refused to recognize the hand of G-d. By that time, since he had been given so many opportunities, G-d hardened Pharaoh's heart and did not allow him to let the nation go. This would pave the way for him to receive the next five plagues and eventually the punishment he, and the Egyptian people, deserved.

New Series

"Mitzvos and Meaning"
Mondays 8pm starting
Jan 19th (R. Nisenbaum)

Insights: Va'eira

...Moshe was eighty years old... (Ex 7:7) By the age of eighty years old, most people have already retired. The Torah tells us Moshe's age to emphasize that he was just beginning his career at eighty years old. A Jew can never retire from his mission in life. Rav Yisrael Salanter was once walking in the street late at night, when he noticed the local tailor working by candlelight. He asked him why he was still up so late. The tailor answered, "Rebbe, as long as the candle is still burning, I must still work." Rav Yisrael took the message to heart and said, "The soul is compared to a candle. As long as our souls remain lit, we, too, must continue to work."

Did You Know?

If one recites a blessing over bread, the blessing covers all food eaten as part of the meal. In a similar vein, if one recites the blessing over wine or grape juice, it covers any drinks that will be drunk at the same sitting. Preferably, one should drink at least two ounces of wine in order to exempt other drinks. If he did not, he should recite the *Shehakol* blessing on food, which then exempts other beverages from the same blessing. If one heard kiddush over wine but did not drink any of the wine himself, he must recite a blessing over other beverages.

Thought for the Week: *It is a silly fisherman who confuses the bait with the bite.*
(A Candle By Day)