

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Ki Savo
September 1, 2023 / 15 Elul 5783
Volume 28, Issue 45
Candlelighting: 7:42 pm

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

Friday, September 1

7:42pm Candlelighting
7:45pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, September 2

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
Mr. and Mrs. Simcha
Geller upon the birth of
their daughter*

6:35pm Pirke Avos
7:35pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /
Maariv

Sunday, September 3

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

Monday, September 4

8:00am HOLIDAY SHACHARIS

Legal Holiday Program

*There will be a breakfast
and class with R. Menachem
Nissel of Jerusalem at
approximately 9:30am*

8:00pm "The Art of Forgiveness:
What To Forgive"

Tuesday, September 5

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

Wednesday, September 6

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

Thursday, September 7

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: Ki Savo

The people were instructed in the mitzvah of *bikkurim*, to bring the new fruits of the season to the *kohen* in the *Beis HaMikdash*, the Temple. When the first fruits of Israel's seven species (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, dates, olives and pomegranates) began to blossom, the farmer would mark them by tying a ribbon around them. Later, when the fruits ripened, they were decorated in beautiful baskets and brought to Jerusalem amidst great fanfare and joy. The Talmud describes how the people traveled together in large groups accompanied by musicians, and how all the inhabitants of Jerusalem greeted them.

The owner gave the fruits to the *kohen* who placed them next to the altar. The person then recited a paragraph expressing appreciation to G-d for His involvement with the Jewish people from the very beginning of their nationhood. From early on, He had saved Jacob from the evil plans of Laban, had delivered the nation from the oppression of Egypt, and had brought them finally to the Land of Israel. As a token of appreciation for all of G-d's kindness, the person brings the first fruits of his labor, that which is closest to his heart, as a gift to G-d.

The first fruits arouse a sense of appreciation within a person. This, in turn, allows a person to reflect upon all the good that he has received, and offer thanksgiving for that too. When a person suffers a setback, it is very difficult to even imagine the positive things in his life, because he is so consumed with his present difficulties. When one is enjoying the good things in life, though, he can begin to appreciate earlier things that, at the time, seemed to have been totally negative experiences.

Later in the portion, the opposite attitude is portrayed quite clearly. Moshe warned the people of the dire consequences they would face if they failed to follow the Torah properly. The Torah graphically describes the terrible punishments that would fall upon them. At the culmination of the curses mentioned, the Torah predicts that, "In the morning you will say 'If only it were last evening,' and in the evening you will say, 'If only it were morning again.'" If a person is not able to appreciate all of G-d's kindness, he will find himself in such difficult straits that he will only be able to look longingly at the earlier times that had gone unappreciated.

Mazel Tov

*to Rabbi Ephraim and Chanie
Nisenbaum upon the bar mitzvah
of their grandson*

High Holiday Seats

*Contact JLC to reserve your
high holiday seating*

Parsha Insights: Ki Savo

Moshe, the Kohanim, and the Leviim spoke to all of Israel saying, "Be attentive and listen, O Israel..." (Deut 27:9) Rav Mordechai Gifter was the Rosh Yeshiva of the Telshe Yeshiva in Cleveland. Upon his first visit to Israel, he wanted to absorb whatever he could from the spiritual riches of the land. Although he was a sought-after speaker, he decided not to accept any invitations to speak throughout the trip, even to deliver Torah lectures at some of the leading yeshivas. He explained that he came to "hear" the land, and that if he spoke it would interfere with his ability to hear.

Did You Know?

It is customary to recite the Tashlich prayers on the first afternoon of Rosh Hashana near a body of water. If the first day is Shabbos, it is recited the second day. Preferably the water should contain fish, reminiscent of G-d's constant watching over His people. It is prohibited, however, to throw bits of food into the water, as one may only feed an animal on Shabbos or Yom Tov if they depend on him for their food. Tashlich is a serious prayer, beseeching G-d's mercy in judgment, and it should not be an occasion for social activity. Many people prefer to recite Tashlich after Rosh Hashana, during the Ten Days of Repentance, when they can recite it in a quieter setting with more feeling.

Thought for the Week: Along with appreciating value, we must learn to value appreciation
(A Candle By Day)