

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Beshalach
January 26, 2024 / 16 Shevat 5784
Volume 29, Issue 15
Candlelighting: 5:17 pm

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

Friday, January 26

5:17pm Candlelighting
5:20pm Mincha / Maariv
8:15pm Parsha Shiur
@ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, January 27

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship.
4:40pm Laws of Shabbos
5:10pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
6:25pm Maariv

Sunday, January 28

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

Monday, January 29

8:00pm "Wisdom of Koheles"
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, January 30

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

Wednesday, January 31

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

Thursday, February 1

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: Beshalach

Although Pharaoh had chased the Jewish people out of Egypt, his intentions were only that they leave for three days to offer sacrifices to G-d, and then return to slavery. This, however, was not the intention of G-d. Once three days passed, Pharaoh led his armies in pursuit of the Jewish nation.

G-d was concerned that were the people to leave by a route that was within easy access of Egypt, they might be tempted to return at the first sign of difficulty. For this reason, He led

them on a roundabout path through the Sinai Desert, where it would be difficult for them to return to Egypt. Although this way presented greater physical danger, the spiritual danger was a greater concern.

The nation encamped by the Red Sea. Pharaoh realized that the Jews were not returning, and began to pursue the nation, overtaking them at the sea. The people found themselves in a terrifying situation. The Red Sea spanned before them, a dangerous wilderness surrounded them, and the Egyptian armies were bearing down on them from the rear. G-d instructed Moshe to lead the people into the sea. The Jews trusted in G-d and marched directly into the Sea. The sea split before them and seabed

hardened for them. The Midrash describes how the sea actually divided into twelve transparent walls. Each tribe crossed through its own section on dry land, in the midst of the water. Many other miracles also occurred at that time.

The Egyptians followed the Jews straight into the sea, at which point the water returned to its original state. The Egyptian soldiers all drowned in the sea.

The people recognized G-d's great miracle, and they broke into a song of praise. The Talmud relates that at that time, the simplest Jew had a revelation of G-d that would not be experienced by the greatest prophets in later times. The song, called *Az Yashir*, was later incorporated into the daily prayers.

Shortly after their ascent from the sea, the Jews were attacked by the nation of Amalek. Although all of the other nations were in awe of the miracles at the sea, Amalek remained unmoved. When Moshe lifted his hands towards heaven, the Jews' faith in G-d was strengthened and they were victorious in battle. Because of Amalek's brazen antagonism towards G-d, the Jews were commanded to wipe out the memory of Amalek.

"Wisdom of Koheles"
*is eternal, but the Monday classes
end this week*

Insights: Beshalach

"Israel saw the great hand that G-d did for them, and they feared G-d and Moshe His servant." (Ex 14:31) Rav Leib Chasman explained this passage with a parable. A professor at a medical school was telling the students about a trial procedure that had been tried on prisoners serving life sentences, who were given the option to experiment with the procedure, since they had nothing to lose. One student asked how the experiment could prove anything to the general population who were not in prison. The professor laughed and said that all human beings have the same physical qualities regardless of race, height, or behavior, and what would work with one segment of the population would work with others too. When the Children of Israel saw the greatness of Moshe and the wickedness of Pharaoh, they realized that any person could choose to be like either of them. Thus, when they saw G-'s Great Hand against Egypt, they chose to believe in Moshe and to try and emulate him.

Did You Know?

The Land of Israel is praised with seven species of fruits, wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. The significance of these fruits is described in the Talmud. Because of their importance, they take precedence over other fruits in order of preference. Thus, if one wishes to eat a variety of fruits including one of the seven, even if he likes another fruit better, he first recites the blessing on the seven species (even if the fruits were grown outside of Israel). The juice of the seven species is not accorded any preference, except for wine and grape juice. Even among the seven, preference is given according to their order in the Torah: wheat, barley, olives, dates, grapes, figs, and pomegranates.

Thought for the Week: Some mistake indignation for righteousness. (A Candle By Day)