

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Lech-Lecha

October 27, 2023 / 12 Cheshvan 5784

Volume 29, Issue 3

Candlelighting: 6:11 pm

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

Friday, October 27

6:11pm Candlelighting
6:15pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, October 28

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
Gershon and Haddasah
Ickowicz on the occasion
of Gavriel Heller's
yahrzeit.*

5:35pm Laws of Shabbos
6:05pm Mincha
7:17pm Maariv

Sunday, October 29

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

Monday, October 30

8:00pm The Wisdom of Kohelos -
(R. Nisenbaum)

Tuesday, October 31

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

Wednesday, November 1

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

Thursday, November 2

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

Lech-Lecha

In the story of the Jewish people, Abraham is considered to be the first Jew because he recognized G-d on his own accord. Despite being scorned by the rest of society, and at great personal risk to his life, Abraham shared and spread his knowledge with everyone he met. It is for this reason that he was called "Avraham Ha'Ivri", or "Abraham of the Other Side." This would become the eternal role of the Jew, to spread the ideals of monotheism and morality throughout the world, despite great opposition.

Abraham and his wife Sarah had to endure ten challenges to prove, and to develop, their faithfulness to G-d. The Torah describes the various challenges at great length.

One of Abraham's challenges was to uproot his family, leave his homeland, and travel to an unknown land, which would only be revealed to him later. This was meant to develop his complete trust in G-d, and also to allow him to make a total break from his past environments and influences.

Shortly after reaching Canaan, a famine struck the land. Abraham and Sarah were forced to leave and travel to Egypt, where Pharaoh abducted Sarah. Afterwards, Abraham's nephew, Lot,

parted ways with his uncle, choosing to live in Sodom, among people whose ideology was the very antithesis of Abraham's. Yet when Lot was captured in war, Abraham risked his life to protect his nephew. Despite all these difficulties, Abraham and Sarah did not become disillusioned and maintained their faith.

Abraham and Sarah were childless for many years—despite G-d's promise to Abraham that he would father a great nation. This was also a challenge to Abraham's faith. Another one of Abraham's trials was the mitzvah of circumcision, which was given to him at the age of ninety-nine years old. G-d made a covenant with Abraham that if he walked perfectly in His ways, G-d would bless him with children and give him the land of Canaan for his children. G-d commanded Abraham to seal this covenant on his body through the circumcision.

This mitzvah was given for all future generations too. Every Jewish male must be circumcised as an eternal sign between G-d and the Jewish people of His covenant with Abraham. Circumcision has remained the hallmark of the Jew, distinguishing him from the rest of the world.

Insights: Lech-Lecha

Go from your land, ...and I will make you into a great nation ... (Gen 12:11)

Avraham was called Ha'Ivri, of the "Other side," because he went against the beliefs of the polytheistic society around him and professed belief in a single G-d. Rav Chatzkel Levenstein once noted, "Tourists visiting Israel can often be identified by their loud, colorful clothing and floppy tourist hats—garb that is noticeably different than that of the surrounding natives. If someone were to ask the tourist why he dresses so differently he would respond that he is not bothered by what the natives think of him since he is only visiting the country for a short while. Similarly, if we were to remember that we are only in this world temporarily, we would not be concerned by other people's mockery of our beliefs and practices." Hashem may have instructed Avraham to travel for that very reason, to remind him that he need not be impressed by what others thought of him.

Did You Know?

When a circumcision will take place on the eighth day, it should be as early in the morning as possible, to show endearment for the mitzvah by performing it the first possible opportunity. If there are two circumcisions to take place, one its proper time, on the eighth day, and the second for a child whose circumcision had to be postponed, there are different opinions as to which takes precedence. Some say that the eighth-day child comes first, since there is a greater mitzvah to circumcise on the eighth day, to the extent that it overrides Shabbos. Others feel, however, that the delayed child comes first; since every moment the father unnecessarily delays the circumcision he transgresses a positive commandment, whereas preceding the eight-day old child is only a preference.

Thought for the Week: Don't play the ace before you see the hole. (A Candle By Day)