

J.L.C. Connections

The Jewish Learning Connection's Weekly Newsletter



Parsha Miketz

December 15, 2023 / 3 Teves 5784

Volume 29, Issue 10

Candlelighting: 4:40 pm

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

Friday, December 15

4:40pm Candlelighting
4:45pm Mincha / Maariv
8:15pm Parsha Shiur
@ R. Nisenbaum

Shabbos, December 16

8:45am Shacharis
Kiddush is available for sponsorship
4:10pm Laws of Shabbos
4:35pm Mincha
5:46pm Maariv

Sunday, December 17

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

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19

8:00pm Tanna d'vei Eliyahu
(R. Stoll)

Wednesday, December 20

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

Thursday, December 21

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

Miketz

Thirteen years had passed since Joseph was abducted from his father's home. During that time he had been sold into slavery, was falsely accused of attacking his master's wife, and was then imprisoned. For all practical purposes Joseph seemed to have been forgotten. Yet, when the Divine Plan to fulfill Joseph's dreams of leadership began to be realized, it happened swiftly. In a matter of moments, a relatively unknown prisoner rose to become the viceroy over Egypt.

Pharaoh dreamed two disturbing dreams that his advisors could not interpret satisfactorily. In one dream he saw seven lean and sickly cows swallow seven healthy cows. In the next dream he saw seven measly sheaves of grain swallow seven plump sheaves. Pharaoh understood that there was a message alluded to in the dreams, but he could not understand what it was.

The wine butler suddenly recalled how Joseph had successfully interpreted his own dream in prison and mentioned this to Pharaoh. Joseph was hurried out of prison, cleaned up and dressed properly, and brought before Pharaoh. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream to mean that G-d was going to send seven years of bounty to Egypt, followed by seven years of terrible famine. He also recommended that Pharaoh appoint somebody to prepare Egypt for the years of hunger.

Pharaoh was very impressed with Joseph's wisdom, integrity and concern. He appointed Joseph as the viceroy of all Egypt. Joseph stored grain during the years of plenty to prepare the succeeding years. Pharaoh also gave Joseph Osnas, the daughter of his former master Potiphar, as a wife. She bore him two sons, Menashe and Ephraim.

Once the famine began, the whole country was at the mercy of Joseph. When the famine reached Canaan too, Jacob sent ten of his sons to Egypt to purchase food. Benjamin was not sent because Jacob was concerned lest he get hurt on the way. Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

Joseph decided to test his brothers to see if they truly regretted their earlier actions towards him before he would forgive them. He accused his brothers of spying and told them that they must bring their younger brother back with them to prove their innocence. Joseph then tried to re-create a situation by planting his silver goblet in Benjamin's sack to see how his brothers would treat their youngest brother Benjamin when he would fall in their disfavor. If they would show him the proper compassion, and show concern for their elderly father, Joseph figured that he would reveal himself to them and forgive them for what they had done to him.

Issue Sponsored
by Naomi Stein on the
occasion of her mother's
yahrzeit, Chana bas Shalom
Zushe & Luba

Insights: Miketz

Pharaoh told the Egyptians, "Go to Yosef, what he tells you, you should do" (Gen 41:55) The Midrash relates that Yosef instructed the Egyptians to circumcise themselves before he would sell them grain. What was the purpose of this if the non-Jew is not required to be circumcised? Rav Shlomo Wolbe explains that a leader must concern himself not only with the country's physical needs, but also their spiritual needs. Yosef understood the value of circumcision and how it helps a person overcome his lusts for sin. Although the Egyptians were not obligated in this mitzvah, Yosef felt a responsibility to help them fulfill their obligations as gentiles to not behave immorally by instituting circumcision for the entire country. The Chafetz Chaim once tried to organize a group who would teach non-Jews about the seven Noachide Laws. Although the idea did not materialize because of other pressing needs, the Chafetz Chaim was truly concerned for the spiritual needs of all mankind.

Did You Know?

The Talmud teaches that it is unhealthy for a person to take wide steps unless it is for the purpose of a mitzvah, for example to get to the synagogue on time, or for the purpose of exercising. According to some authorities this prohibition only applies to Shabbos, since running or taking wide steps is considered to be a weekday activity. Running on Shabbos for pleasure is permitted, as is running for the purpose of a mitzvah. Running for the purpose of exercising is prohibited on Shabbos, as it is considered to be a form of medicine, which may only be taken in cases of serious illness or severe pain.

Thought for the Week: We must be ready to believe that people can be misguided as we cannot possibly believe them to be. (*A Candle By Day*)