

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Achrei Mos (Mev HaChodesh)

May 3, 2024 / 25 Nissan 5784

Volume 29, Issue 29

Candlelighting: 8:09 pm

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

Friday, May 3

6:40pm Early Mincha / Maariv

8:09pm Candlelighting

8:10pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, May 4

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship

7:00pm Pirke Avos
8:00pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
9:18pm Maariv

Sunday, May 5

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

Monday, May 6

8:00pm No class this week.....

Tuesday, May 7

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

Wednesday, May 8

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

Thursday, May 9

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

New episodes twice a week!

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: Achrei Mos

The Torah introduces the special Yom Kippur service in the Tabernacle and the role of the *Kohain Gadol*, the High Priest, in bringing atonement for the nation. Part of the service involved the *Kohain Gadol's* entering the Holy of Holies, a place where no other person was allowed to enter the rest of the year. There he would offer a special incense offering.

Although usually the *Kohain Gadol* would wear eight beautiful vestments, before entering the Holy of Holies he would wear only four simple garments made of white linen. The reason for this is because Ahron, the first *Kohain Gadol*, had had a part in the nation's

sinning with the Golden Calf. It would thus be improper for him to try to atone for the nation while wearing golden garments that could serve as a "reminder" of this sin. The Rabbis explain that a "prosecutor cannot become a defender." It is for this reason that it is customary today to wear a white *kittel*, or robe, on Yom Kippur. (The *kittel* is also worn at the Pesach Seder for a slightly different reason. Though we celebrate freedom on Pesach, We must be careful not to become so complacent with freedom that it leads to arrogance. The *kittel*, one of the shrouds in which a person is buried, serves as a sobering reminder of the responsibilities associated with freedom.)

Part of the service also involved taking two goats, of which one was sacrificed and the other sent to

its death in the wilderness as a "scapegoat" to bear the sins of the nation. The *Kohain Gadol* would also confess for the sins of the nation. Of course, repentance was also necessary for complete atonement.

The *Kohain Gadol* would change his clothing

from the regular vestments to the special linen garments a total of five times throughout the day's service. Each time he changed he had to immerse himself in water. Although we no longer have the Temple today, the fasting on Yom Kippur together with Teshuva, or repentance, still allows us to become purified through the

holiness of the day.

Following the laws of Yom Kippur, the Torah forbids the consumption of blood. Although blood plays an important part in the sacrificial order on the Altar, it may not be eaten. The Torah explains that the essence of an animal lies in its blood. By eating blood, a person ingests the essence of the animal, something to be avoided by a person yearning to develop his unique human character. The Torah also requires the blood of a kosher bird or non-domesticated animal to be covered with dirt immediately after slaughtering the animal. This, too, is meant to emphasize the covering of the essence of an animal before it can be eaten.

Mazel Tov

Corey and Julie Leeson upon the engagement of their daughter

"10 Commandments"

New series begins Monday May 13th

Insights: Achrei Mos

You shall keep my statutes and mitzvos....and live by them (Lev 18:5) A man asked Rav Aharon Leib Shteinman on the fifteenth of the month that it was the last night to recite the prayer for the moon, and the sky was still cloudy. He heard that there was a clear sky in Haifa. Was it worth the bother to travel to Haifa, or since the moon was not visible in B'nei Brak, was he exempt from the mitzvah? Rav Shteinman looked at the man and asked, "If someone were to offer you \$10,000 if you would travel to Haifa—would you ask such a question? A mitzvah is worth much more than \$10,000—it is life itself!"

Did You Know?

During the period between Pesach and Shavuot, 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiva died. To mark this tragedy, it is customary not to take haircuts, celebrate weddings, or listen to music during these days. Some follow this custom for the period beginning from the second day of Pesach until Lag B'Omer, the thirty-third day. Others begin the period from Rosh Chodesh Iyar until the day before Shavuot. Everyone permits weddings and music on Lag B'Omer itself. If one is invited to a wedding during the part of the Omer that he himself observes, it is still permitted to attend. It is permitted to buy and wear new clothing during the entire period.

Thought for the Week: To enter G-d's kingdom, one must pass a thorough spiritual. (A Candle By Day)