

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Emor
May 17, 2024 / 9 Iyar 5784
Volume 29, Issue 31
Candlelighting: 8:23 pm

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

Friday, May 17

6:50pm Early Mincha / Maariv
8:23pm Candlelighting
8:25pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, May 18

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship.
7:15pm Pirke Avos
8:15pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
9:32pm Maariv

Sunday, May 19

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

Monday, May 20

8:00pm "Ten Commandments":
Idolatry (R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, May 21

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

Wednesday, May 22

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

Thursday, May 23

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: Emor

G-d endowed certain people with special responsibilities. The kohain, or priest, was given the task of serving in the Temple. The importance of his service and his position required him to live by a higher standard. Things that were permitted to the rest of the nation were prohibited for him. For example, the kohain could not defile himself by coming in contact with a corpse of any person outside of his close family members. The Kohain Gadol, High Priest, was held to an even stricter standard and could not even contaminate himself for family members. An exception was made only for a corpse where there was no family to care for it. An explanation offered for this prohibition is because the kohain must live a holy life. Holiness involves spiritual growth, and after death no further growth is possible. Coming in contact with a lifeless body represents the antithesis of holiness.

The kohain was also limited (and still is) as to whom he could marry. He may not marry a woman who was the product of a prohibited relationship, or who had been involved in a prohibited relationship. He may also not marry a divorcee. The Kohain Gadol was restricted even further in his choice and could only marry a virgin.

A kohein who had certain physical blemishes was excluded from serving in the Temple. Similarly,

animals with blemishes could not be offered as sacrifices.

Certain days of the year were also endowed with holiness—the Shabbos and other holidays. These days are sanctified through nicer dress, better food, and in general, through a more spiritual behavior than the rest of the year.

Each of the holidays was endowed with its own mitzvah, as a tool for receiving the unique spiritual influence associated with that day. The shofar is blown on Rosh Hashanah; we

fast on Yom Kippur; the lulav and esrog are taken on Sukkos, etc.

Every Jew is also instructed to sanctify G-d's name, both in life and death. In life, we must live in a way that earns the admiration of the world. Profaning G-d's Name by acting immorally or improperly is a grave sin. In death, the Jew must be ready to sacrifice his life rather than denounce G-d or his belief in Judaism.

The Torah relates an incident where a person mocked the Torah and blasphemed G-d. The Torah considers blasphemy to be on par with assault and even murder. The understanding is that a person who disregards G-d can easily be led to total disregard for his fellow man, too, leading to assault and other similar sins. Accordingly, the Torah reserves the most severe forms of punishment for this offense.

Mazel Tov

To Dahlen Firestone upon the engagement of her son

Insights: Emor

I will be sanctified in the midst of the Jewish people... (Lev 22:32) As the dark clouds of the Second World War loomed, Jewish communities braced themselves for the worst. Days before the yeshiva in Telshe, Lithuania was decimated, one of the staff members asked Rav Avraham Yitzchak Bloch, the Rosh Yeshiva, "How is it possible that this bastion of Torah we worked so hard to build could be destined for churban (destruction)?" Rav Bloch responded, "If it has been decreed in Heaven that we die sanctifying G-d's Name, we will certainly accept His will. But do not think for one moment that this is destruction. To the contrary, all the years of the yeshiva's existence have been preparation leading up to this moment. This is building, not destruction!"

Did You Know?

Although haircuts and weddings are not permitted during the period of the Omer, they are permitted on Lag B'Omer, the thirty-third day of the Omer. Most authorities only permit haircuts during the day of Lag B'Omer and not from the previous evening. This is because the students of Rabbi Akiva ceased dying on the day of Lag B'Omer, so part of the day should be observed in mourning. Weddings too should not be held on the evening prior to Lag B'Omer. If that is difficult, there are opinions who permit weddings at night too. If the wedding ceremony takes place on Lag B'Omer, one may continue the music and dancing even after nightfall.

Thought for the Week: Sometimes it is "quits" only because we call it "quits." (A Candle By Day)