

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Metzora
April 19, 2024 / 11 Nissan 5784
Volume 29, Issue 28
Candlelighting: 7:54 pm

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

Friday, April 19

7:54pm Candlelighting
7:55pm Mincha / Maariv

Shabbos, April 20

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is sponsored by Murray Richelson.
5:45pm Sh HaGadol speech for women @ R. Nisenbaum
6:45pm Sh HaGadol Speech
7:45pm Mincha / Shalosh Seudos
9:04pm Maariv

Sunday, April 21

8:00am Shacharis
10:00pm Maariv

Monday, April 22

7:00am Shacharis / Siyyum
10:44am Stop Eating Chametz
12:04pm Last biur / bitul
1:25pm Midday
7:57pm Candlelighting
8:00pm Mincha
8:35pm Maariv
>9:15pm Seder (60 min)
1:25am Chatzos

Tuesday, April 23

9:00am Shacharis
7:44pm Mincha
8:58pm Maariv
>9:16pm Candlelighting
1:24am Chatzos

Wednesday, April 24

9:00am Shacharis
8:00pm Mincha
9:07pm Maariv

PESACH

See the separate calendar for the full Pesach schedule.

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: Metzora

After discussing the nature of the *tzara'as* disease and its contamination, the Torah now describes the purification process. This involves a few stages, beginning after the *tzara'as* sores are healed.

As a first step, the kohen prepared two birds, a piece of cedar wood, a piece of crimson-dyed wool, and a clump of hyssop, a low-growing plant. One of the birds was slaughtered, and its blood mixed with running water and the other materials. This mixture would be sprinkled on the contaminated person. The second bird would then be set free. The person then immersed in a mikveh, the ritual bath; counted seven days; shaved off his hair; and then immersed again. The *metzora* then brought two sacrifices to complete the purification and atonement process.

Each of these materials symbolizes one facet of the person's sin and atonement. The chirping birds serve as a reminder of the idle chatter that tends to lead to slander and gossip, the main cause of *tzara'as*. The cedar wood, a very tall tree, is a reminder of the speaker's arrogance, another common factor leading to speaking negatively about others. The red wool, which is produced from

a worm's blood, and the lowly plant too, both serve as a reminder to be humble.

The Torah also introduces other types of *tzara'as*, one that affects a person's clothing, and another that affects the stones of one's house. This condition, if it spreads, could result in having to tear

down the entire house. These types of *tzara'as*, too, are meant to deal with the person who misuses his tongue.

The Midrash points out that when a person would first sin, G-d would send the *tzara'as* to the stones of his house, merely causing an inconvenience, and perhaps a financial loss. Sometimes, this inconvenience would be a blessing in disguise,

for when tearing down the house they would often find treasures hidden there by the original Canaanite owners. If this did not succeed in improving the person's behavior, G-d would cause his clothing to become affected with *tzara'as*. If this too did not succeed, the person's own body would be affected, until he would learn to be more careful with his speech.

The laws of *tzara'as* are meant to impress upon us the severity of *lashon hara*, and the importance of using one's tongue properly and constructively.

Mazel Tov

Rabbi & Mrs. Moshe Stoll on the engagement of their granddaughter

Sell! Buy!

To sell chametz or to purchase R. Nisenbaum's Haggadah please call 216-659-1118

Insights: Pesach

You should guard the matzos (Ex 12:17) Rav Zalmen Brizel was known for his scrupulous observance in baking matzos the day before Pesach. One year as he was joyously and carefully bringing the fresh matzos to his home, one of his visiting grandchildren was running around and accidentally knocked into the matzos, breaking them. The family froze, knowing how much the matzos meant to Rav Zalmen. Rav Zalmen, however, merely smiled and said, "Thank you, Hashem, for grandchildren. Some people have not merited to have children, let alone grandchildren. My grandchildren are active and normal. I may not have matzos, but I have no complaints either! Thank you for all Your blessings!"

Did You Know?

Any speech that could lead to negative gossip or ill will between people is prohibited, even if it is not negative. This is called, *avak lashon hara*, or the residue of gossip. For example, praising a person's merchandise in front of his competitor is prohibited, as it may lead to saying something derogatory. Similarly, praising any person excessively will often lead to pointing out that person's flaws. Praising a person's generosity in front of his or her spouse could lead to an argument between the couple and should be avoided. Relating somebody's secret is also prohibited, since the person will be resentful that his secret has been revealed.

Thought for the Week: *We find out who our real friends are when we fail to send them an invitation. (A Candle By Day)*