

# J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Eikev  
August 4, 2023 / 17 Av 5783  
Volume 28, Issue 41  
Candlelighting: 8:23 pm

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

## Friday, August 4

6:55pm Mincha / Maariv [ early ]  
8:25pm Candlelighting  
8:30pm Mincha / Maariv

## Shabbos, August 5

8:45am Shacharis  
*Kiddush is sponsored by  
Moshe Leib Hartman on  
the occasion of his  
mother's yahrzeit*

Pirke Avos will resume...

8:15pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /  
Maariv

## Sunday, August 6

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

## Monday, August 7

8:00pm *Class w/ R. Nisenbaum*  
will resume at end of  
summer

## Tuesday, August 8

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

## Wednesday, August 9

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

## Thursday, August 10

10:15pm Parsha Class  
(R. Nisenbaum)

### 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: Eikev

Continuing his monologue, Moshe promises the nation that if they would faithfully keep all of the mitzvahs they would receive all the physical and material blessings. Their crops would be plentiful, their flocks and herds would be fertile, and they would be protected from disease and from enemies. These physical rewards are contingent upon the nation's observance. The reward for an individual's observance is not promised in physical terms, as that would offset man's fee will. Individual reward is reserved for the Afterlife.

Moshe reminds the people how G-d had destroyed the Egyptians and all of the other powerful leaders who had stood up against the Jewish people. He also reminds them how G-d had taken care of their every need in the desert for the past forty years. He promises them that G-d would also assist them in conquering the Promised Land easily, as long as they would keep the mitzvot properly. Moshe describes the many virtues of the Promised Land. The land of Israel is rich with beautiful fruits and other natural resources. It is a land that merits G-d's personal attention that responds to the behavior of its inhabitants.

Moshe also informs the nation that despite their past sins, G-d's love for them remains strong. Even now, after their sins, all G-d really demands of His people is

that they fear and love Him by keeping His commandments. Once a person has the proper awe and reverence of G-d, mitzvah observance follows naturally.

A person who understands that G-d does not show favor to those who are undeserving of it, nor does He accept bribes or offerings from an unrepentant sinner, will keep all of the mitzvahs—not just the ones that he feels are important. The Talmud actually understands Moshe's words as meaning that only the fear of G-d is in the hands of man, i.e. the free will to do good or evil. Everything else in the world, i.e. circumstances of health, financial situation, physical characteristics, etc. is in the hands of G-d.

It is important for a person to realize how little control he really has over most things in life. This can be quite a humbling experience for the person who likes to feel that he is pretty much in control of his destiny.

This understanding is also a prerequisite for prayer, which is also alluded to in this portion. The essence of prayer is the recognition of how much man is really dependent upon G-d. This is why the Rabbis refer to prayer as "service of the heart" and not merely of the mouth, because it is not merely request but an admission of man's vulnerability and total dependence upon G-d.

### Issue Sponsorship

by Muriel Weber on the occasion  
of the yahrzeit of her mother  
Miriam bas Avraham 18 Av

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### Mazel Tov

*Michael & Tammy Post upon the  
marriage of their daughter*

## Parsha Insights: Eikev

...and you may say in your heart, "My might and strength of my hand made me all this wealth" (Deut 8:17) A wealthy merchant came to Rav Chaim Volozhiner fearfully. He explained that he sold lumber, and that the government had put a hold on a major shipment of his. The delay could potentially cause him a tremendous loss of money. Rav Chaim calmed the man down and encouraged him not to lose faith in G-d. In the interim the price of lumber rose considerably, and when the government finally released the shipment, the man made a much greater profit than he would have had he sold it earlier. The merchant joyously returned to Rav Chaim and told him that he had clearly seen G-d's Divine Providence in the matter. Rav Chaim smiled and said, "Isn't it ironic that the poor person sees Divine Providence clearly every day, while the wealthy man only sees it once in a great while!"

## Did You Know?

A Jew is encouraged to elevate the mundane activity of eating by reciting the proper blessings, both before and after eating a meal. Words of Torah should also accompany one's mealtime, not only on Shabbos, but even during the weekday meals, especially when the family eats together. This is also the reason for singing the Shabbos songs at the meal, for together these all contribute to the transformation of the physical meal into a spiritual experience. One should not eat while walking around, as it is more dignified to eat while sitting. Similarly, the Bentsching, or Grace after Meals, should be recited while sitting at the table where the meal was eaten. Even if one ate while standing, however, the after blessing should still be recited while sitting.

**Thought for the Week: One man's badge of shame is another's coat of arms** (A Candle By Day)