

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parshas Mattos-Massei

July 29, 2022 / 1 Av 5782

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Candlelighting: 8:29 pm

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

Friday, July 29

7:00am Shacharis
7:00pm Mincha / Maariv (Early)
8:29pm Candlelighting

Shabbos, July 30

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush sponsorship avail

7:20pm Pirke Avos
8:20pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos /
Maariv

Sunday, July 31

8:00am Shacharis
10:00am "The 613 Mitzvos"
(R. Stoll)

Monday, August 1

7:00am Shacharis
10:00am 9 Days Seminar (Women)

Tuesday, August 2

7:00am Shacharis
10:00am 9 Days Seminar (Women)
8:00pm Pirkei d'Rebbi Elazar
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, August 3

7:00am Shacharis
10:00am 9 Days Seminar (Women)
8:00pm Nach Still Speaks – Tehillim (R. Stoll)

Thursday, August 4

7:00am Shacharis
10:00am 9 Days Seminar (Women)
10:15pm Parsha Class
(R. Nisenbaum)

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: 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.

R. NISENBAUM'S SUNDAY MORNING AND MONDAY NIGHT CLASSES AND R. STOLL'S THURSDAY NIGHT CLASS WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER

Summer Break

Insights: Mattos-Massei

You shall give the Land as an inheritance to your families by lots; to the larger one you shall give a larger inheritance and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance... (Numbers 33:64) Several new families were accepted in the religious Moshav of Komemiyut and the land of the moshav needed to be redistributed to allow for everyone to have a parcel. Some of the families began to complain that in the redistribution they would be losing money since the new lots would be smaller than what they had before. Rav Binyomin Mendelson, the Rav of the Moshav, spoke to the farmers about faith and trust. He told them, "If a person was destined on Rosh Hashana to receive a certain amount of money, who is foolish enough to think that Hashem cannot grant him his money regardless of whether he has a bigger field or a smaller field? As a matter of fact, if a person will get his allotted amount working a smaller plot of land, why would he even want a larger piece of land?" The words accomplished their goal and the people stopped complaining.

Did You Know?

During the last nine days before Tisha B'Av, decorating or non-essential construction of one's home is prohibited. In a situation of necessity, such as replacing a leaky faucet or an air conditioner, or in case postponement will incur a financial loss, it is permissible. Gardening should also not be done during this period. Similarly, elective surgery, such as for cosmetic purposes, should be postponed until after Tisha B'AV. One should also not purchase gifts during the Nine Days.

Thought for the Week: Things do not fall into disrepair: men fall into not repairing.
(A Candle By Day)