

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Va'eschanan
July 24, 2026 / 10 Av 5786
Volume 31, Issue 39
Candlelighting: 8:34 pm

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

Friday, July 24

7:00pm Early Mincha / Maariv
8:34pm Candlelighting

Shabbos, July 25

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
Rabbi & Mrs. Stoll*

7:25pm Pirke Avos
8:25pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
9:42pm Maariv

Sunday, July 26

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

Monday, July 27

~~8:00pm~~ R. Nisenbaum's Monday
shiur resumes
August 10th

Tuesday, July 28

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

Wednesday, July 29

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

Thursday, July 30

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: Vaeschanan

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 mitzvot of G-d. The mitzvot 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 mitzvot properly would the Jewish people earn

the respect of their non-Jewish neighbors. Even others recognize the Torah and mitzvot 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.

Monday Shiur on Break

R. Nisenbaum's Monday 8pm
shiurim will resume August 10th

Insights: Tisha B'Av

Whoever mourns the loss of Jerusalem, will merit to see its rebuilding (Taanis

30b) Rav Chatzkel Levenstein asked why more of an emphasis is placed on mourning the destroyed Temple than on practicing acts of kindness, which would help rebuild the Temple. Shouldn't we think more positively? He related a story about a Chassidic Rebbe who asked why in the yeshivas they focused more on overcoming bad character traits than on developing good character. Rav Chatzkel told a story of a wealthy Jew who purchased a property that had previously served as a garbage dump. The land was cleared and they built an apartment complex. Unfortunately, the building began to sink shortly afterwards, because the garbage had weakened the land. Similarly, Rav Chatzkel said, if one tries to develop good character before uprooting negative traits, the good traits will be unable to take root. That is also why we must first mourn the loss of the Temple and rectify the sins that led to the destruction. Only then can we practice the positive traits and help rebuild the Temple.

Did You Know?

One must not remove the mezuzot from his house when moving, if Jews will be living in the house. The Talmud says that one who removes the mezuzah can bring danger to himself and to the new dweller of the house. One may, however, collect payment from the new person for the mezuzot if he wants. If the mezuzah was expensive or otherwise special, the first owner may switch the mezuzah for another one before moving. One should be careful to affix a mezuzah as soon as he moves into a home. Rented quarters outside of Israel do not require mezuzot for thirty days, yet one is encouraged to put up the outside mezuzah immediately, though a blessing should not be recited until thirty days.

Thought for the Week: To best the evil inclination the mind must be quicker than the eye. (A Candle By Day)