

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Eikev

July 30, 2021 / 21 Av 5781

Volume 26, Issue 41

Candlelighting: 8:27 pm

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

Friday, July 30

7:00am Shacharis

7:05pm Mincha / Maariv (Early)

8:43pm Candlelighting

Shabbos, July 31

8:45am Shacharis

Kiddush is sponsored by Moshe Leib Hartman on the occasion of his mother's yahrzeit

7:20pm Pirke Avos

8:20pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos / Maariv

Sunday, August 1

8:00am Shacharis

9:15am **Parsha Class**

(R. Nisenbaum)

10:00am **"The 613 Mitzvos"**

(R. Stoll)

Monday, August 2

7:00am Shacharis

8:00pm **Q & A**

(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, August 3

7:00am Shacharis

8:00pm **Avos D'Rav Nosson**

(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, August 4

7:00am Shacharis

8:00pm **Nach Still Speaks**

(R. Stoll) - Koheles

Thursday, August 5

7:00am Shacharis

8:00pm **Wisdom of the Hebrew Language**

(R. Stoll)

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: 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 free 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.

Insights: Eikev

and you may say in your heart, "My might and strength of my hand made me all this wealth" (Dev 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?

The blessings on food, both before and after eating, should be recited sitting, as that position shows a more settled frame of mind. Preferably, one should not eat while standing either. Eating in the street, especially, shows a lack of refinement. One should start and finish eating in the same place. If one left the building in the middle of eating a snack such as an apple, he must recite a new blessing before continuing to eat. This is true even if he had in mind to leave at the time he recited the blessing. If, however, he merely left the room, although it is not preferable, he need not recite a new blessing.

Thought for the Week: With the advent of the automobile we have become carriage-drawn horses. (A Candle By Day)

Mazel Tov

Yael Gray upon her engagement

Dr. and Mrs. Alex Politzmacher upon the birth of a son

Ethan & Chana Rosenfeld upon the birth of a son

Newsletter Sponsorship

by Richard & Gilda Katz on the yahrzeit of his father Edward Katz, Isser ben Leib 26 Av

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