

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Chayei Sarah
November 18, 2022 / 24 Cheshvan 5783
Volume 28, Issue 5
Candlelighting: 4:46 pm

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

Friday, November 18

4:46pm Candlelighting
4:50pm Mincha / Maariv
8:15pm Shiur @ R. Nisenbaum's

Shabbos, November 19

8:45am Shacharis
sponsored by Dr. Ben Feldman
4:10pm Laws of Shabbos
4:40pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos / Maariv

Sunday, November 20

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

Monday, November 21

8:00pm The Seven Shepherds –
Yaakov and Glory (4/8)

Tuesday, November 22

8:00pm Pirkei d'Rebbi Elazar
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, November 23

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

Thursday, November 24

8:00am Holiday Shacharis followed by breakfast and a class

10:15pm Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)

Flashes of Torah

R. Nisenbaum's new book is now available!
Get your copy now.

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: Chayei Sarah

Sarah died at 127 years old. Her death proved to be an additional challenge for Abraham. After all he had gone through to prove his allegiance and love for G-d, he now had to maintain faith and dignity in the face of tragedy.

Although G-d had promised the land of Canaan to Abraham, it was not yet his. Abraham had to deal with the Hittites to purchase a burial spot for his wife in the Cave of Machpelah in Hebron. Although the Hittites offered him the cave as a gift, he insisted on buying it. He did not want to remain beholden to them. Later, they sold him the land for an exorbitant sum of money.

Shortly after Sarah's passing, Abraham occupied himself with finding a wife for his son Isaac. This was necessary to set the scene for the next stage in the development of the Jewish people. Abraham would not allow his son to marry the daughters of Canaan, because of the bad character traits that seemed to be prevalent among them, and he was afraid these traits would be passed on to his descendants. Yet, being that Isaac had been sanctified earlier, when G-d had commanded Abraham to bring him as a sacrifice, he was not allowed to leave the Land of Canaan. Like an animal sacrifice, he could not be removed from Jerusalem. Abraham therefore entrusted his servant, Eliezer, to find a wife from his own family in Aram Naharayim.

Mazal Tov
to Phil & Kim Setnik upon the
engagement of their son

Eliezer searched for a woman of exemplary character to complement his master's son. He decided on a test to tell if a woman was truly a kindhearted person. He would ask her to draw him some water to drink from the well. If she would draw for him and also offer to water his camels, it would prove she was truly a compassionate person and deserving of marrying Isaac. Eliezer then prayed to G-d that he be successful in fulfilling his mission.

Rebecca fulfilled Eliezer's request and offered to water his camels and find lodging for them to sleep. Eliezer was overjoyed and presented gifts to Rebecca before even asking her father's permission that she return with him. The wonder of finding such a generous and sensitive woman so soon after he had prayed, encouraged his faith that G-d had answered his prayers.

The Torah says that after Isaac married Rebecca and brought her to his tent, he was comforted from the loss of his mother. The Talmud explains that as long as Sarah had lived, her candles remained lit from one Shabbos to the next. There was also a blessing in her dough, and an aura of holiness hovering over her tent. When Sarah died, these symbols ceased. With Rebecca's appearance they returned once again. Rebecca had proven to be a worthy successor to Sarah.

Insights: Chayei Sarah

The life of Sarah was one hundred years, twenty years and seven years... (Gen. 23:1-4)
Although the portion discusses Sarah's death, it is called "the life of Sarah." On the day of Rav BenTzion Shapiro's wedding, his father, Rav Hirsh Michel, accompanied him to the Kosel and to Mount Olive to pray for success. While standing among the graves at Mount Olive Rav Hirsh Michel said, "BenTzion, you are starting a journey of life today. People think that this is where the dead lie, and in the city is where the live people live. The Rabbis, however, saw it differently. They say that the righteous are called alive when they die. They have spent their lives elevating their souls through Torah and mitzvos, and when they die they are first entering the "ballroom," where they will enjoy eternal pleasure. In their death they are just beginning to live the real life. Nu? So where do the really living people live?" These words inspired Rav BenTzion throughout his life to put his primary focus on striving towards spiritual greatness.

Did You Know?

Visiting a mourner is a great mitzvah that not only brings comfort to the mourners, but also elevates the soul of the deceased. One should not initiate conversation until the mourner begins. The conversation should revolve around memories and traits of the deceased and is not meant to distract the mourner from his loss. If one cannot visit personally, he may call the mourner on the telephone. Although the call does not elevate the soul, it can still comfort the mourner. Preferably, one should not visit the mourner on Shabbos during shiva. If, however, he may not have another chance, he may visit for a short while on Shabbos.

Thought for the Week: We must be ready to believe that people can be as misguided as we cannot possibly believe them to be. (A Candle By Day)