

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Bo
January 7, 2022 / 5 Shevat 5782
Volume 27, Issue 15
Candlelighting: 4:55 pm

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

Friday, January 7

7:00am Shacharis
4:55pm Candlelighting
5:00pm Mincha / Maariv
8:00pm Parsha Class
2362 Milton

Shabbos, January 8

8:45am Shacharis
4:20pm Laws of Shabbos
4:50pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /
Maariv

Sunday, January 9

8:00am Shacharis
9:15am Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"
(R. Stoll)

Monday, January 10

7:00am Shacharis
8:00pm Questions & Answers
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, January 11

7:00am Shacharis
8:00pm Avos D'Rav Nosson
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, January 12

7:00am Shacharis
8:00pm Nach Still Speaks
(R. Stoll)

Thursday, January 13

7:00am Shacharis
8:00pm The 12 Jewish Months
(R. Stoll)
in person, Zoom & audio
10:15pm Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)

Class Connection

R. Nisenbaum:
425-436-6200 #352171
R. Stoll:
Zoom: 876-619-3551
Audio: 669-900-9128

Parsha: Bo

The last three of the ten plagues that were inflicted upon the Egyptians were locusts, darkness and the Plague of the Firstborn.

The locust destroyed any vegetation in Egypt that had survived the previous plague of hail. The plague of darkness came in two stages. The first three days of the plague brought pitch-black darkness to the Egyptians, where they could not see anything at all. During the following three days, the darkness intensified so much that the Egyptians were actually frozen into position, unable to move. The Jews, however, had light and were able to move about freely.

The last plague was the Plague of the Firstborn, where every Egyptian firstborn child and animal died at midnight. This was the first time that Pharaoh felt his own life in danger, as he was also a firstborn, and he finally let the Jews go free.

The Jews were instructed to sacrifice a lamb, the god of the Egyptian nation, for the Paschal sacrifice. Slaughtering their taskmasters' god in front of their eyes without fear of repercussion instilled a sense

of fearlessness and pride in the Jews. Each family had their own sacrifice to be eaten together.

The people were ordered to take some of the blood from the sacrifice and smear it on their doorposts. With this show of solidarity and trust, the Jews would be protected from the Plague of the Firstborn.

The people were also given the mitzvah of sanctifying the new moon. The court would sanctify the beginning of each month after witnessing the new moon. Time itself would thus be elevated into something holy. The first month to be sanctified was Nissan, the month of

the exodus from Egypt. This represents the birth of the Jewish nation, and marks the beginning of the Jewish year. (Although Rosh Hashana marks the anniversary of Creation, the months are counted from Nissan, the month of the Exodus.)

Because of the salvation of the firstborn Jews in Egypt, there is a special holiness associated with the firstborn. Thus, the firstborn of the flocks was given to the kohain, and the firstborn of the human is redeemed from the kohain.

NEW SERIES: UNDERSTANDING EMUNAH

A new 10-part series with R. Nisenbaum
beginning Mon. Jan 17 at 8:00.

Insights: Bo

Speak to the entire community of Israel (Exodus 12:3) The Midrash comments that G-d told both Moshe and Ahron to teach the Children of Israel, although Moshe did the actual teaching. G-d was telling them to show respect for each other, and it would appear that both were teaching. Rav Isser Zalmen Meltzer was once honored to officiate at a wedding. When he arrived, he saw the Tchebiner Rav, Rav Dov Weidenfeld, there. Rav Isser Zalmen deferred his honor to the Tchebiner Rav, but the Rav refused to accept the honor. Each one continued to insist that the other one officiate, and neither one would concede. Suddenly Rav Isser Zalmen leaned over to the Rav and whispered something into the Tchebiner Rav's ear. The Rav immediately stood up to officiate at the wedding. Later someone asked Rav Isser Zalmen what he had said to the Rav that made him change his mind. Rav Isser Zalmen smiled and said, "I told him that I had forgotten my reading glasses at home and that it would be difficult for me to read the blessings!"

New Book

R. Nisenbaum's new book of essays and anecdotes will soon be published. If anyone is interested in sponsorship, please contact him.

Did You Know?

One should not procrastinate performing any mitzvah; rather he should do it as soon as he is able to. For this reason, although one dons the tallis before wrapping his tefillin, if he has no tallis now, he should first wrap the tefillin and not wait until he gets a tallis before wrapping the tefillin. There is a difference of opinion whether one may wait to perform a mitzvah if by waiting he can perform the mitzvah in a nicer manner. An example of this is by a circumcision, where some authorities say it should be done first thing in the morning, even if many family members and friends cannot attend, while others permit delaying it until later in the day in order to celebrate it in a more respectable manner.

Thought for the Week: To have the right idea is not necessarily to have the idea right—and vice versa. (A Candle By Day)