

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Mattos-Massei
July 14, 2023 / 25 Tammuz 5783
Volume 28, Issue 38
Candlelighting: 8:41 pm

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

Friday, July 14

7:10pm Mincha / Maariv [early]
8:41pm Candlelighting
8:40pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, July 15

8:45am Shacharis
*Kiddush is sponsored by
Rabbi & Mrs. Nisenbaum
on the occasion of their
new granddaughter*

*Women's Kiddush at the
Nisenbaum home
2362 Milton Road*

7:35pm Pirke Avos
8:35pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /
Maariv

Sunday, July 16

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

Monday, July 17

8:00pm The Wisdom of Koheles

Tuesday, July 18

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

Wednesday, July 19 Rosh Chodesh Av

10:00am Women's 9 Days Seminar
8:00pm Nach Still Speaks –
Tehillim (R. Stoll)

Thursday, July 20

10:00am Women's 9 Days Seminar
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

Parshas: Mattos-Massei

Moshe was given his final tasks to fulfill before his passing. He was ordered to do battle with the Midianites, punishing them for having enticed the Jewish people to sin. The spoils that were taken were divided among the soldiers and the Levites. Although the Levites did not fight in the wars, they were considered "partners" with the people in their spiritual responsibilities and were treated as such.

The tribes of Reuven and Gad requested the trans-Jordanian side of Israel as their inheritance. They had much livestock and they felt that the lush pasture of this part of the land was preferable. Moshe sharply rebuked the tribes for wanting to separate themselves from their brothers. He accused them of failing to appreciate the Promised Land, similar to their fathers who had left Egypt and died in the desert for the very same reason.

Reuven and Gad promised they would not forsake their brothers, and that they would help fight to conquer the land. Based on this condition, Moshe allowed them to inhabit the trans-Jordanian cities.

Moshe was also ordered to designate cities of refuge where an accidental murderer could flee from the family of his victim. These included the forty-two cities of the Levites, an additional three cities in the mainland, and three cities on the trans-Jordanian side. The murderer would reside in one of these cities, until the death of the *Kohen Gadol*, the High Priest. The Talmud explains what the *Kohen Gadol* had to do with the murder, because had the leader of the generation been on a proper spiritual level, occurrences such as accidental murders would not have happened. Although the death was not caused through malice or intent, with proper caution it could have been prevented. This absence of caution shows a lack of appreciation for the true value of human life. The leadership must take responsibility for the nation's shortcomings and failures.

The Talmud explains that the two-and-a-half tribes in the trans-Jordanian side of Israel had the same number of cities as the nine-and-a-half tribes in the

mainland, because there were more murders committed on that side of the Jordan. Although only accidental murderers fled to the cities of refuge, in a society where murder is commonplace, people become callous towards human life, and they are more prone to accidents and mishaps.

Issue Sponsorship

In memory of
Aryeh Leib ben Yitzchak on his
39th yahrzeit 27 Tammuz by his
grandson Dr. Yitzchak Kletter

Win \$36,000!

Buy your tickets for the annual
JLC Raffle today!

Women's 9 Days Seminar

July 19th – 25th at 10am

Parsha Insights:

He shall not change his words, whatever comes from his mouth he should fulfill (Num 30:3)

The Chida comments that if one is careful not to keep his word, Hashem will fulfill what the person says. A woman once came crying to the Beis HaLevi that her husband had disappeared. The Rav asked the woman, "How can I help

you?" The woman told the Rav, "Please, just tell me if he is alive?"

"Yes, he is alive," the Rav said.

"Did he abandon Judaism?" asked the woman fearfully.

"No, he has not," answered the Beis HaLevi.

"Will he return?" asked the woman a bit more hopefully.

"He will," said the Rav.

A few weeks later the husband indeed returned home, sound and fit. The townspeople were amazed at the Rav's Divine Inspiration. The Beis HaLevi, however, humbly made light of his prediction. He explained, "It was not Divine Inspiration at all. It was merely a matter of following halacha. When she asked if he was alive, I answered in the affirmative because in halacha a person has a *chezkas chai*, a legal assumption of being alive. When she asked if he was still religious, I again answered yes because an average Jew has a *chezkas kashrus*, an assumption that he acts properly. So, I figured if the fellow is alive and conducting himself properly, why wouldn't he come back?!"

Did You Know?

During the Nine Days before Tisha B'Av, one may not eat meat, fowl, wine, grape juice, or even any mixture in which these foods can be tasted. On Shabbos one may eat meat and drink wine. Even if one accepts Shabbos earlier, before sunset, it is permitted to eat. However, if one wishes to feed the children before Shabbos begins, he may not feed them meat. Most authorities do not permit eating meat after Shabbos for Melava Malka either. For Havdalah after Shabbos, it is preferable to either drink beer, or give the wine or grape juice to a young child to drink. If neither of these is available, an adult may drink the wine.

Thought for the Week: We should judge things not so much by their taste as by the taste it leaves in our mouths (A Candle By Day)